



THE

Fenway News

HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 50 NUMBER 9 • AUGUST 30 - OCTOBER 4, 2024

CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

SEP 15 & 17

PEARL JAM
WITH GLEN HANSARD
6:30-10:30PM

SEP 18

POST MALONE
7:30-10:30PM

REPORT NOISE OR BAD BEHAVIOR

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

CITY LICENSING BOARD → 617-635-4170

SOX COMPLAINT LINE → 617-226-6424

CITY PROBLEM LINE → 311

Who's Running, Where You Vote, And Other Mysteries of Our Sept. 3 Primary Election

BY MARY ANN BROGAN AND LESLIE POND

With only a few days until the 2024 primary election on Tuesday, Sept. 3, it's almost time to vote, if you haven't already voted early or by mail.

While some may think a primary election—where political parties choose a candidate to run in the general election—is not as important as the general election in November, consider the fact that most government actions that affect our day-to-day lives happen on the local level, which makes every election important. With multiple offices and candidates, the ballot can be confusing, especially if you are not familiar with who is running for what position and what it entails. This guide brings together multiple sources of information that can help you make informed decisions.

Ten offices—including two at the national level—are on the ballot for the primary. For several offices, the election is uncontested, with only a single candidate.

Due to space considerations, this guide focuses only on the competitive races in *The Fenway News* coverage area and includes brief descriptions of the offices; excerpts from

Democratic and Republican sample ballots, by ward and precinct; candidate websites; and information on how to vote.

This election includes races for the United States Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives, as well as races for potentially less familiar but important positions—members of the Governor's Council, which approves or denies gubernatorial appointments (such as judges, public administrators, and parole board members), pardons, and commutations; the Clerk of Supreme Judicial Court, Suffolk County, who maintains the court's records, ensures that court sessions comply with established procedures, manages admissions to the bar, and enforces disbarment of judges; and the Clerk of Superior Court (Civil Business), who ensures that the court runs smoothly for court employees and the public by coordinating, scheduling, attending, and keeping records of hearings for civil cases.

Find your personal election information

To view your sample ballot, enter your street address and city or zip code at sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote, and click on the ballot for the party in which you are registered. The search results also show your ward and precinct, in-person voting location, and current elected officials at the state level.

Once you have your ward and precinct, you can find the competitive races on your ballot, below, with the candidates in the order that they appear on the ballot, and their websites to learn more about their backgrounds, priorities, and endorsers:

Democratic Party Ballot

WARD 4 / PRECINCTS 7 & 8
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT
8TH SUFFOLK (STATE REPRESENTATIVE)

- Jay D. Livingstone (incumbent)
jaylivingstone.com
- Lisa Jeanne Graf
lisajeannegraf.com
- Kelechi Linardon
kc4boston.com

WARD 4 / PRECINCT 9; WARD 10 /
PRECINCTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 8
GOVERNOR'S COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT 4

- Christopher A. Iannella, Jr (incumbent)
iannellammumolo.com/community
- Stacey K. Borden
stacey4governorscouncil.com
- Ronald Primo Iacobucci
rpi.vote

WARD 4 / PRECINCT 12; WARD 5 /
PRECINCTS 2 & 15

GOVERNOR'S COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT 3

- Marilyn Petitto Devaney (incumbent)
marilyndevaney.com
- Mara Dolan
maradolan.com

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT,
8TH SUFFOLK (STATE REPRESENTATIVE)

- Jay D. Livingstone (incumbent)
jaylivingstone.com
- Lisa Jeanne Graf
lisajeannegraf.com
- Kelechi Linardon
www.kc4boston.com

WARD 5 / PRECINCTS 10 & 12; WARD 21 /
PRECINCTS 1 & 2

GOVERNOR'S COUNCILLOR, DISTRICT 3

- Marilyn Petitto Devaney (incumbent)
marilyndevaney.com
- Mara Dolan
maradolan.com

ALL DEMOCRATIC BALLOTS INCLUDE THESE OFFICES AND CANDIDATES:

CLERK OF SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT,
SUFFOLK COUNTY

- Allison S. Cartwright
cartwrightforclerk.org
- Erin Murphy
erinforboston.com/suffolk-county-sjc-1

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT (CIVIL BUSINESS),
SUFFOLK COUNTY

- John E. Powers, III (incumbent)
powersforclerk.com
- Faustina Kathy Gabriel
votekathygabriel.com

Republican Party Ballot

There is one contested race on the Republican Party ballot.

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

- Robert J. Antonellis
bobforsenatema.com
- Ian Cain
cainforus.com
- John Deaton
johndeatonforsenate.com

Voting information

To find voting options and more, visit sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/elections-and-voting.htm.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens; Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens. They thank Jonathan Cohn for providing feedback on earlier versions of this article.

