

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 9 • SEPTEMBER 1-SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

Amendments Clear Path for Buckminster Landmark OK

BY ALISON PULTINAS

On August 22, the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) named Kenmore Square's Buckminster Hotel a city landmark in a surprisingly anticlimactic vote following several weeks of controversy. After receiving

the unanimous BLC vote, approval moves to the mayor, who must sign off on the designation within 15 days, and finally to the City Council, which can veto it within 30 days by a two-thirds-majority vote.

In October 2022 the Boston Preservation Alliance filed the original petition with the City; it was signed by more than a dozen Fenway residents.

The designation process requires a researched history of the property that supports a recommended course of action for the Commission—a study report. If a property wins landmark designation, the report becomes the guide for considering how new construction could co-exist with the historic fabric while maintaining the integrity of the landmark features.

IQHQ, the life-sciences developer, had requested a two-month extension to respond to the study report, completed in May. A BLC subcommittee met July 20 and accepted staff modifications to the report that essentially softened required standards for maintaining the historic building related to new additions. The modifications addressed four out of five

Wentworth Sends Off Summer Grads

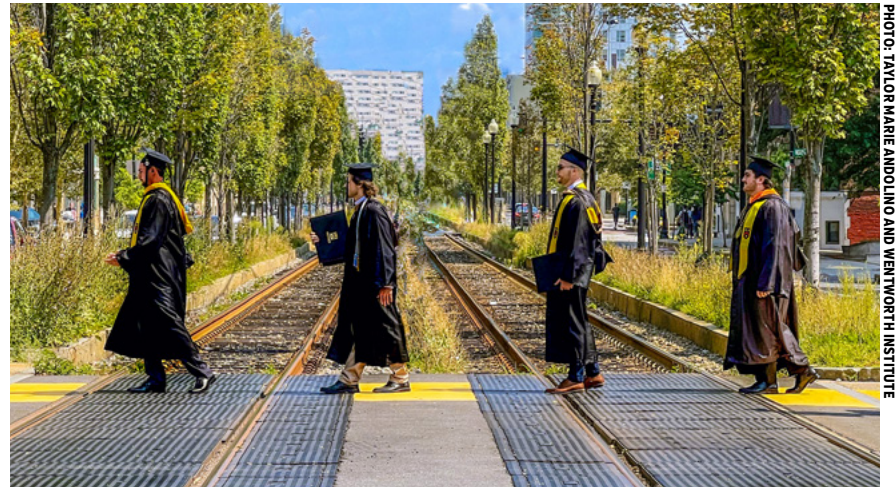


PHOTO: TAYLOR MARIE ANDOLINO AND WENTWORTH INSTITUTE

Wentworth Institute of Technology held its summer commencement on Aug. 20 under a tent on the school's West Parking Lot.

requests from IQHQ's attorneys.

On July 20, David Surette of IQHQ asked to discuss an existing-conditions report and a recent site visit by BLC staff, but BLC director Rosanne Foley said they were off-topic.

As reported in the August issue of *The Fenway News*, the posted agenda for the July 25 BLC hearing included a scheduled vote on the Buckminster designation. But when the hearing took place, the vote was pulled—without explanation—startling and disappointing commissioners and the public.

At the August hearing, BLC's assistant survey director Dorothy Clark presented the agreed-upon amendments to the study report, which involve the hotel roof and the view from Beacon Street. Changing a key verb—using *should* instead of *shall* to indicate a nonnegotiable requirement—alters the phrase to allow some wiggle room.

Specifically, Section 8.3 no longer states that new roof projections shall not be visible from a public way. Instead, it says they "should be avoided and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis."

Also eliminated was a requirement for preservation of the original roof material. IQHQ's attorney, Adam Hundley, had stated on July 20 that the developer was considering removing the roof.

Another amendment modifies a list of character-defining features of the hotel, stipulating that the southwest elevation should not be considered a major character-defining feature of the building or Kenmore Square.

Apparently, these changes will allow IQHQ to move ahead with its plans for a tall addition on the Beacon Street side of the property.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

CIVIC AGENDA

Tue, 9/12
Preliminary City Council Election

Preliminary elections whittle the field of candidates to two for each seat. Because many races already meet that limit, in our coverage area only District 7—represented by Tania Fernandes Anderson—will vote. (Districts 3, 5, and 6 will also vote.) Some voting sites have changed, so be sure to confirm yours at WhereDoIVoteMa.com.

NEW IN TOWN? If you've just moved here, welcome to the neighborhood! See page 5 for trash-removal and street-cleaning schedules.

MISSION HILL MEADOW...BY MISTAKE



On Mission Hill, a former tree pit has become an accidental meadow.

Flowers Do More Than Just Zhuzh Up Audubon Circle

BY STEVE WOLF

A riot of color has overtaken three flower beds ringing the intersection of Beacon Street and Park Drive—aka Audubon Circle. It turns out that the eye-popping zinnias have two interesting back stories.

First, the beds represent the most visible climate-mitigation feature of the rebuilt intersection. Completed in 2019, the new Audubon Circle incorporates rain gardens to capture and cleanse stormwater. As an on-site plaque explains, what rainfall the plants don't use themselves filters into the ground instead of flowing through sewers to the Charles—along with the dirt, trash,

and oil picked up from paved surfaces.

Cities across the world have increasingly turned to "green infrastructure"—natural processes to supplement or replace engineered ("gray") infrastructure like storm sewers. This approach cuts costs, uses less energy, and helps respond to an increasingly unpredictable climate.

