



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 11 • NOVEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 1, 2023

With Muddy River Dredging Over, The Hard Work Begins

BY MATT EDDY

Long-time residents of the Fenway might feel as if the Muddy River Restoration Project has been going on forever. In other ways, the pace of progress has been dizzyingly fast. Last October, the view across the river looking east from the Victory Gardens was of a wall of 15-foot-tall *Phragmites australis* stems; now the river is wide and visible from all angles. Upriver, pedestrians can now walk along the Boston side of Riverway Park all the way to the Chapel Street Footbridge, a stretch that had been closed for 18 months.

PHOTO: MATT EDDY



New trees planted at Justine Mee Liff Park, part of Phase 1.

The office trailers and heavy equipment—once familiar sights for anyone on Agassiz Road—are now mostly gone as Charter Contracting puts the finishing touches on those areas. Brookline’s Carlton Street Footbridge, a long-dormant access point to the Muddy River parks, is now fully open.

The portions of the Restoration Project known as Phase 2 are now largely complete. Across 12 separate work areas stretching from Brookline’s Leverett Pond to the Victory Gardens, the removal of more than 90,000 cubic yards of river sediment is finished and Olmsted-inspired views of the river have been re-established. Trees, shrubs, ferns, native wetland plants, and new grass are installed, and stone-dust paths are being opened back up to public access. Some areas have reached the end of the two-year guarantee period for landscaping and are expected to return to local control this month, pending final approval. Other areas remain under federal guarantee and will continue to be fenced for longer,

depending on when construction work ended.

MAINTAINING THE GAINS

As local agencies assume responsibility for these segments of the river, the non-federal project sponsors (the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Brookline Department of Public Works, and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation) will pivot to supporting long-term maintenance of their respective sections.

This work will include not just landscape maintenance and invasive-species management but also graffiti abatement, attention to bridges and other historic structures, pedestrian-path maintenance, and water-quality monitoring.

Protocols for managing park areas not part of the Restoration Project, but adjacent to its fenced-in areas, are currently in development. For their part, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department is preparing a contract for maintenance for the longer stretches of the river under its jurisdiction. It will likely go out for bid and be awarded later this winter.

Boston Parks took over stewardship of the Phase 1 area—Justine Mee Liff Park (the long-buried section across from 401 Park) to Avenue Louis Pasteur—in 2018. Following the handoff, the landscape suffered from a two-year period of neglect that, combined with the effects of significant drought, led to the loss of a number of trees and shrubs in that area.

Since 2020, Boston Parks has invested significant time and funding into restoring and improving that area, hiring and training new contractors, installing new shrub beds, and keeping invasive species in check. Thirteen new trees have been planted there this year. Boston Parks contract managers are fully aware of how quickly neglect can lead to

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



A crew put finishing touches on the repaving of Agassiz Road on October 11. Charter has since reseeded most of the roadside lawn strips, barren for years.

degradation, and they have vowed not to repeat mistakes in the newly finished Phase 2 areas.

KEEPING INVASIVES IN CHECK

The management of wetlands invasive plants, including *Phragmites australis* and purple loosestrife, will remain a long-term maintenance priority. Biannual herbicide treatment and mechanical removal are expected to continue, but the deep-rooted character of the *Phragmites* makes permanent eradication impractical.

The *Phragmites* along Agassiz Road were treated with herbicide this September. Rodeo, an herbicide similar to RoundUp that is approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency for use in wetland areas, was applied by a licensed applicator. Removal of dead plants will take place later this fall. Looking forward, the public can expect periodic regrowth of invasives in patches, but they will not be allowed to proliferate again.

CONTROLLING WATER LEVELS

One area of ongoing concern is the section of the lower Riverway between Chapel Street and the upstream end of Justine Mee Liff Park. Water levels along that stretch of the river dropped about six inches following the removal of a temporary dam, exposing

significant mudflats. Project participants are assessing the conditions along the river to identify the best long-term remedies. Brookline and Boston have retained a contractor to gather more data before making any decisions.

Completion of the Muddy River Restoration Project represents a dramatic improvement for a gem of Boston’s Emerald Necklace. Beyond improvements to stormwater management, water quality, habitat, and public access, the work stands as testament to the determined efforts of both governments and citizens groups to maintain the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted and prioritize the health of our urban parks.

Matt Eddy is administrator of the the Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC), which serves as a conduit for communication between government agencies and the general public, as well as a coordinating body for advocacy organizations, including the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Charles River Watershed Association, the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, and the Charlesgate Alliance. To see regular updates, visit muddyrivermmoc.org.

Housing-Rehab Plan in Mission Hill Moves Ahead

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Roxbury Tenants of Harvard’s controversial TRIO project, which residents opposed in 2019, will move forward after all. Another close vote on the plan at a special RTH meeting in November 2022 revived the original project, but with changes.

During a question-and-answer session at an RTH resident meeting on Sept. 19, a resident spoke about the 2019 vote. At that earlier meeting, residents had said they didn’t want their apartments chopped up into smaller units. “We are not doing that anymore,” said Dave Traggorth of Causeway Development.

The two- to four-year renovation project involves households in the so-called “Old Neighborhood” adjacent to Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Households in two- and three-family wood-frame houses on Francis Street and Fenwood Road, and at 5 St. Albans Rd. and 777-779 Huntington Ave. will need to move out as the reconstruction adds sprinkler systems, accessibility upgrades, and other improvements.

In addition, RTH would like to see the power lines buried along its side of Francis Street. Eversource says several houses can’t be repainted safely because of the proximity of the wires. RTH Director Karen Gately said, “we have that as a goal but we are not sure of the cost and whether we can include it in our budget.”

RTH emerged in the late 1960s as an organized community response to Harvard’s acquisition of much of the housing stock in this area of Mission Hill. The vast majority of its housing

portfolio—more than 1,000 units—are now limited to low- and moderate-income households.

However, when RTH first filed with the Secretary of State’s office in 1969, household income was not a factor. Instead, the goals were providing housing for those displaced by institutional expansion and governmental action as well as preserving and upgrading the residential neighborhood.

Judy Cohn of Judy Cohn Housing and Relocation Consultants spoke at the Sept. 19 meeting to update residents on the construction plan. The latest news came with more controversy: There aren’t enough vacant apartments onsite to accommodate the temporary relocations. Traggorth estimated that only 15 units are available.

Cohn said she is working with a real estate broker seeking affordable replacement apartments. Relocations are expected to last three to six months for most tenants.

However, the renovations at 777-779 Huntington will be more complex, and relocations will last one to two years. The work at 777-779 will create living rooms and bring the buildings up to code. It will also connect the two buildings on the first floor and convert the former childcare facility in the basement to a residential-services space.

RTH will fund tenants’ moving and storage costs for all relocations. Federal regulations under the Urban Relocation Act require several months’ advance notice for relocating subsidized tenants. At the Sept. 19

meeting, Traggorth and Cohn strongly advised tenants to request one-on-one consults to review their individual household’s needs. The first notices went out in October; relocations will begin in early 2024.