WRAPS COME OFF OF 'LYRIK' PLAZA



Construction fences came down at Mass. Ave. and Boylston last month as the "Lyrik" development begins to open. Key features: [1] Citizen M Hotel has opened some rooms and public spaces; it plans a full "hard" opening in September. [2] MBTA head house, not yet open, will restore a long-closed connection to Hynes Station beneath Mass Ave. [3] Rivian showroom sports a rooftop terrace accessible by the staircase to a tree-shaded plaza overlooking the Mass Pike. [4] Public seating. [5] New bus shelter with real-time listings for buses and Green Line trains. [6] Street-level bike lane (black asphalt strip).



TO DRAW A BIG SUMMER CROWD, JUST ADD ICE CREAM



U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley (photo 1) kicked off remarks by a parade of elected officials and candidates at Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee's 13th Annual Ice Cream Social with Michelle Wu on Sat., Aug. 17. The Fenway Community Center and the Ward 4 Dems offered separate, back-to-back events at Symphony Community Park on Edgerly Road. The FCC's Fenway Community Day ran 12-2pm, with free pizza from Blaze and nonprofit groups like FCDC and The Fenway News staffing information tables. The climate-activist group 350.org arrayed red umbrellas with a message for the fossil-fuel industry (photo 2). At 2pm, the focus shifted to the Ward 4 Dems' event, with

200+ servings of six flavors of ice cream dispensed. In addition to Rep. Pressley, neighbors heard from elected officials, including Mayor Wu, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, and City Councilor Henry Santana. Speakers running in this fall's election included Mara Dolan, Marilyn P. Devaney, and Stacey Borden (Governor's Council); State Sen. Will Brownsberger; State Rep. Jay Livingstone; Lisa Jeanne Graf (State Rep.); Allison Cartwright (Suffolk Supreme Judicial Court Clerk); and Kathy Gabriel (Suffolk Superior Court Clerk).

CREDITS: PHOTO 3, JONATHAN COHN; PHOTO 4, RYAN HATCHER; OTHER PHOTOS, STEVE WOLF

VOTE TUE, SEP 3

PRIMARY ELECTION

The early voting period has passed, but you can drop off your ballot at a drop box or deliver your ballot to City Hall before close of polls on Tue, Sept. 3, or vote in person at your local polling station. Polls are open 7am-8pm. Not sure where to vote? Visit sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote and enter your address to find your location.

GENERAL ELECTION—TUE., NOV. 5

We'll publish more details about the general election in our October issue. Meanwhile, key dates to keep in mind include:

- **Registration deadline:** Oct. 26.
- **Early voting dates:** Oct. 19–Nov. 1 (we'll list nearby early-voting sites next month)
- **More info:** Visit boston.gov/departments/election#upcoming-elections

FENSVIEWS

Further Thoughts on the MBTA's New Payment System

BY ALISON BARNET

Editor's Note: This is a follow-up to Alison Barnet's guest opinion on the MBTA's new Tap To Ride system. That piece appeared in the August 2024 issue.

On Aug. 1, the MBTA launched the new "contactless" system for using credit/debit cards, phones, and smart watches to pay. Called "Tap to Ride," the T says it is a successful plan in New York, New Jersey, London, and on MBTA commuter-rail lines. But not on buses, at least not the ones I take.

I'm frequently on the #1 from Roxbury to the East Fens and the Silver Line from the South End to downtown. Since the new payment plan began—although I'm a regular rider—I've seen only two people using the new "Tap Here" boxes. Both were young and white.

Everyone else gets on by tapping their CharlieCard or paying

cash the same way they always did. I doubt some riders are even aware of the new system.

Unless riders use social media, how would they know about it? There's not even a poster.

Sometimes, though, an announcement begins: "You can now pay..." but is interrupted by the name of the stop: "Clearway Street!" Another announcement says that if you pay with a "contactless device," be "mindful" to avoid accidental charges. That sounds scary to a lot of us.

One day on a packed Silver Line bus, I saw a woman accidentally hit a "Tap Here" box with her handbag. The driver yelled out, "watch out!" These buses are so overcrowded, it's going to happen all the time.

It's good we can still use our CharlieCards, as I don't think the MBTA has sufficiently thought through the new payment system. Many of us are lost in a world of contactlessness, hoping the MBTA will eventually accept our birth certificates, library cards, and high school diplomas without accidental charges.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End.

GUEST OPINION

Slow Down and Linger: Thanks for Covering Riverway Art Installation

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you to *Fenway News* for coverage of this year's Studios Without Walls (SWW) exhibit.

embrace of the Muddy River/Riverway Park! This annual gift weaves a beautiful tapestry of art and landscape.