But the zinnias tell a second story about the neighborhood itself. After initial bed plantings and many street trees died in 2020, the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association took charge of the new beds under an agreement with the Public Improvement Commission. Using community-benefits funds from development projects, ACNA has hired a professional landscaper to weed,

water, and clean the beds seasonally and to remove trash from around street trees.

Last year, resident Diane Pienta proposed taking this maintenance program a step further. Spurred by a dramatic global decline in pollinator and hummingbird habitat, Pienta led development and execution of a plan, now in its second summer, for creating colorful pollinator gardens. At a planting day held this spring, 10 area residents showed up to fill the beds with seedlings. "While I have yet to see a hummingbird in the beds this year," says Pienta, "I've been seeing the monarchs cavorting happily," drawn by the flowers' intense colors.

Pienta loves the butterflies but sounds even more pleased with how the gardens have become a focal point for Audubon Circle. "They've become a source of community pride and connection among neighbors. People are stopping for a moment to

admire the flowers and talk to each other—even in one of the busiest intersections in the city."

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.



PHOTO: DIANE PIENTA

A butterfly investigates a flower in the Audubon Circle rain garden.

FENSVIEWS

Where, Exactly, Do I Vote? District Changes Mystify Voters

BY JONATHAN COHN AND CAROL LASKY

Poll workers in Boston's Ward 4 recount the widespread confusion caused by a perfect storm of special municipal election in the middle of the summer (see box at right). Across District 8's 28 precincts, roughly 2,800 people voted in the July special election. Many of these ballots were submitted by mail, and fewer were cast in-person by voters who managed to navigate the confusion of new polling locations and last decade's maps. (The new districts, approved by the City Council this spring, do not take effect until the fall elections).

The low turnout speaks to the need for big-picture changes like same-day voter registration and year-round voter education, as well as more localized ones like greater public education around the new map and a more deliberative process for polling location siting.

This September and November, Boston's City Council elections will have a big impact on the future direction of the city as relates to housing, to climate resilience, to transit, to racial equity, and to so much more. If past trends continue, however, they will be disappointingly low-turnout affairs.

In Boston's Ward 4, which contains East Fens as well as parts of the Back Bay, the South End, and a sliver of Mission Hill, only

33.4 percent of voters voted at the same polling place last year that they

GUEST OPINION

had the year prior. That's right: two-thirds of voters in September, November, or both went to polling locations that they had never voted at before—and, in some cases, may have never even heard of.

This was in part a result of Boston's redrawing precincts in several wards, for the first time in more than a century. Redistricting was long overdue, as century-old precincts were left with large variations in size—producing, in some of our neighboring wards, polling locations with lines out the door during presidential elections. It was timely and necessary to redraw precincts, although the process of doing so lacked robust community engagement.

Combine the redrawing of precincts with changes in polling locations for several existing precincts (for unclear reasons), and you end up with a great deal of the confusion. Some poll workers were kind enough to walk elderly voters to their new polling location; others created makeshift maps to explain where new polling locations were. A number of voters who'd voted at Tent City for

POLL WORKERS SAY NEW POLLING LOCATIONS CONFUSED VOTERS

“Since COVID, I don't think I've voted in the same location (or via the same doorway) twice in a row.” ★ *“Fewer than half a dozen voters showed up from our precinct, and half of them couldn't vote! I think the difference between the districts and precincts is very confusing for people.”*

★ *“Honestly, I have a hard time keeping track myself. The most bizarre effect for us was that the two ends of Church Park were part of the [District 8 special] election but not the middle part.”* ★ *“We had a 93-year-old who said it took him 45 minutes to walk from the Prudential Towers and then we had to tell him he wasn't even able to vote this election. It was super-hot that day, too.”* ★ *“It's a long walk for people. You have to be really motivated.”*

election after election learned that their new polling place was a mile away on Northeastern's campus—and just went home.

The City Council's more conservative wing's promotion of a lawsuit against the city to block a fair redistricting map passed last fall wasted valuable time, as it left less time for voter outreach and education by the Boston Elections Commission once the final map was approved. From personal experience knocking on doors in parts of the South End and Fenway that were redrawn into District 7, we know that many voters were unaware that their district had changed and that there was an upcoming preliminary election this month. And that includes many East Fens voters, who had just cast ballots in the July 25 District 8 special election, only to find themselves moved into District 7 for the fall elections and beyond.

As we know from recent experience, every single vote has impact. In low-turnout elections, this is especially true. What can we do to maximize participation and minimize confusion on election day? See our suggestions below.

Jonathan Cohn is policy director for Progressive Mass and vice chair of the Ward 4 Democratic Committee. Carol Lasky co-chairs the Ward 4 Dems. Both are Fenway residents.

YOU CAN HELP

- **Spread the word about Where Do I Vote?**, the easy-to-use state website that can instantly confirm where you vote. Find it at: sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote
- **Plan ahead.** Assume that your polling location may have changed and make a plan for getting to the right place. Check to see if neighbors need transportation.
- **Ask friends and neighbors to help spread the word**, especially in the days and weeks before an election. If you live in an apartment building or dorm, put up Election Day reminders and polling location updates.
- **Talk to your city councilors and share your voting experiences.**
- **They're paying attention to this.**
- **Sign up to vote by mail at boston.gov/departments/election/mail-voting-boston.** You should receive an application by mail.
- **By all means, get active.** Every campaign welcomes engaged citizens leading the way to a more democratic and inclusive Boston.