In an October 2022 memo, Gately also assured residents that “RTH Policy is to provide housing within the RTH Neighborhood for every current resident household regardless of income even if their income disqualified their unit from the Tax Credit program.”

Also stated was a 15-year guarantee that rents will not exceed HUD fair market rent (FMR). FMRs determine rents for voucher programs such as Section 8. Under new rates that went into effect Oct. 1, the FMR for a two-bedroom home in Boston is \$2,635, an increase from last year’s FMR of \$2,399.

Shortly after the Sept. 19 meeting, an unknown number of over-income tenants in the Old Neighborhood received an unexpected letter, subsequently shared with this reporter.

The letter, signed by Trinity Management’s Regional Director Natalie Moro but written by RTH’s long-time consultant Peter Munkenbeck, describes an opportunity for a one-time payment from RTH to those households that agree voluntarily to move out permanently:

The amount of this payment would be between \$50,000 and \$75,000 depending on the size of the apartment. The reason RTH can offer this payment to a household that otherwise would not qualify for grant

RTH on page 3 >

VOTE NOV. 7!

The Election: City Council

• VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR AT-LARGE CANDIDATES. See our roundup of candidate positions on page 3.

• VOTE FOR ONE DISTRICT COUNCILOR. District 8 contains most of the Fenway and Mission Hill; District 7 contains a section of the East Fens. The City redrew districts this year, so yours may have changed. Find your district at tinyurl.com/3n2wcum8.

Where to Vote

In addition to changes in Council District boundaries, some polling locations have moved in the last year. Find out where you vote at sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/. Polls will be open 7am–8pm.

FENWAY VIEWS

We Can't Tax-Cut Our Way to an Affordable Commonwealth

BY JONATHAN COHN

A year ago, Massachusetts voters sent a message. They did so by overwhelmingly electing Maura Healey as governor, giving Massachusetts a Democratic governing trifecta for the first time in eight years. And they did so by passing the Fair Share Amendment, which established a surtax on income above \$1 million to fund investments in public education and transportation.

As was the case for Boston overall, the Fenway and Mission Hill came out strong for both, with Healey securing more than 80 percent of the vote and Fair Share above 70 percent across both neighborhood's precincts.

The Fair Share vote has clearly delivered. Because of the new revenue from this surtax, more kids will have access to pre-K, students will have access to free school meals, our schools will be greener, and fewer graduates of our public colleges and universities will be burdened with debt. Even more, we will see better hours for our Regional Transit Authorities, better upkeep for roads and bridges, and much-needed additional funding for the MBTA.

But it's hard, at the same time, not to feel underwhelmed by the new governing trifecta as Gov. Healey and the Legislature embraced decades-long conservative anti-tax rhetoric that positions taxes as a burden and not our collective investment in a better future.

UNPACKING THE TAX PACKAGE

After Healey's introduction of a package of tax cuts in the spring, votes from both the House and Senate on their own versions, and months of negotiations, Healey signed a bill into law in September totaling approximately \$1 billion (close in amount to what was dedicated for Fair Share funding this first year).

The good (so far as it goes): The families that will receive an expanded child tax credit (a raise from \$180 to \$440 per dependent, phased in over a few years) can certainly use the money, but that only pays for about one week of childcare. Similarly, the \$50 per year that renters will receive will hardly cover the increase in rent from a

prior year. The doubling of the senior circuit-breaker tax credit will likely help some seniors stay in homes, and the modest expansion of the earned income tax credit means more money in the pockets of working people. All decent, if ultimately insufficient.

The bad and the ugly: Other parts of the bill are clearly regressive. We will lose \$213 million each year in potential investments due to a rollback of the estate tax, from which multimillion-dollar estates will each receive almost \$100,000 in tax breaks. The cut in the tax on short-term capital gains (a \$65 million annual giveaway) will enrich already wealthy real estate speculators and day traders, and the "single sales factor" corporate giveaway, which lets multinational corporations save on their Massachusetts tax bill, will similarly siphon off another \$79 million in possible investments.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The governor and legislature have touted the package as boosting affordability and competitiveness for the state. But taxes aren't the root of our affordability crisis. Contrary to the "Taxachusetts" myth, we're in the middle of the pack in terms of state tax burdens, according to a Tax Foundation report. Instead, Massachusetts residents face some of the highest costs nationally for housing, child care, and health care. Boston residents are moving further and further away from the city—or out of the state entirely—to find affordable rents. Parents are leaving the workforce as they realize that the cost of childcare is eating up too much of their take-home salary. People facing staggering medical debt or student debt are left wondering if financial stability will ever be possible. And workers face the fourth-worst traffic in the world and a T that seems perpetually broken.

If Massachusetts wants to be an affordable state—attractive for people to move to, a place where people can thrive—that's where our focus should be. And I hope that's where our Legislature turns its attention for the rest of the session—and that legislators don't have the audacity to say they don't have the money to help make living here more affordable.

Jonathan Cohn is policy director for Progressive Mass and secretary of the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee

GUEST OPINION

The Importance of Local Voter Turnout

BY PORTIA BUCHANAN

Nov. 7 is election day. The race to fill the four City Councilor at-large seats features three incumbents and five candidates vying for an opportunity to bring a fresh perspective to the council.

Prosecutor Montez Haywood is challenging District 8 incumbent Sharon Durkan. (District 8 covers most of the Fenway.) Due to the passage of a new Boston redistricting map earlier this year, the District 7 race covers the South End and Lower Roxbury and may also concern Fenway residents. District 7 Incumbent

saw only 16.5 percent of registered voters participate, and the mayoral election of 2021 only saw 32.7 percent of registered voters participate, despite the lack of an incumbent candidate.

Both these elections are reflective of a disappointing trend in a city whose population continues to grow. These statistics are worrying as the council election draws closer. Whoever is elected to represent Districts 7 and 8 will hold sway over a range of topics such as affordable housing, city finances, economic development, education reform, public safety, city planning, and transportation. Although municipal elections may not feel as consequential as state or national elections to some, they are just as crucial in ensuring our basic and more immediate quality of life.

An obvious consequence of low voter turnout is the election of candidates who don't truly reflect their constituencies. Low turnout not only risks ignoring the true will of the public, but also suggests a lack of public support for those elected; this can make it difficult for elected officials to be effective in their roles. Additionally (and perhaps unsurprisingly), the detrimental

effects of low turnout strongly affect marginalized communities whose voices are already less influential in politics. In essence, low voter turnout directly translates into residents' politics being unrepresented, residents' needs being unmet, and residents' opinions going unheard.

In a time of political uncertainty, exercising your right to vote is essential in ensuring that your community remains representative of your community's values. The upcoming municipal elections present those living in the Fenway, the South End, and Lower Roxbury with the opportunity to improve their day-to-day lives. Voting on Nov. 7 will not only allow residents to truly be represented in local government but will also help facilitate lasting and positive change.

If you missed the registration deadline this time around, you can still do your part by volunteering and encouraging friends and family to prioritize making it to the polls. This election is no less important than the last, and it remains imperative for all of us to make our voices heard.

Portia Buchanan is the planning and organizing graduate intern at the Fenway Community Development Corporation.