I stumbled across the annual exhibition several years ago. That serendipitous occurrence caught me completely by surprise, causing me to slow down and linger a bit. For many of us the Riverway is a convenient transit route. However, it is also the work of Fredrick Law Olmsted, and simply a lovely little green respite from the harsh concrete around it. The exhibition is an opportunity for artists to be seen, when some otherwise may

not, and an opportunity for us to stop, contemplate a particular art piece, or the green environment, or share a moment with someone standing next to us—a chance to see a familiar place differently.

This summer I was fortunate enough to be part of a Brookline Community Foundation-sponsored tour led by Bette Ann and several artists. That brought a whole new sense of magic, appreciation, and wonderment. Bravo!

Thank you to all who made it possible, especially the artists.

HARRY BOHRS
BROOKLINE

LETTERS

In particular, thank you and congratulations to Bette Ann Libby and SSW for a quarter-century of sharing the works of inspired artists in the verdant

SENIOR EVENTS

For more information, view the calendar at operationpeaceboston.org or drop by between 11am to 3pm for a paper calendar. Call 617 536-7154 to get added to the mailing list. Unless otherwise noted, events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center.

- Tue, Sep 10, 11:30am: SILK BLOOMS: COFFEE CUP ARTS WITH JAN GADSON LOUISSAINT
- Thu, Sep 12, 12pm: AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY PRESENTATION FROM AGE STRONG COMMISSION
- Thu, Sep 19, 12pm: STOP THE BLEED PRESENTATION WITH BRIGHAM & WOMEN'S
- Tue, Sep 24, 11:30am: MOVIE SCREENING "RAT RACE" (2001)
- Thu, Sep 26, 12pm: REMEMBRANCE BREAKFAST

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 tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8. See the DCR schedule at tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the August 2024 issue, the ninth paragraph of the article on the Studios Without Walls exhibition underwent revision without the consent of the writer. To read the writer's original version of this paragraph, please visit fenwaynews.org.

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. While the Fenway has changed since then, we remain committed to the spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

> NEXT ISSUE <

Our next issue will appear on **Friday, October 4.**

> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, September 27.**

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Tree Canopy at Risk as Construction Damages Multiple Trees



A mature tree on Queensberry—a street known for its characteristically symmetrical tree canopy—is now dying after its roots were damaged during construction of the 60-80 Kilmarnock Street apartments. The tree appears at the center of the photo at left. Normally, developers must undertake a lengthy process involving community meetings in order to remove trees. For this project, that process was followed when a small tree was removed at the start of construction. However, City officials have confirmed that several other trees at the same site have also been damaged in the course of the project, a joint venture of Cabot, Cabot & Forbes and CIM Group. While the city has a process for estimating penalties for such damage, it remains unclear whether any of the fines will be directed toward replacing the lost trees. The existence of this penalty process suggests that construction-related tree damage is not uncommon throughout the city, raising concerns about the effectiveness of current safeguards in protecting Boston's urban greenery.

—AHMED M. ABDELFAH

PHOTO: AHMED M. ABDELFAH

As Article 80 Changes Advance, IMPs Flood the Pipeline

BY ALISON PULTINAS

In public workshops last spring, Boston Planning Department staff shared their rollout of changes to Article 80, the section of Boston's zoning code that applies to projects 20,000 square feet or larger or that include at least 15 dwelling units. The presentation promised a July release of a full Draft Action Plan.

However, formal release of the recommendations has not yet been announced. And, presumably, the release will open a round of public review.

Framed as a modernization effort, the targets for change focus on community engagement, clarifying and standardizing a process for mitigation and community benefits, and improved coordination across City departments.

The Planning Department gathered feedback on the current process through a survey and focus groups. While Article 80D requires colleges, universities, and hospitals to submit master plans covering 10 years, only five institutional representatives returned surveys. Overall, feedback from developers, consultants, and residents highlighted a lack of transparency and predictability in the current process.

On July 15, Nupoor Monani, senior deputy director of development review, and Kristiana Lachiusa, deputy director of community engagement—along with Director Arthur Jemison—presented a side show to the City Council Committee on Planning, Development & Transportation, chaired by Councilor Sharon Durkan. During the hearing, Lachiusa explained that long comment letters are hard for the planning staff to distill and respond to; using surveys is their preference.

A key recommendation presented in the spring workshops and to the City Council committee would do away with Impact Advisory Groups (IAGs), replacing them with Community Advisory Teams (CATs). The Planning Department did not discuss whether CATs would also replace task forces, which are typically long-standing committees selected to review institutional projects.

Like the Fenway Citizens Advisory Committee created to review Brookline Avenue projects, CATs would review

a group of projects instead of one individual development. CATs could be formed with a geographic or thematic focus (life science, for example). Meetings would include food, childcare, and stipends for the team members and would be managed by the Planning Department's community engagement staff, not the assigned project manager.