LEGO WILL RELOCATE TO 1001 BOYLSTON

PHOTO: AHMED M. ABDELFAHAT



On Aug. 21, LEGO announced that it will move its North and South American headquarters to 1001 Boylston St.—aka Air Rights Parcel 12—where CarGurus has already announced plans to relocate from Cambridge. The development, which includes a smaller tower along Newbury Street, will have approximately 325,000 square feet of office space, 70,000 SF of retail and restaurant space, and 150,000 SF of hotel space, as well as below-grade parking and a landscaped public plaza with seating areas and a Turnpike overlook. In news coverage of its move from Connecticut, LEGO cited Boston's supply of tech workers, proximity to MIT, and more amenities than its current suburban location can offer.

Going Up On Queensberry

PHOTOS: AHMED M. ABDELFAHAT



What a difference a year makes. The top photo, taken in July 2022, shows foundation work for 60 Kilmarnock St., 365 apartments under construction in the West Fens. At left, the view from the same spot in August of this year.

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 29.**
> **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS** <
The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, September 22.**

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ICE CREAM & POLITICS

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee's 12th annual Ice Cream Social on Aug. 19 brought together neighbors and elected (and aspiring) officials to celebrate community. The event, co-hosted by Mayor Michelle Wu, took place at Titus Sparrow Park in the South End and also offered a chance to celebrate long-time community activist Jane Siegel on her 80th birthday. Right, Bob Barney and Pat Young scooped ice cream at the event.



PHOTO: BROOKS PAYNE

Rediscovering A Long and Winding (Boston Post) Road

BY ED BALLO

In this installment, the Detective welcomes readers of *The Fenway News* in Mission Hill and tantalizing traces of the Boston Post Road!

The Boston Post Road was a series of dirt roads and Native American trails that were eventually extended and connected, running from Boston to New York in colonial days. It's important to keep in mind that in many locales the road was nothing more than a footpath through the woods and that, circa 1700, Boston and New York were the two main towns in the colonies, with the ascendancy of Philadelphia beginning very soon thereafter.

Traveling the road circa 1700 could take a week and was not for the faint of heart or the uninitiated, since there was the near-constant threat of attacks by highwaymen, and Native Americans.

Despite these perils, the road evolved and in time became routes such as US 1, 5 and 20.

At the Boston end was the Towne House, today's Old State House, and the road began going southwest to Boston Neck along what is now Washington Street. In colonial days, this road bore a few different names before it reached the neck, one of which was Orange Street, the source of the name for today's MBTA Orange Line, which runs directly below. For the curious: the New York end of the Post Road got a bit scrambled when the street grid system was imposed starting in 1811, but in extreme lower Manhattan, Broadway and Park Row are the Post Road's direct ancestors.

After crossing Boston Neck, the road



Left: The "Parting Stone" in John Elliot Square. Right: The milestone in a niche at 841 Huntington Avenue across from Mission Park.

Huntington Avenue across from the Mission Park community. It's easy to find, since the builders of the wall chose to enshrine the stone. The stone is dated 1729 and the initials "P.D" can clearly be read. They stand for Paul Dudley, who gifted many milestones to the colony. One of the founding families of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Dudleys arrived in 1630. Paul Dudley (1673-1750) was born in Roxbury, educated at Roxbury Latin, class of 1686, and later Harvard, class of 1690. He studied law in London, and returned home, becoming in time attorney general of the colony, later Justice of the Supreme Court, and later still Chief Justice by 1745.

Geologically, this milestone is fittingly composed of Roxbury Puddingstone, more formally known as Roxbury Conglomerate, which comprises pebble and cobble conglomerate beds interbedded with argillite (clay) and sandstone. Although the rock can be found in numerous locales in the immediate vicinity, the name Roxbury was bestowed on it because of large outcroppings visible there.

Incidentally, Roxbury Puddingstone is the



PHOTOS: ED BALLO

state rock—not to be confused with our state gem, rhodonite, or state mineral, babingtonite!

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.

arrived at the first mainland community of Roxbury where the road split at the "Parting Stone," in John Elliot Square, just south of Madison Park High School. Eventually the Post Road split into lower, middle and upper branches. For the sake of this article, we will examine the "Upper Road"—to the right of the Parting Stone if you stand with your back to the church. This road ran through today's Mission Hill, skirting the Back Bay and passing into Brookline and onto Cambridge. This section still contains several milestones. It is extremely rewarding to find and follow them. William Dawes, Jr. followed the same markers in this section of the road on the night of April 18, 1775!

Returning to Mission Hill, the Mile 4 marker is embedded in a brick wall on

Party Pops Up in the East Fens



PHOTO: MICHELLE BYLSMA

On Aug. 12, the Fenway Community Center hosted Fenway Connects. The event celebrated the summer with chalk art and a play pop-up in the short block in front of Whole Foods.

DCR KICKS OFF S.W. CORRIDOR PARK PLAN



BY ALISON PULTINAS

A renovated playground on the deck near Albert Street and the Alice Taylor housing development opened in time for the annual Family Fun Day on Aug. 12.

Besides the games, barbecue, bouncy houses, a local DJ spinning dance music, and tables staffed by local groups, volunteer Jenny Jones of the Southwest Corridor Park Alliance handed out surveys related to the upcoming Corridor Action Plan.