GUEST OPINION

Tania Fernandez Anderson faces a challenge from Althea Garrison, who has been running for elected offices for decades and previously served as a city councilor and state representative.

Unfortunately, both Massachusetts and Boston have been plagued in recent years by low voter turnout in local elections. According to the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, municipal election turnout in Boston is generally low: the 2019 election

a poor turnout for such an important civic responsibility?

This, of course, is a larger issue for the city and the nation: What keeps citizens from carrying out their civic duty and responsibility to vote—especially since the City and the Commonwealth have made voting more accessible in the wake of the pandemic? One serious consequence of low turnouts is the fact that just a few people make important decisions for everyone. Political apathy is very dangerous for the democratic process.

Our elected officials need to be engaged, accessible, and available to constituents. As citizens, we need to let them know our views, concerns, and opinions. But, just as important,

we need to become active participants in the life of our city, and that means we need to vote.

The same two candidates from the special election, Montez Haywood and Sharon Durkan, will be on the ballot again on Nov. 7. If you voted in July, please encourage your neighbors and friends to vote. And if you did not vote, please review the positions of Durkan (sharondurkan.com) and Haywood (montezhaywood.com), make a choice, and vote. Across District 8, we won't just change the voting statistics—we need to!

CHARLES MARTELL
WEST FENS

TO THE EDITOR:

On July 25, a special election took place to elect a candidate to complete the term of Kenzie Bok, who left the City Council to head

the Boston Housing Authority. Out of

36,032 registered voters, 2,810 voted in that election—7.7 percent of registered voters in District 8.

Given that anyone could have cast an absentee ballot and therefore didn't have to be in town to vote on a Tuesday in mid-summer, the dismal 7.7 percent turnout should shock everyone in the district. Why was there such

LETTERS

Fenway News

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PHOTOGRAPHERS: Ahmed M. Abdelfattah, Steve Chase, Patrick O'Connor, Alison Pultinas, Steve Wolf

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The Fenway News,
PO Box 230277, Astor Station
Boston, MA 02123
fenwaynews@gmail.com
fenwaynews.org

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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, December 1.**

> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <
The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, November 24.**

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CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE RACE: WHO'S GOT YOUR VOTES?

Eight candidates. Three incumbents. Four seats. Less than five days. The Boston City Council's at-large race features a notably diverse group of contenders with differing priorities and positions. They are lawyers, community organizers, small business owners, union members, educators, parents, and long-time Boston residents with varied life stories and perspectives on the key issues facing our city.

For this pre-election spotlight, we culled position statements from the websites and social media platforms of the eight candidates. We hope these short excerpts will help inform your vote on Nov. 7! (Remember: you can vote for four!)

—CAROL LASKY

CLIFTON BRAITHWAITE

Founding owner of C1 Entertainment Marketing & Promotions, Braithwaite is an ASGARD political consultant.

As a lifelong activist, I have been devoted to serving and advocating for those in need. I have witnessed firsthand the issues facing our community, and I recognize the need for change. My platform is centered around strengthening our community through equality, justice and transparency. I believe that every individual deserves to thrive and reach their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances. My goal is to create a community that prioritizes the welfare of every member, from the poorest and most marginalized, to most affluent. I am dedicated to working with you all to provide access to crucial resources, promote social justice, and protect the right of every citizen... I am committed to transparency, accountability, and integrity. I will make sure that every decision we make in public office is made with the best interests of our community in mind. Boston residents, I am here to serve you, to fight for you, and to make sure our City is a place where everyone can thrive.”

Braithwaite's key issues include public safety, senior services, childcare, education, health, and wealth.
> [braithwaite4boston.com](#)

RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE

Louiseune has served on the Boston City Council since 2021. An activist attorney and daughter of Haitian immigrants who was raised in Mattapan and Hyde Park, she chairs the Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement Committee.

In my first term, I successfully led the council through the tumultuous re-districting process, passing a map that met standards set by a federal court order & that did right by our city. As Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights & Immigrant Advancement, I advocated for additions in the FY23 and FY24 budget including money for fair housing testers to fight housing discrimination, a municipal wage study to support increasing the wages among our lowest paid city

workers, funding to expand the Office of Returning Citizens, and increased funding for new arrivals. I worked with the Boston Employment Commission on the Boston Residents Jobs Policy to ensure that we continue to do the necessary work to diversify and strengthen the construction industry. I'm working to make beekeeping legal across our city and for frequent dumpster pickups to improve the cleanliness of our streets and address the rodent issue.

I am keenly aware of the issues facing our residents, and I am ready to continue building upon the work I have done in my first term on behalf of residents to make this city more equitable, more inclusive, and more affordable.

Louijeune's key issues include housing, education, racial justice and civil rights, community vitality, environmental justice, public safety, civic participation, immigration, and economic opportunity.
> [ruthzeeforboston.com](#)

JULIA MEJIA

Mejia has served as City Councilor At-Large since 2020. She created a COVID response initiative and currently chairs the Committee on Education, the Committee on Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility, and the Committee on Labor, Workforce, and Economic Development.

In the last two terms on the Boston City Council, I have been a champion for equity in the education space...advocating for important legislation around youth mental health in BPS, lowering the voting age for young people, my opposition of state receivership for BPS and fighting for a Green New Deal for BPS.

I have also turned my personal story into action, from being an unofficial translator for my community as a child, to passing the Language Access Ordinance so residents have access to vital city services. I have activated my All Means ALL approach to the City Council as well, supporting and uplifting residents' ideas such as the Residential Kitchen Ordinance and bringing the budget process to the community through our Budget Pop Pops around the city. Finally, I have supported historically disenfranchised communities such as my leadership in the creation of the Black Men and Boys Commission and the Task Force on Reparations, as well as legislation such as the Boston Fair Chance Act, and advocacy around Black Maternal Health.

Mejia's key issues include accessibility, accountability, transparency, and civic engagement.
> [juliaforboston.com](#)

ERIN MURPHY

A former Boston Public School teacher, Murphy was elected to the City Council in 2021. She chairs the Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery Committee,

Both non-profit and for-profit developers use federal LIHTCs to promote rehabilitation and new construction of affordable rental housing. Investors can supply the capital to pay for projects in exchange for credits on their federal taxes.

LIHTC requirements for developers include keeping a property housing accessible to low-income households for at least 30 years. At least 50 percent of units must be for households earning 60 percent or less of the area median income (AMI). In addition, 10 percent of units must be set aside for households earning 30 percent AMI or less, and 20 percent must serve families at 50 percent AMI or less.

The 22 apartments at 777-779 Huntington will undergo rehab first. RTH has scheduled another community meeting for Dec. 7.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

as well as the Veteran, Military Families, and Military Affairs Committee.

During my time as your City Councilor, I have been dedicated to delivering tangible results for our neighborhoods. From advocating for better schools, safer streets, the cost of housing, and delivering on constituent services, I have demonstrated my commitment to improving the quality of life for all Bostonians.