A multitude of consultants—led by landscape architect Kyle Zick's practice—will guide the planning process to reinvigorate the 50-year-old parkland.

The state's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) website has an interactive story map and a survey link for public input until Sep. 15. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/southwest-corridor-park-action-plan> for more information.

A virtual kick-off meeting to announce the two-year process took place July 26. The corridor is owned by the MBTA but maintained by DCR. The greenway runs for approximately four miles from Forest Hills in Jamaica Plain to Massachusetts Avenue.

At the meeting, project manager Amber Christoffersen said the first phase will combine an inventory

of existing conditions with public feedback. Zick described the plan as "big-picture goals as well as implementable projects."

Christoffersen identified three key challenges: maintenance (related to reduced DCR staffing); safety (poor visibility and inadequate lighting); and usability for both cyclists and pedestrians. Zick said the plan will prioritize historically under-invested spaces and intends to highlight the legacy of activism associated with the creation of the park.

Jennifer Leonard of the Alliance said her group "shared an extensive collection of documents about the park with the Action Planning team, including results of online survey data and 'park dashboard' data... meeting notes, and a variety of memos about recommendations for park improvements. Some of these documents include recommendations about the bicycle and walking paths, recommendations about extending the parkland on the other side of the Orange Line, ideas about playgrounds, dog parks, interpretive signage and much more. We've also shared our collection of park history information and enjoy seeing the Action Planning team dive into ideas about how signage and park features can highlight this rich history."

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

LOVE

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A benefit to celebrate & support the Fenway Community Center

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6-9pm | Fenway Community Center
1282 Boylston Street

Join us for a night filled with hors d'oeuvres, open bar, and a raffle as we honor the 2023 Community Spirit Award Recipient, Brenda Clark.



www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Burnham: A Remembrance

BY MAT THALL

Community development visionary. Wily strategist. Producer, director, and lead in affordable housing dramedy series. Laser-focused change agent.

Those are some of the ways I remember my longtime friend and colleague, Barbara Burnham, who died in June.

Barbara succeeded me as executive director of the Fenway CDC in 1991. A community activist in Jamaica Plain, she'd been involved in founding two Jamaica Plain community development corporations: Urban Edge and the NDC of Jamaica Plain.

Barbara added new dimensions to FCDC's work. Zeroing in on the constituencies most impacted by the accelerating gentrification, she organized the Fenway Family Coalition and the Fenway Senior Task Force. Building on a collaboration with Longwood hospitals to finance affordable housing, she created the Walk to Work Program, which sought to connect Fenway residents to jobs at those institutions. She launched Taste of the Fenway, an annual community-building event soon emulated by neighborhood organizations throughout Boston.

Ever mindful of the history and culture of FCDC as a community-driven activist organization, Barbara engineered two important housing transactions that guaranteed housing security for two dozen longtime households and accelerated the eradication of ongoing street crime in the East Fens.

Fenway CDC was founded in 1973, just as a crisis was erupting for the 24 households in six row houses on Hemenway Street owned by Massachusetts Historical Society. MHS planned to demolish the buildings to create a parking lot. The newborn CDC organized tenants, brought in community leaders Mel King and David Scondras, and persuaded the Historical Society to hire a property manager to maintain the property and work with the tenants to preserve it. For the next 20 years 15-25 Hemenway Street operated as a resident-controlled property, but by the mid-1990s the property had become run down.

The tenants approached FCDC about buying it and establishing a tenant-owned housing cooperative. Barbara began negotiations with the famously blue-blooded officers of the Historical Society, sometimes meeting with them at various gentlemen clubs where they would do business. She skillfully reminded them of the "unfortunate" publicity MHS had suffered in its earlier efforts to end the tenancies of low-income renters.

In 1997, Massachusetts Historical Society signed a 99-year lease of the six buildings to Fenway CDC and a housing co-op corporation that the CDC had established. Barbara's successors secured millions of dollars from the City and the State to renovate the buildings; establishment of the co-operative remains a work in progress. Not only was the future of these homes guaranteed as affordable housing for a century but the negotiation marked a turning point by MHS from an aloof and closed institution to one that has opened its doors to the Fenway and the entire city.

Barbara took the reins at FCDC when the neighborhood stood at a pivotal point. In the previous decade private and nonprofit developers, including the CDC, had renovated and built new affordable housing, removing blight and turning the Fenway into a promising place for real estate investment. Most of that investment took the form of condominium conversion.

While condominiums provided many middle-income Fenway renters an opportunity to become homeowners, most of the former rental units were purchased by speculative investors profiteering from the shortage of dormitories for students. While much physical blight had been reversed, prostitution, drug trafficking, and the violent crime that accompanies those activities persisted in the East Fens.

Fenway CDC staff had been researching the impact of investor-owned condos on the neighborhood. The research led to a report that documented and accurately predicted how the House of Cards would become a financial, social, and economic disaster.

As Barbara settled into her new position, a perfect storm of speculation, crime, and reckless lending smacked into two buildings on Burbank Street. Roughly 50 condominiums at 64-70 Burbank, a rat-warren of cramped condos, had been purchased by out-of-state investors and blind trusts. Most owners had abandoned their units, stiffing the condo association on maintenance fees and the banks holding their mortgages. To complicate the situation, many of the banks that had financed the purchases had gone out of business during the savings-and-loan crisis of the late 1980s, and a federal receiver held their mortgages.

Barbara worked with several investigative reporters to shine a light on persistent street crime in the "changing Fenway" with a particular focus on the two Burbank buildings. She then set about privately and publicly pressing the federal receiver and a major New York bank to convey the mortgages to FCDC, which would then foreclose on them, unravel the condominium association, and redevelop the buildings as livable, affordable family housing.

Her uncanny ability to amplify her negotiating position is illustrated by a telephone call she had with one of the bank mortgage holders: "I have to end this call now," she told the executive, "because the Cardinal is on the other line and wants an update on Burbank Street." It took Fenway CDC over five years to finance and complete the renovation of the properties, but securing the boarded-up buildings—never a priority for the out-of-state-investors—helped drive drug trafficking and prostitution from streets of the East Fens.

Barbara's dogged pursuit of housing justice around the Hemenway and Burbank street projects secured Fenway CDC's reputation for many years as a bold and creative player in a once rough-and-tumble neighborhood.

Mat Thall lives in the East Fens. Bob van Meter, FCDC's Deputy Director in the early 1990s, contributed to this story.

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Will Curtain Finally Come Down for Mission Hill's St. Alphonsus Hall?

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Demolition of two vacant buildings—a former convent at 100 Smith St. and St. Alphonsus Hall at 80 Smith St.—is expected to begin soon. The property owners claim they pose a danger to the public and received City permits in May to raze the buildings. However, the Inspectional Services Division quickly issued stop-work orders.

Owners Mark J. Donohue and Paul J. Donohue of Weston Associates, appealed to both the Zoning Board of Appeal and Suffolk Superior Court to void the orders, and hearings are scheduled soon. However, the Donohues received a certificate from the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) on Aug. 25 approving demolition, probably making the legal maneuvers unnecessary.

According to their attorney, Joe Hanley of McDermott, Quilty & Miller, the Donohues purchased the buildings from the Redemptorist order in 2002. Because the six-building historic Mission Church complex received landmark designation in 2005, the BLC must consent to demolition of any of its buildings. A razing ordered by Inspectional Services because of hazardous conditions and public-safety concerns, however, would override the BLC. Because the most recent order from ISD directed the owners to secure the buildings, tearing them down without a certificate from the BLC remains illegal.

A 2005 study report prepared by the BLC found that three buildings on Smith Street—80, 90, and 100—could be demolished, although preservation would be preferable. Key features were to be salvaged and reused. The report identified protecting views of the church and the overall scale of the religious campus as the most important goals of the designation. Ongoing review by the BLC is required for new construction at the site; demolition can only take place when a proposal has been permitted and financing assured.

The initial landmark-designation process dragged on, with strongly voiced opinions on both sides. No one, however, questioned the significance of the basilica's architecture. William Schickel, a young German architect, designed the church, built 1875–1878. Franz Joseph Untersee designed the rectory next door and St. Alphonsus Hall more than a decade later.

The BLC granted two-year certificates allowing demolition in 2005 and 2009 for the Donohues' Basilica Court residential project. The project stalled, however. In 2009, renovation of 90 Smith—a former school operated by the archdiocese—was approved to create offices for Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, which continues to lease that property from Weston Associates.

The BLC held two related hearings on the issue in August, including an executive session on Aug. 21 covering strategy for the litigation filed against the Commission and ISD. BLC Director Rosanne Foley said holding that session as an open meeting would have had a detrimental effect on commissioners' deliberations.

The next day, Aug. 22, the public (including newly installed District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan) listened to an hour-long presentation from the development team. Then Commissioners David Berarducci and Brad Walker of the Design Review Subcommittee led a discussion and took public comments.

The outcome seemed preordained to many because the body had previously approved demolition applications twice. Now the Donohues are moving forward with plans for Basilica Court, although it must still undergo Article 80 review.

Attorney Hanley argued there was no demolition by neglect on the site, but Weston's own engineer, Carmine Guarracino, said it was a long time for buildings to sit without being taken care of. Berarducci agreed that structural damage worsened as the buildings received less and less protection after 2009. Images shown in the Aug. 22 presentation revealed a lack of protective fencing or netting on the St. Alphonsus Hall facade despite stated threats of collapse.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Whatever they're drinking, ICYMI wants some! The Fenway now has TWO winners of *The New Yorker's* weekly cartoon-caption contest. We profiled Carol Lasky last year after she won, and now her son, Colin Mills, has won for a second time—while competing against his own mother, who also reached the final round. 🍷 **H-Mart opened its fourth area store in the former Whole Foods location in Audubon Circle, as ICYMI projected that it would last March.** 🍷 Sharon Durkan was sworn in as interim District 8 city councilor.



🍷 Council President Ed Flynn—subbing for a travelling Mayor Michelle Wu—administered the oath of office. Durkan faces a November rematch against Assistant Suffolk County DA Heywood Montez. Durkan defeated Montez by a 2-to-1 margin in the July special election, but turnout was so low—even ICYMI was at the beach—that it offers a poor preview of how the November race might turn out. 🍷 **And speaking of the District 8 seat, former occupant Kenzie Bok—whose resignation triggered the special election—has officially taken the reins as head of the Boston Housing Authority. The *Globe's* Adrian Walker published a positive profile of her that ran on the day she started work.** 🍷 Restaurant tech company Toast dropped the other shoe and announced that it has sublet space in Fort Point for its new headquarters. Long ensconced in the Fenway, the company broke its lease at 401 Park in a move to reduce office space in the hybrid-work era. 🍷 **The Huntington will welcome a new executive director in November. Christopher Mannelli will join the company after seven years as co-CEO of the Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY. Mannelli will step into the slot vacated by Michael Maso, who retired after four decades with the company. Mannelli will co-lead the company with Loretta Greco, a year into her job as artistic director.** 🍷 ICYMI has popcorn ready in case this case makes it to court: According to the *Globe* reported, a New Hampshire woman filed a suit alleging that she injured herself after slipping on a piece of prosciutto at Eataly in the Prudential Center. 🍷

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Farmers Markets

Look for early-season cranberries and pumpkin, while enjoying late-season raspberries, summer squash, and peas.	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>.