...I have consistently championed policies that enhance our schools, ensuring that every child in Boston has access to a high-quality education at a safe and thriving school close to home... I've been at the forefront of advocating for affordable housing solutions and responsible development practices that will not displace our communities... I support community policing efforts that build trust between our law enforcement and the communities they serve... I have been a strong advocate for sustainable policies, from promoting a comprehensive plan for our waterfront to expanding green spaces and increasing energy efficiency.”

Murphy's key issues include workers and businesses, education, recovery support, and veteran advocacy.
> [erinforboston.com](#)

BRIDGET NEE-WALSH

A Local 7 ironworker for more than 15 years, Nee-Walsh owns the Irish import shop "Southie's Own" in South Boston.

Growing up in a working-class environment has given me an incredible perspective in the tough challenges, as well as the opportunities facing local families... With brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends working as laborers, electricians, carpenters, police officers, firefighters, and iron workers, I know all too well the stressors of ensuring enough hours worked for health insurance, the uncertainty of the next paycheck, and just how crucial our collective bargaining rights are. Rebuilding and rejuvenating the Boston economy during the aftermath of the pandemic remains crucial. I bring my unique experiences as a union member and small business owner along with a lifetime of living and working in the City of Boston.

Nee-Walsh's key issues include schools, development, housing affordability, mental health, substance abuse, our local economy and small businesses, and public safety.
> [bridgetneewalsh.com](#)

SHAWN NELSON

Nelson, a former US Marine Corps member, is a Certified Nursing Assistant. He volunteers at the Food Pantry in the South End and at Roxbury Boys and Girls Club.

I am running for City Councilor At-Large to address the concerns of everyday Bostonians, so many of whom have been ignored and unrepresented. I will promote open discourse across Boston communities and meaningful engagement of constituents in local politics. I'm a good listener, I'm easy to work with and I will work hard to promote policies and

common-sense solutions to serve all the neighborhoods of Boston. I will be a trustworthy and accountable public servant, who will stand up and speak out on behalf of our beautiful historic city and its residents.”

Nelson's key issues include Mass and Cass, traffic congestion, small business, parents' rights, housing, violence, and education.
> [shawn4boston.com](#)

HENRY SANTANA

The son of Dominican immigrants, Santana grew up in Mission Hill's Alice Heywood Taylor Apartments and recently served as Director of the City of Boston's Office of Civic Organizing.

From Mission Hill to East Boston to Dorchester and to Hyde Park, every resident of this city deserves to be a part of our vibrant democracy. I'm running to bring a fresh perspective to the Boston City Council and to uplift residents in every neighborhood of Boston. I understand the importance of having accessible government systems that serve and uplift every member of our community. As a candidate for Boston City Council, I am committed to continuing my work of removing barriers and increasing civic engagement to ensure that every Boston resident has a voice in shaping the future of our city. I am dedicated to creating a Boston where everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive and where every resident can play an active role in building a more equitable and just community.”

Santana's key issues include housing, public safety, the environment, and civic engagement.
> [henrysantana.com](#)

CATHERINE VITALE

Vitale's family has been impacted by homelessness and addiction; her lived experiences inform her candidacy. She has been a restaurant manager.

Whether we're talking about protecting city workers over public health mandates, saving the trees at Malcom X Park, fixing the Clougherty Pool, economic equality for North End restaurant owners, finding solutions to violence both in the streets and in the schools, letting parents elect their school committee, fixing the exam schools admissions process, assessing traffic issues due to the endless amount of new, unwanted developments and bike lanes, or making sure our police are doing their jobs, regardless of what neighborhood we come from or what our political leanings are, Bostonians seem to all have one thing in common: we DO NOT have adequate representation in City Hall. I never saw myself getting involved in politics, much less running for local office, but I can no longer sit idly by while our city is destroyed. We lost Boston a long time ago, and it's going to take a lot of hard work and determination to get it back.”

Vitale's key issues include Mass & Cass, overdevelopment, parental rights, violence, housing, and small business.
> [vitaleforboston.com](#)

> RTH from page 1 funds or subsidy from RTH, is that RTH would be able to claim Tax Credits with a value in excess of this payment, and that these Tax Credits, after netting out the one-time payment, would increase the net amount of government funds available for the project.

This opportunity is only available in the context of an occupied rehab with Tax Credits and only for current occupant households that do not qualify for Tax Credits due to income ineligibility.

Trinity Management requires RTH tenants to report income, assets, and household size annually. Income verification potentially allows RTH to include more apartments in its Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) portfolio, increasing funding available for the renovation work.

WHAT A COAT OF PAINT CAN DO...

Thalia Berard—who holds an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts—worked on Oct. 5 to finish up a mural she'd painted onto a City-owned transformer box at Brookline Avenue and Fullerton Street. The City's Paintbox competition awards artists \$500 grants to beautify utility boxes; the Fenway got two others this year. See more of Berard's work at [thaliaberard.com](#).



PHOTO: STEVE WOLFF

IN MEMORIAM

John Bookston

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Fenway neighborhood leader and civic activist John Bookston died on Oct. 8. He was 76.

John, originally from Michigan, graduated from Detroit Mumford High School, where he was class president. He earned degrees from the University of Michigan and Harvard University.

He was a high school math teacher at Brookline High and after his retirement became very active in neighborhood development meetings. Shirley McDonald, who worked at Brookline High with John, said, "I remember him as a wonderful teacher and always a kind person and a gentle man."

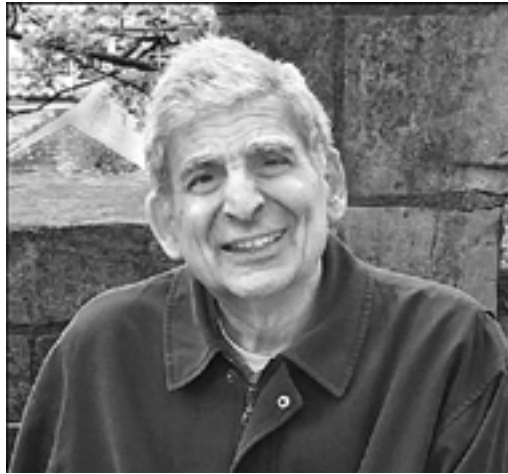
Before teaching, John took the LSAT and graduated from Harvard Law School. He then spent a long and successful career in public law, including stints working for the ACLU and the EPA.

John joined the Fenway Civic Association board in 2016 and subsequently served as the group's representative to ADCO Boston (Alliance of Downtown Civic Organizations) where he advocated for affordable housing and equal rights.

He took a hands-on role in neighborhood cleanups and the Fenway Cares food distribution program. John also attended numerous public meetings. "He showed up for everything," said Marie Fukuda, co-chair of Fenway Civic Association's Parks and Open Space Committee. "He was a part of every bit of outreach that the Fenway Civic did." She said John was always the first person to show up for the Fenway Cares food distribution program.

"He was really focused on support for immigrant populations in the city as well," said Fukuda, noting that John used his career as a high school math teacher to provide tutoring for immigrant families.

John was also active in the Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Committee, which operated under the auspices of Berklee College of Music. He was still tutoring up until the time of his death.