SOX BOX

Fri, September 8	7:10pm	Thu, September 14	7:15pm
Sat, September 9	4:10pm	Fri, September 22	7:10pm
Sun, September 10	1:35pm	Sat, September 23	4:10pm
Mon, September 11	7:10pm	Sun, September 24	1:35pm
Tue, September 12	7:10pm	Tue, September 26	7:10pm
Wed, September 13	7:10pm	Wed, September 27	6:10pm

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



The Lady's Mantle Vanishes

All shrubs and flowers have been mysteriously removed from the western planting bed at Mass. Ave. and Huntington Avenue.

5th Annual

TASTE OF THE FENWAY

A Festival of Food, Drinks, Music, and Art

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 5PM - 7PM

Event entrance is at 100 Van Ness Street, Boston (Rain date: 9/21)

This exciting outdoor festival promotes economic opportunities for businesses, institutions, and residents to thrive together! Net proceeds support Fenway CDC.

Event tickets: \$50 each
Free admission for kids under 10
Get your tickets or become a sponsor at tasteofthefenway.org.
 Ticket includes all-you-can-eat food and drink tastings.
 Questions? Email events@fenwaycdc.org or call (857) 234-6509.

Special thanks to participating restaurants and businesses.

- Basho • Berklee College of Music • Bleacher Bar • Boston Red Sox • Cask n' Flagon
- Cheeky Monkey • El Pelón Taqueria • Eventide • Fenway Beer Shop
- Fenway Johnnies • Fenway Studios • Game On • Huntington Wine & Spirits
- Lansdowne Pub • Loco Fenway • Loretta's Last Call • Nathalie's Wine Bar
- Oakleaf Cakes Bake Shop • Playa Bowl • Rod Thai Family Taste • Saloniki Greek
- Sausage King • Target • Tatte Bakery • Tenderoni • Yard House • Wahlburger
- Wow!! Tikka

Event Partners

Fenway Community Development Corporation
Improving Lives and Building Community
fenwaycdc.org

Samuels Associates &
samuelsre.com

THIS IS THE FENWAY
↓
thefenway.com

Let's connect: [m](#) [f](#) [i](#) [x](#) #tasteofthefenway #fenwaycdc #thefenway #allyoucaneat

The Arts

The 'Provincetown Printmakers,' Mostly Women, Gave An Old Medium New Life In The 1910s-1920s

BY STEVE WOLF

Biggest Art Colony in the World at Provincetown” wasn’t hyperbole in 1916, when it ran in the *Boston Daily Globe*. Dozens of American artists had fled Paris at the start of World War I, and many flocked to Provincetown, already known as a boho arts capital that boasted five art schools at the time.

A fascinating exhibit at the MFA shines a spotlight on six of these artists—Ada Gilmore Chaffee, Ethel Mars, Mildred McMillan, Juliette Nichols, B.J.O. Nordfeldt (the only male in the show), and Maud Hunt Squires—and their central role in developing a new approach to woodblock printmaking.

Intriguingly, the five women in the group all hailed from the Midwest and followed similar trajectories—art school training, efforts to establish themselves as artists near home or in New York, and ultimately Paris in the early 1900s.

And Paris proved essential, plunging them into avant-garde circles where they met and became friends, collaborators, and sometimes lovers. Paris also introduced them to

major forces reshaping Western art.

In traditional block-printing, the artist carves a different block for each color that will appear in the print. The Provincetown group, influenced by Japanese *ukiyo-e* prints, carved the entire image on a single block, isolating different colors with thin grooves that became white outlines in the finished print. Using muted colors—more *ukiyo-e* influence—their prints often revealed the grain of the underlying wood. The prints also tended to work



Maud Hunt Squires prints depicted P-town’s fishermen with dignity.

on a small scale; most in the show measure less than a foot on their longer side. That might have been a creative choice...or a more manageable one in a labor-intensive medium.

Hunt Squires’s work holds special appeal for contemporary eyes. With experience in children’s book illustrations, she knew how to create strong compositions that suggest activity beyond the frame. Her prints here stylize and dignify P-town fishermen at work on docks, boats, and tidal flats. Mars, a key connector for the group in Paris, made lively prints that suggest the influence of

French advertising posters, still a fresh new medium when she reached Paris in 1906. McMillan worked almost exclusively in black ink. The largest works here, her prints focus on Provincetown buildings seen from the street or from above, a jumble of roofs tumbling down to the harbor.

Sections devoted to each artist bracket a “salon-style” display of about two dozen prints produced by other contemporaries, almost exclusively and notably including works by Blanche Lazell. The best-known of the printmakers today, she plays, curiously, only a supporting role in this show—possibly because the MFA mounted a solo exhibit of her work in 2002.

For the past decade the MFA has struggled to shake off its image as a stodgy, unwelcoming Brahmin preserve. Its approach to exhibitions has evolved, though, moving from simply assembling beautiful things for our admiration to explaining the social and historical contexts that creates the beautiful things (for example, the 2019–2021 show of works by female artists, “Women Take The Floor”). “The Provincetown Printmakers” follows that approach. It makes a case that sexist expectations and constraints on women explain why we don’t know these artists better. The works themselves make a persuasive case for why we should.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens. “The Provincetown Printmakers” remains on view through Oct. 15.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMUELS & ASSOCIATES

IT’S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!

Since mid-July, Samuels & Associates has installed oversized “topiary” animals in an effort to spruce up the pedestrian experience at 201 Park construction site. The fanciful beasts, along with giant LED flowers, form “a series of activation efforts to create a ‘secret garden’ winding from the Fenway MBTA station to Park Drive,” says Brianne Gump, senior VP of Creative and Marketing Strategy for Samuels.

LAST CALL

Ending Sun, 10/15 Presence of Plants in Contemporary Art

The Gardner wraps up its summer exhibition of works by six artists who use living plants as their medium. For more info, visit www.gardnermuseum.org/calendar/presence-plants-contemporary-art.

KAJI ASO CULTURAL SERIES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 | 7:00PM

Kaji Aso

“DREAMING OF SPACE”

AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY THE FOUNDER OF KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS



MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 | 12:30PM & 1:30PM



Mikko Sato

Japanese Singer-Songwriter/
Composer & Concert Series
Director for Kaji Aso Studio

PART OF THE OPENING OUR DOORS FESTIVAL

FREE • IN-PERSON • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
KAJI ASO STUDIO, 40 ST. STEPHEN STREET
RSVP to administrator@kajiasostudio.com



KAJI ASO STUDIO Institute of the Arts
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THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS



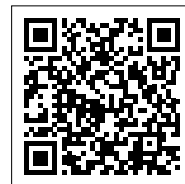
FENWAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

20 YEARS & COUNTING



All Yours, All Free:
A Day of Performances, Art,
and Cultural Experiences
in the Fenway Cultural District

Monday, October 9, 2023
10am - 4pm



Kera Washington of Project Misik performing at Opening Our Doors October, 2022. www.projectmisik.com
Photo credit: Annielly Camargo

fenwayculture.org • #fenwayculture • #openingourdoors



City of Boston
Arts & Culture

Now ➔ **Mon, Sep 4**

STUDIOS WITHOUT WALLS continues “The Sum of Its pARTS,” 16 sculptures along the Riverway near the entrance to the D Line Longwood stop. The group’s website, <http://www.studioswithoutwalls.org/>, includes a “treasure hunt” with easy questions or riddles that you match to the works.

Fri, 9/8

Enjoy a **CONCERT AT THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PLAZA**. Jam to Afro-Caribbean, traditional Celtic, Venezuelan fusion, and covers of top hits — then grab a bite to eat at a local food truck onsite. 5pm to 9pm.

Sat, 9/16

ACNA END-OF-SUMMER BLOCK PARTY. Join your neighbors on Keswick Street for music, games, food trucks, and more. 1–5pm.

Sat, 9/16 ➔ **Sat, 4/27/23**

GETTING AROUND TOWN: FOUR CENTURIES OF MAPPING BOSTON IN TRANSIT. 125 maps, posters, guidebooks and other transit

@ THE CENTER

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

- Thu, September 7 and 21, 1:15pm: CHAIR YOGA WITH HANDS TO HEART CENTER
- Tue, September 12, 4pm to 6pm: FREE MARKET WITH THE FENWAY CDC
- Tue, September 19, 5pm: FENWAY CHAT
- Tue, September 19, 6pm: MEET AND GREET WITH DISTRICT 8 CITY COUNCILOR SHARON DURKAN
- Sat, September 23, 10am to 12pm: FENWAY PORCHFEST PRESENTS FAMILY MUSIC FEST

ephemera at the Boston Public Library’s Leventhal Map & Education Center in Copley Square .

Sun, 9/17

CARLTON STREET FOOTBRIDGE RE-OPENING CELEBRATION. After being closed for 47 years, celebrate the reopening of the Carlton Street Footbridge. 1–3pm.

Fri, 9/22

Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral on Park Drive hosts **FENWAY HOME PLATES**, a free opportunity to take home fresh food from local restaurants. 165 Park Drive. 1pm.

SENIOR EVENTS

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

- Wed, Sept. 6, 12pm: WATERCOLORS at PSC
- THU, SEPT. 14, 12PM: COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS with Keisha Desir from Boston Elder Info at FCC
- Wed, Sept. 20, 2:30pm: KNITTING AND CROCHETING at PSC
- Tue, Sept. 26, 12pm: SILK BLOOMS at PSC
- THU, SEPT. 21, 12PM: COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS with Leah Schenkel from the Food Source Hotline at FCC
- THU, SEPT. 28, 12PM: COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS with Maria Tumang from Brigham & Women’s, discussing fall prevention, at FCC

Neighborhood Newsline

‘Chat With A Planner’ About Transpo Plan This Month

Collecting data from random passersby is the latest public-engagement strategy from Mayor Michelle Wu’s administration. BPDA planner Nick Schmidt will lead outreach for the long-awaited Fenway Transportation Action Plan, beginning with both an online survey and two-hour pop-up events—mostly on busy sidewalks to allow for open-ended, one-on-one listening sessions. Summer makes a good time to work outdoors to capture opinions from pedestrians—although it requires weeding out tourists and can get rained out (which happened twice in August).