"He was the kindest human being on the planet," said Mark Diamond of Needham who knew John from Brookline High.

Rich Giordano, director of policy and community planning for the Fenway CDC, knew Bookston from his consistent involvement with the Neighborhood Improvement Committee's Communicate and Connect group, which aids individuals struggling with homelessness and drug addiction.

"It's a real loss for the neighborhood," said Giordano.

"John cared deeply about the Fenway. He put his heart and soul into working to better things in the neighborhood. I wish there were a few more like him."

Likewise, District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan wrote in a statement:

"John Bookston was a quiet yet forceful leader in any community he was a part of. His smile could disarm anyone, I think because you could see the smile in his eyes—like when he looked at you he was seeing all the good that was there. He looked at his community the same way, with intense and earnest optimism. It wasn't just his attitude, though, that made his community a better place. John's dedication to volunteerism in every space was taken to its full. In the Fenway, he could be counted on to be seen on street outreach calls month after month, and that was just one instance of his volunteerism."

Councilor Durkan added that her office was committed to find a way to honor John's legacy in the neighborhood. At the Oct. 24 Fenway Park neighborhood meeting, she said she would propose naming the new pedestrian plaza at Edgerly Road after Bookston.

Bookston is survived by wife Rosalie, son David, and three grandchildren

A funeral service was held Oct. 12 at Temple Israel on Longwood Avenue.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

SAMUELS UNVEILS 1400 BOYLSTON PLAN

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

A virtual public meeting to review the Draft Project Impact Report (DPIR) for 1400 Boylston St. took place on Oct. 18. The project would occupy a 2.4-acre site that includes the current Star Market (which will move to the 401 Park Drive complex), a former gas station, and parking lots. Developer Samuels & Associates filed the report on Sept. 19.

The project consists of 553,000 square feet of mixed-use space—17,000 sq. ft. of retail and restaurant space and 498,000 sq. ft. of office and research/development space. A cultural pavilion shown in preliminary plans has been reimaged as a 5,000-sq-ft. neighborhood branch of the Boston Public Library. As part of the project's public benefits, Samuels will contribute \$18 million to increase the number of affordable units in a 117-unit residential project at 165 Park Drive.

Peter Sougarides of Samuels said the project would have ground-floor retail and restaurants plus about three acres of open space. He said the developer will "respect the rhythm of the established neighborhood and the Emerald Necklace," shaping the building to minimize shadows on Ramler Park and the Muddy River. The design encloses the loading docks within the building.

Architect Keith LeBlanc of Elkus Manfredi added that the plan will strengthen the connection to the MBTA's Fenway Station, improve crosswalks at the site, and add new sidewalks and cycle tracks. These changes would help reduce crossing distance from the building to the far side of Brookline Avenue by 38 feet. The open space would extend from Boylston to Peterborough along Park Drive and in-

1400 BOYLSTON on page 7 >

OPENING DOORS...AND EYES

PHOTOS: LESLIE POND



As part of the Fenway Alliance's Opening Our Doors celebration on Oct. 9, the Museum of Fine Arts welcomed visitors with free admission. The line at the Huntington Street entrance wound around the corner of Huntington Avenue onto Forsyth Way.

While waiting in line, visitors had a view of "Appeal to the Great Spirit" (photo above). In the years since its installation in 1912, dialogue about the statue has ranged from praise to concern about cultural appropriation and perpetuation of stereotyped images.

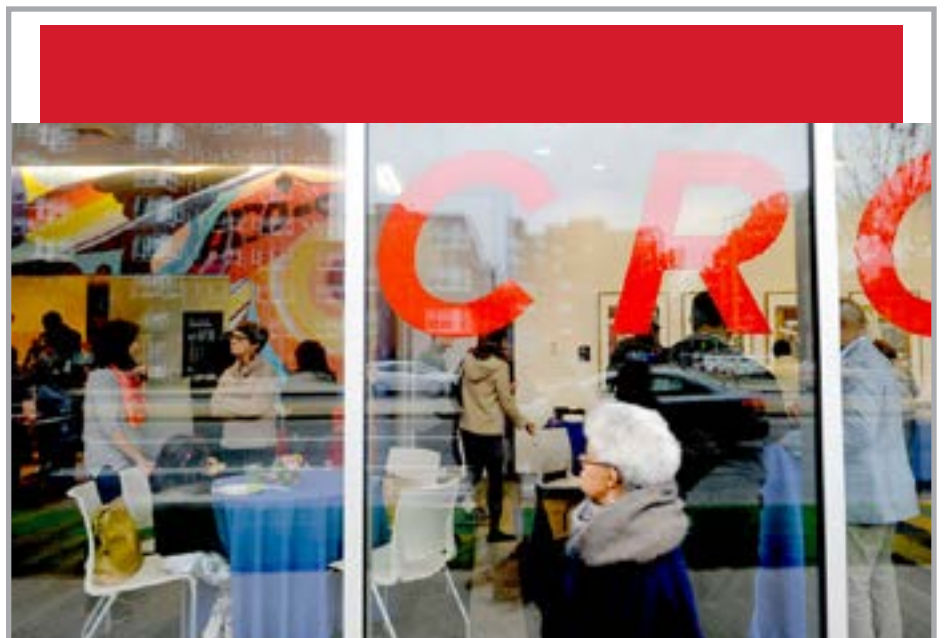
Since 2019, as part of its Indigenous People's Day event, the MFA has invited responses to the question "What do you see when you look at Cyrus Dallin's 'Appeal to the Great Spirit?'" This year's responses from Indigenous artists and students were posted on the lawn in front of the statue. Responses included: "...A testament to the power in our resilience, and the burden it can carry," "...I feel kind of numb. Unbothered, but certainly not grateful or inspired." and "Please take this sculpture down immediately. It represents white supremacist



stereotypes that contribute to the public health emergency of racism..."

Elsewhere for Opening Our Doors, a jazz ensemble from the New England Conservatory played on the Huntington Avenue steps of Jordan Hall (photo above).

—LESLIE POND, WEST FENS



Book our Event Space, Northeastern Crossing

City and Community Engagement has provided individuals and groups with complimentary access to a classroom and conference room. Advance reservations are required for both spaces. Event organizers may only host programming that is free to participants.

BOOK HERE:



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Boston, MA 02120
communityengagement@northeastern.edu
communityengagement.northeastern.edu
617-373-2555

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New Bowker, With Better Non-Car Connectivity, Will Debut in 2028

BY STEVE WOLF

MassDOT's Highway Division unveiled an ambitious vision for replacing the Bowker Overpass at a virtual meeting on October 26. The agency told more than 110 attendees that the \$90 million project would open in 2028 and previewed some tantalizing

improvements it would bring.

The big message: Three years of construction pain will bring decades of public-realm gains.