At the Aug. 13 Open Streets Newbury, Schmidt admitted that from his perspective, these events function as a marketing campaign, both for the BPDA and the City’s Transportation Department to talk about their own ideas and to stimulate interest in potential improvements.

In an email Schmidt said that “we are waiting to do more formal engagement this fall when folks are settled back into their routines, and we have draft work to show. Given that it’s summer, this initial outreach is focused on letting folks know the Action Plan is starting and to advertise the online survey. That’s why we’re trying our best to spread the word both in the neighborhood and at major points of connection immediately outside the neighborhood. Longwood, in particular, is an important location because the Action Plan will redesign Brookline Avenue from Kenmore to the Boston/Brookline line.”

Schmidt and others will host four more outdoor “office hours” this month, answering questions about the Plan and soliciting residents’ ideas on issues and goals for the West Fens. Those sessions take place:

- Tue, 9/12: 11am–1pm @ Commonwealth Ave. at B.U. Bridge
- Thu, 9/14: 7–9pm @ Roxbury Crossing on the Orange Line
- Wed, 9/20: 7–9am @ the Kenmore Square bus island
- Thu, 9/21: 4–6pm @ the Back Bay Fens at the end of Jersey Street

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n7d3d3w> for more details and maps of locations.

Durkan Snags Assignments On Seven Council Committees

At the Aug. 30 City Council meeting, president Ed Flynn announced seven committee assignments for new District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan. She’ll serve as vice chair of both the PILOT Agreements, Institutional, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the City Services and Innovation Technology Committee. Her other assignments are Environmental Justice, Resiliency and Parks; Government Operations; Rules, and Administration; Housing and Community Development; and Community Preservation Act.

City Report Suggests Ways To Improve #39 Bus Service

In August, Boston Transportation Department planners issued a 57-page document on the MBTA’s 39 bus route, *Route 39 Speed, Reliability, and Access Needs Report* (available at boston.gov/route-39). The report mentions potential changes in stops, discusses feedback on last year’s pilot project for bus-only lanes on Huntington Avenue, and a proposed expansion of bike lanes. No schedule has been announced for a public process.

Two Projects Will Add 12 Apartments In Mission Hill

Controversy looks likely with two new as-of-right construction permits recently issued in Mission Hill. However, projects that require no variances from the Zoning Board of Appeal typically involve no community process. The owners of AK Pizza can now move ahead with plans for a four-story building with nine two-bedroom apartments on their property at 1423-1425 Tremont St. at Gurney Street.

Meanwhile, brothers Paul and Gregory Grant received approval for a new three-family house with six parking spaces at 16 Delle Ave., a lot formerly managed by Marilyn Boyer as a wild garden. In the 1870s, the lot formed part of Boston businessman Ivers Whitney Adams’ estate. Adams owned Boston’s first professional baseball team, the Boston Red Stockings (later Braves before their moves to Milwaukee and Atlanta). His mansion and barn apparently survived until the 1960s.

Wu Taps Lima Barbosa To Fill Out School-Committee Term

On Aug. 23, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the appointment of Chantal Lima Barbosa to the Boston School Committee. Lima Barbosa will fill out the remainder of Lorena Lopera’s term, which ends Jan. 1 after Lopera resigned in June to join the nonprofit EdVestors, which supports Boston schools. A Boston Public Schools alumna—2012 valedictorian of the Jeremiah Burke High School—Lima Barbosa becomes the first Cabo Verdean woman to serve on the School Committee. The committee’s nominating panel received 15 applications for the position. The 13-member panel met virtually three times in August and conducted public interviews the week of Aug. 7. Wu selected Lima Barbosa from among four finalists recommended by the panel.

TOMATOES, TUNES AT MISSION HILL FARMERS MARKET

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



At the Aug. 24 Mission Hill Farmers Market, Tokyo Tramps performed in celebration of Mission Hill Health Movement’s home-grown tomato contest. Lydia Pena’s cherry tomatoes and Bob Francey’s heirloom beefsteak—grown at the Oscar-Parker Community Garden—were the top vote getters.



BOSTON'S BEST FOOD HALL

15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS. ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

TimeOut MARKET

401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON



M.H. ARTS FESTIVAL WRAPS BACKYARD 2023 SERIES

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



The final summer performance of the Mission Hill Arts Festival Backyard 2023 series took place on Aug. 19. Jazz musicians Kevin Harris, a Mission Hill resident, and Max Ridley joined the Winsor Music Quartet to perform Harris’s hour-long chamber piece. Written for oboe, clarinet, violin, cello, acoustic bass, and piano, the composition crossed boundaries between classical and jazz.



We're Changing the Way We Charge for Stormwater

What is stormwater?

And how does it become a source of pollution?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or snowmelt that does not soak into the ground. As stormwater flows over hard (impervious) surfaces, it collects trash, sediment, and pollutants like motor oil and fertilizer. Impervious surfaces like roofs, patios, roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks prevent water from absorbing into the ground. Stormwater is not treated, so these surfaces allow more pollutants to enter local waterways. The image below shows a Boston cityscape and the features of our stormwater system.

Next year, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission will launch an expanded stormwater program that meets an elevated need for investment in stormwater infrastructure and green solutions. The program will include the creation of a proposed separate stormwater charge and credits/grants for customers who work to reduce stormwater runoff from their property.

For more information visit: www.bwsc.org/stormwater