The MassDOT team began by underscoring



Proposed new multi-use path, looking from the Fenway toward Comm. Ave.

and continuous plantings, including small trees. The planned design would keep the ramp's incline shallow enough for safe wheelchair travel to and from Comm. Ave. Once the rebuilt Bowker reopens, the new ramp will move cars to/from the Fenway end of the overpass and Comm. Ave., allowing removal of the existing down ramp on the Storrow-bound side of the overpass

So much for the gains. Now for the pain: Most of the new support structure for the new ramp and the overpass replacement will require nighttime installation of steel framing above Ipswich Street, the MBTA commuter tracks, and the Mass Pike. The work will also take out some mature trees from Charlesgate—although Dan Adams of Landing Studio, landscape designers for the project, said his firm continues work on a plan to minimize those takings.

MassDOT anticipates putting the completed plan out for bid in August 2024; naming a winning bidder in winter 2024/25; and starting construction in summer 2025. If it stays on track, the new Bowker will open sometime in 2028.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

MassDOT has posted the presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/5xxh4a3b>. Comments on the plan received by Nov. 9 will be included in the public record. Send them to MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us.

East Fens Pedestrian Plaza Could Link Harry Ellis Dickson Park and Whole Foods

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

On Oct. 20, the Boston City Council formally designated New Ederly Road a pedestrian plaza, capping a campaign by the Fenway Civic Association (FCA) that began in 2017. They also adopted a resolution in support of dedicating that same road in honor of John Bookston.

New Ederly Road runs between Harry Ellis Dickson Park (managed by FCA) and Whole Foods. In the densely inhabited East Fens, few residents have open space where they can sit or play outside. A survey organized by former City Councilor Kenzie Bok and the Boston Transportation Department determined that within an hour, 51 individuals passed through the area by car compared to 413 individuals on foot, suggesting a need to focus on non-vehicular uses.

According to Marie Fukada, co-chair of FCA's Parks and Open Space Committee, the Fenway has among the lowest car ownership rates of city neighborhoods, yet it is subjected to heavy traffic from travel to and from the Longwood Area, Fenway Park, and other destinations.

Fukada outlined a list of pros and cons for the change.

The pros include the premise that pedestrianizing New Ederly ties together a larger space for public use.

Currently, Harry Ellis Dickson Park sits isolated on a site surrounded by car traffic. Residents of nearby Morville House walk to reach local stores. Reducing interaction with cars reduces the potential for accidents.

Boston Police say that residents don't use the 16 parking spaces along New Ederly for overnight parking. Whole Foods customers can use the ample parking meters along Ederly Road (they revert to resident spaces overnight) or short-term parking in the Symphony Garage, adjacent to the store.

The main argument against the plaza pales in comparison to the arguments for it: Vehicles exit Ederly via New Ederly to head west onto Westland Avenue; they would need to travel another 75 feet or so on Ederly to reach Westland.

On Oct. 25 the BTM held a meeting at the site to gather community input. While some citizens expressed concerns about losing parking, many reacted positively to the space's possibilities. BTM's Jacob Wessel, who led the meeting, said that the agency would try low-cost, short-term updates—painting the roadbed with bright colors and adding planters, tables and chairs—to see what will work best at the site.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

the problems plaguing the 60-year-old overpass, including exposed rebar on abutments and supporting piers; a drainage system that dumps dirty stormwater straight into the Muddy River; and sidewalks far out of compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The project would dramatically improve connections for pedestrians and cyclists (and make those connections much more appealing than today's narrow sidewalks, directly adjacent to high-speed traffic); open up land now covered by the existing exit ramp to Comm. Ave., expanding the proposed Charlesgate Park; and divert roadway runoff to bioretention ponds before sending it to the Muddy River. The project also sets the stage for the later reconstruction of the Storrow Drive flyover at the Bowker's northern end.

The biggest news involves a new ramp west of the existing overpass. It will carry traffic between Storrow and the Fenway during replacement of the existing structure alongside a wide path with lighting, pavers,

Electrifying News: Your Home And Your Ride Can Help Tackle Climate Change

BY LESLIE POND

Last year, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), with \$367 billion to support the move from fossil fuels toward renewable energy. This funding will help meet the U.S. goal of tackling the climate crisis by lowering greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent of 2005 levels by 2030.

On Oct. 19 Climate Reality's Boston Metro and Southcoast chapters hosted a webinar to help residents navigate the options available for home electrification and electric vehicles and the amount of financial incentives they can expect.

The event drew 95 participants, mostly from Massachusetts. Founded by former Vice President Al Gore, Climate Reality is a nonprofit global network of 3.5 million people. It trains and mobilizes people to accelerate climate action toward reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

The webinar, "Electrify Your Home And Transportation And Get The Money Available To Help," was the first in a series aimed to help fill the implementation gap. Organized by Paul Hesselschwerdt and Mona Cohen, it featured a presentation by Rahul Young, director of local engagement at Rewiring America, a nonprofit focused on continuing to expand electrification and simplifying access for households, businesses, and communities.

Hesselschwerdt, co-chair of the Boston Metro chapter, explained the climate change context, what the IRA covers, and challenges and opportunities for Massachusetts residents, while Young provided details on electrification and Rewiring America's tools and resources.

- Among the opportunities they cited:
- the federal IRA tax credits are available now through 2032;
 - incentives in Massachusetts are among the highest in the country, and Massachusetts is expected to be among the first states to roll out rebates to help low- and moderate-income residents; and
 - the Mass Save program, which is funded by a fee paid by utilities' customers (think Eversource and National Grid) and offers reimbursements for home and business energy efficiency upgrades, among other services.

The challenges include the age of Massachusetts' housing stock (an average of 57 years old), high demand for MassSave's services, and contractors who mainly have experience with gas and oil equipment (Massachusetts is the third largest user of home heating oil among U.S. states), though some are becoming more familiar with

electric heating and air conditioning.

Young cited analysis showing that 87 percent of our carbon emissions come from energy, mostly from use of coal, natural gas, and oil. With 42 percent of those emissions coming from "kitchen table" decisions, such as how we heat and cool our homes, cook our food, and get around, we each have opportunities to take action that collectively can make a meaningful reduction in emissions.

He also made a case for electrification as the most equitable way to solve the climate crisis—for example, through improved air quality, especially for low-income communities and communities of color that have historically faced environmental injustices, and job creation.

Delving into the details, Young offered information on the two types of financial incentives—tax credits and rebates—available to fund our individual "electric wallets" through the IRA.

Rewiring America's website has tools and resources, including an "IRA Savings Calculator" that gives an initial estimate of your potential tax credits and rebates based on renter or homeowner status, tax filing status, household size and income, and zip code; step-by-step guides to electrification projects; educational and campaign materials; and more.

Facilitated by experts from Electrify America, Mass Heat Smart Alliance, and Elephant Energy, the breakout rooms included residents who already have personal experience with home electrification and electric vehicles, thereby offering opportunities for participants to crowdsource answers to their questions. Just two participants joined a breakout room designated as renters/other, which did not continue due to audio issues.

The two Climate Reality chapters plan to host follow-up sessions on specific topics that help residents make the transition to electric. To weigh in on topics, contact the Climate Reality Boston Metro chapter at crpbostonmetro@gmail.com.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens. To view a recording of the main presentations, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9101212121?pwd=Qm91dUphbmwQpYZ8hoK0IYNjMvMmZlXGcNapgqYjY6YNO59ezq8wlaVe2frz8S0p.7crxj50s13lkfWfn?startT ime=1697755462000> and use passcode **R+mC%Q4t**.



Virtual Public Meeting

1400 Boylston & Zoning Amd. Meeting

NOVEMBER

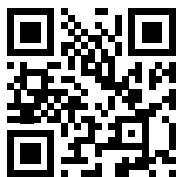
6

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3SaSlEn

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 851 8527



Project Description:

The BPDA will host a Public Meeting to discuss a proposed project at 1400 Boylston Street and an associated proposed zoning amendment to Article 66, The Fenway neighborhood zoning article. Discussion regarding the proposed project will focus on the proposed public open space and civic space. The proposed zoning amendment would affect the parcel on which the proposed civic space is located. The meeting will include presentations from the proponent and BPDA staff, followed by Q&A and comments from the public.

The information at this meeting is important. Interpreting services are available. If you require translation services, please contact quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov no later than 10/30/23.

对于您作为波士顿的居民和利益相关者, 本次会议的信息至关重要。与会的语言服务免费。如果您需要这些语言翻译服务, 请在下方的日期时间之前联系 (quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov): 10/30/23.

作为波士顿居民和利益相关者, 这次会议中的资讯对您非常重要。我们可以向您免费提供语言辅助服务。如果您要求这些服务, 请在以下时间之前联络 (quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov): 10/30/23.

mail to: **Quinn Valcich**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4219
email: quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov

Close of Public Comment
Period:
12/4/2023
website:
bit.ly/1400BoylstonStreet

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

The Arts

'THE ADDAMS FAMILY' TAKES ITS TIME BUT DELIVERS THE GOODS

BY ALISON BARNET

I never saw the 1930s Charles Addams *New Yorker* cartoons, the 1960s TV series, or the animated movies or Broadway musical, but I did consult a book about the Addams Family before seeing the show. It made me expect the characters to be much more bizarre than they are—although that's saying something. As director Nick Vargas writes, "The Addams have been frightening & delighting audiences for almost a century."

The Addams family can be described as funky and fun, kooky, weird, but also classy and stylish. The question is: What's normal? Who's crazier? They display an odd kind of humor that I call reverse humor. Lucas (Timothy Bevens) tells Wednesday (Emilia Tagliani), "I'd rather die than live without you." And she answers, "OK, prove it!" They "embrace the darkness," death as well as life. The "Ancestors" are a key part of the show, dancing, singing and hopping around; many of them are students at New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory, or still in high school. It's great that so many of Wheelock's actors are young and talented. Not to forget young son Pugsley (Jack Baumrind) who's been acting since age 5.

A few steps down from the Wheelock Family Theatre lobby is a tunnel-like exhibition space with a table and the question: "Do you think you have what it takes to be an Addams? Grab a prop and strike a pose." I would choose to be



Wednesday, the strange daughter with a crossbow and a terrific singing voice.

I've been reviewing Wheelock plays for *The Fenway News* since 1983. I really enjoy seeing actors and actresses I recognize, among them Anthony Piers, Jr. (Uncle Fester), Joshua Wolf Coleman (Mal Beineke), Leigh Barrett (Alice Beineke), Aimee Doherty (Morticia), Emilia Tagliani, and Jane Staab (Grandma). Staab—one of Wheelock Family Theatre's founders—played Emily Dickenson in *The Belle of Amherst* in 1981. She was also director and creator of music for early plays. Now, as so many years have gone by, she, like a lot of us, IS Grandma.

The major roles are played by Luis Negrón as Gomez and Doherty as Morticia. Both are well known at a number of local theatres. All the

characters are so well-defined—one crazier than the next. Now I understand why a certain weird character in my neighborhood was known as Lurch.

Although I'd like to, it would be impossible to credit everyone, including the very large production team.

Full disclosure: Although I liked it tremendously, I think *The Addams Family* should be shorter. It runs for two hours and 45 minutes; the first act is a full hour and a half. And, although it is billed for ages 8 and up, I wonder about some of the sexual and death references.

Alison Barnett lives in the South End. The Addams Family runs through Nov. 19. UPCOMING: Mr. Popper's Penguins and A Wrinkle in Time. See wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

LOCAL ARTS



Sat-Sun, 11/4 & 11/5 Fenway Open Studios

Visit more than 20 live/work spaces and view (or buy) art in the historic Fenway Studios building, the oldest purpose-built artist studios in the U.S. Please bring a nonperishable food contribution for the annual food drive. Free. 11am-5pm. Details at fenwayartstudios.org. (Above, a painting from Fenway Studios artist Patricia Burson.)

Sat, 11/4 Kaji Aso 50th- Anniversary Exhibit & Reception (7pm)

Celebrate the work of 38 local artists and studio founder Kaji Aso with art, music and poetry at this free reception, open to the public, at Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St. Stephen St. Details at kajiasostudio.com

KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



Flying Together Celebrating 50 Years

50th-Anniversary Exhibit

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7PM

ART 🍃 MUSIC 🍃 POETRY

FEATURING KAJI ASO

Founder, Artist, Teacher, Mentor

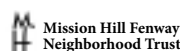
EXHIBITORS

Anna Belkina	Michiko Imai	Lainie Senechal
Michael Biales	Brenda Jones	Smit Shrestha
Deborah Cake	Ruth E. Khowais	Katherine Sloss
Tsuya Chinn	Esther Lable	Patricia Stimpson
Betsy Clarke	Marj Layman	Norris Strawbridge
Sarah Coletti	Takahiro Miyao	Ginny Such
Pamela Curtis	Stuart Murphy	S. E. Tanzer
Veda Daly	Linda Papatopoli	Alison Tolman-
Leslie Ann Eliet	Monita Rajbanshi	Rogers
Kate Finnegan	Irma Rappl-Wilson	Gary Tucker
Harris Gardner	Lois Rosenbloom	Jessica Vohs
Elizabeth Goldman	Mikiko Sato	Amy Walba
Jeanne Gugino		Erica Yost

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November

CALENDAR

Wed, 11/8

Gay Community News was a Boston-area weekly publication. **GAY COMMUNITY**

SENIOR EVENTS

To attend, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. For information, visit operationpeaceboston.org. Events take place at the Peterborough Senior Ctr. (PSC), or the Fenway Community Ctr. (FCC).

- Tue, Nov 7 & 28, 12pm: TRIVIA AND BINGO at PSC
- Wed, Nov 8, 15, & 29, 11:30am: LOW IMPACT EXERCISE at PSC
- Thu, Nov 9, 12pm: COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS with Age Strong Commission at FCC
- Wed, Nov 15, 12pm: WATERCOLORS at PSC
- Thu, Nov 16, 12pm: COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS Thanksgiving Potluck at FCC

NEWS AT 50: CONTENT, CONTROVERSY & COVERAGE at the Mass Historical Society explores the question, "What is gay news?" 6pm. Register at masshist.org/events/gay-community-news-50-content-controversy-coverage. **FREE**

Mon, 11/13

NICK FLYNN AND NATHAN MCCLAIN present their poems at MassArt. An author talk and question-and-answer session. 6pm. 621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115. **FREE**

Fri, 11/17

Braille typically costs about three times more to produce than the same materials in print. The National Braille Press's gala fundraiser, **A MILLION LAUGHS FOR LITERACY: BRAILLE ALL-STARS**, supports literacy programs that help to ensure that blind and visually impaired children have an equal chance to read. 6pm. Buy tickets or donate at classy.org/event/a-million-laughs-for-literacy-gala-braille-all-stars/e506888. The 521 Overlook, Fenway Park.

COMMUNITY meetings

MON, NOV 6 The BPDA hosts a public meeting to discuss a proposed project at **1400 BOYLSTON STREET** and an associated proposed zoning amendment to Article 66. The meeting will include presentations from the proponent and BPDA staff, followed by Q&A and comments from the public. Register at bit.ly/3SaSlEn. 6pm.

THU, NOV 9 The **HARVARD INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE** opens its regularly scheduled meeting to the public on Zoom at 10am. Visit hms.harvard.edu/departments/committee-microbiological-safety/coms-public-meeting for more information. RSVP to COMSPublicMeeting@hms.harvard.edu.

MON, NOV 13 The BPDA hosts an Impact

Advisory Group (IAG) meeting for proposed apartments at **142-146 ST. MARY'S STREET**. The meeting will include a presentation followed by a Q&A and comments from the IAG. The proposed project would include construction of an approximately 91,000-gross-square-foot development with six stories, 90 residential units, and parking. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/wj2f42vw>.

WED, NOV 15 Join the **BACK BAY FENS PATHWAYS COMMUNITY MEETING** for a project update with an online presentation by the designers, followed by Q&A. Join by Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/89768647740. Learn more at boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-back-bay-fens-pathways. 6pm.

Neighborhood Newsline

CDC and Planning Office Now Own Our Lady's Guild House

Capping a years-long struggle by tenants, who worked with organizers from the Fenway CDC, in late October the CDC and the Planning Office for Urban Affairs announced that they had finalized the purchase of Our Lady's Guild House. The two organizations will rehabilitate and modernize the building as 100 percent permanent affordable housing and protect the tenancies of long-term residents.

Fenway Health Staffers Vote to Join SEIU

450 workers at Fenway Health have joined 1199SEIU. The vote adds union membership for a range of positions including medical assistants, registered nurses, patient navigators, educators, telehealth workers, therapists, community health workers, and nurse practitioners. The agreement will cover two clinics, the Aids Action Committee, and the Fenway Institute.

School Committee Will Choose Nominees for Two Seats in Nov.

At its Oct. 26 meeting, the Boston School Committee's nominating panel finalized dates for applying to join the committee. The four-year terms of Chantal Naomi Lima Barbosa and Rafaela Polanco Garcia conclude this year. They can apply for reappointment, but any other interested candidates can submit an application by midnight, Nov. 17 to scnominatingpanel@bostonpublicschools.org. Virtual interviews will take place the week of Nov. 27, and the panel will send three to five names to the mayor by Dec. 4.

APARTMENTS, EXTRA PARKING PROPOSED IN AUDUBON CIRCLE

BY STEVE WOLF

A Newton developer has proposed adding 90 apartments and 128 parking spaces to a parcel in Audubon Circle. The six-story, 91,000 square foot building would sit between the Green Line's D branch on the south and existing condos along Medfield Street. Its 14 on-site units would slightly exceed City affordable-housing requirements.

The BPDA filing by Allen Associates says 142-146 St. Mary's St. would produce no significant shadow or wind impacts; aim for LEED Gold certification; and meet Passive House standards, in which exacting insulation techniques slash energy use.

The developer's website lists 10 properties in its portfolio, only one of them housing: luxury apartments across the street from the development parcel. That building sits in Brookline, and that fact drives a feature of the plan that seems likely to trigger questions from neighbors, given the proximity of two transit stops (St. Mary's and Fenway). Parking for 128 cars far exceeds City of Boston requirements for 90 apartments, but that's because Allen intends to use 75 of them (roughly 60 percent) to meet "off-street parking obligations for the Proponent's abutting apartment building at 101 Monmouth Street in Brookline." Only 27 spaces would serve the new building; 15 others would be available to neighborhood residents.

The BPDA will hold two open meetings on the project. The proposal's Impact Advisory Group meets Nov. 13, at 6pm and a public meeting takes place Nov. 20 at 6pm. The comment period will close on Nov. 27. For more information, visit the project page at <https://tinyurl.com/wj2f42vw>.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

Important Information About Lead in Your Drinking Water



Boston's drinking water is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority from the Quabbin Reservoir and is distributed lead-free to homes and businesses. However, some older homes in Boston may have a lead service line, lead solder used in plumbing and older brass fixtures. If you have a lead service line in your home or business, have it replaced.



Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all groups. Running your cold water in the morning for a minute will flush your service line, this may reduce exposure to lead in drinking water if your service line is lead.



Boston property owners should take advantage of this important program at no cost to you. We offer free inspection of your water service line to determine if it is made of copper or lead. If your service line is lead BWSC will replace it at no cost to the property owner.

To have your service line tested and replaced take advantage of BWSC's No Cost Lead Replacement Incentive Program at 617-989-7888.

Boston Water and Sewer Commission

www.bwsc.org

TimeOut MARKET

EAT, DRINK, ENJOY!

15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS. ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT

401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON



@ THE CENTER

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

- Sat, November 4 & 18, 10:30am: CREATE artmaking
- Tue, November 14, 2pm to 4:30pm: FENWAY CDC'S FREE MARKET
- Wed, November 29, 6pm: PAINT NIGHT WITH LYDIA

> **1400 BOYLSTON** from page 4 include new trees along the street and in a grove next to the library pavilion.

During the Q&A period, resident Steve Wolf pointed out that trees the Department of Conservation and Recreation planted three years ago along Park Drive from the west end of Peterborough Street around to Kilmarnock have all died. He noted that Emerald Necklace Conservancy staff members believe the species chosen for that stretch couldn't tolerate the heavy use of road salt on Park Drive. (DCR recently replaced the dead trees.)

Resident Freddie Veikley expressed concerns about the corner of Boylston and Park Drive, which she called a "dangerous crossing." Attendees pointed out that crossing from Kilmarnock and Boylston near Target is also treacherous.

Attendees lauded the idea of a library for the neighborhood. Resident Kathleen McBride, a member of the project's Citizen Advisory Committee, said that she liked the plan's holistic approach and loved the idea of civic space, especially a library.

The public comment period for the project ends Dec. 4.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

Winter in The Fenway

**Opening for
the season
November 18!**

Date subject to change. Follow @thefenway for updates.

The Rink 401 Park

M-F: 3-9 PM SAT: 11AM-10 PM SUN: 11AM-8 PM



The Fenway Tree Farm

OPEN DAILY: 9 AM - 9 PM @ 1400 BOYLSTON STREET



**SCAN for
The Fenway
Events
Calendar**

**THIS IS THE
FENWAY**
↓

**Samuels &
Associates**