This vision differs profoundly from what happened this summer with a flood of filings of institutional master plans (IMPs) for both universities and Longwood hospitals. Virtual public meetings drew sparse attendance and often ended earlier than scheduled; a Berklee meeting on Aug. 22 must have set a record for brevity at 18 minutes.

The long list of submissions includes two-year extensions (2024 to 2026) for expired 10-year master plans for B.U.'s Charles River Campus, Berklee, New England Conservatory, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, in addition to 1,000-page-plus IMPs for Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Wentworth Institute of Technology filed a 2024-2034 IMP in February that is now under review by the Boston Civic Design Commission. Also, Northeastern University folded its replacement of Matthews Arena into a two-year extension of its 2013-2023 IMP.

As mentioned in the BPDA board memo approving the most recent amendment to Harvard's Longwood Campus 2008 IMP, under the Commonwealth's COVID-19 state of emergency, institutions received additional time to file new master plans. This affected filing timelines. For example, the Joslin Diabetes Center IMP expired in 2023 and has not been amended or extended.

Currently there are inconsistencies in how different project managers conduct IMP meetings. At the always-virtual meetings, the availability of the chat function and visibility of participants varies. Although public comment periods are standard, and the BPDA board and Zoning Commission hearings allow public testimony on IMP filings, not all

submissions this summer triggered public meetings.

And those that did occur restricted Q&A topics when a filing included no new projects. For example, Project Manager Tyler Ross stated at a public meeting on extending Brigham & Women's 2010 master plan that the extension process would not entertain questions about the hospital's future full IMP.

At the June meeting of the Northeastern IMP Task Force, a question about the university's PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments was not addressed. Project Manager Quinn Valcich described a firewall between the IMP process and review of PILOT payments. However, community

benefits represent a large part of IMP reviews and can substitute for actual cash PILOT payments to the City.

The City Council committee's hearing ended with Councilor Durkan's reflecting on the disconnect between the critical subject of the hearing and the empty chamber—few members of the public attended. She mentioned the existence of a sunset clause in Article 80, which states that prior approvals for a project can be voided, something that Mission Hill residents would be keen to hear more about.

Planning Director Jemison leaves his position Sept. 13, the day after his last board meeting; Deputy Chief Devin Quirk will serve as interim director. *Alison Pultinas lives Mission Hill.*

Unlikely Summer Snowfall?



PHOTOS: TOM JONES

On Sunday, Aug. 18, a fire-suppression system discharged for unknown reasons at the Sunoco station on Boylston Street in the West Fens. The explosion left the station, nearby trees, and adjacent sidewalks covered in a snow-like powder (above left and upper right). That night, a three-person crew from the Boston Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Operations hosed down the station pavement (lower right photo). The crew supervisor and the station's owners insisted that the material posed no health risk to residents; the supervisor also said there was no issue with the powder's being hosed into a storm sewer that ultimately drains to Boston Harbor.

6th Annual

TASTE OF THE FENWAY

A Festival of Food, Drinks, Music, and Art

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 5PM-7PM
Event street entrance is near 100 Van Ness Street, Boston (Rain date: 9/26)

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 (617) 267-4637 x25

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Driver Destroys E. Fens Park Bench
On Aug. 10 on the Fenway approaching Westland Avenue, a car destroyed a park bench, leaving its license plate behind.

SOX BOX			
FRI, 9/6 7:10PM	SAT, 9/7 7:15PM	SUN, 9/8 1:35PM	MON, 9/9 7:10PM
TUE, 9/10 7:10PM	WED, 9/11 7:10PM	FRI, 9/20 7:10PM	SAT, 9/21 4:10PM
SUN, 9/22 1:35PM	FRI, 9/27 7:10PM	SAT, 9/28 4:10PM	SUN, 9/29 3:05PM

Farmers Markets

Catch the end of summer with strawberries, watermelon, and snap peas, as well as early fall with cranberries, pears, and pumpkins.

ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE) Tuesday & Friday	11am-7pm
COPLEY SQUARE Tuesday & Friday	11am-6pm
BRIGHAM CIRCLE Thursday	11am-6pm
CHARELSGATE PARK (BENEATH THE BOWKER OVERPASS) Sunday	11am-2pm

Meet Our Neighborhood Liaison: Q&A with Maccon Bonner

BY CAROL LASKY

Editor's Note: Earlier this year The City's office of Neighborhood Services announced the appointment of Maccon Bonner as the new liaison to Mission Hill, Fenway/Kenmore, the Back Bay and Beacon Hill.

WHAT'S YOUR BACKGROUND IN BOSTON COMMUNITY SERVICES?

MY START IN COMMUNITY SERVICES began when I sent an email to former Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok's office. I was looking for an internship during the summer that was rooted in Boston's communities.

A year prior, I had an internship that was a great experience, but didn't pay, so I worked security at Fenway Park at night to pay the bills. By the time I was interviewed for the position, Kenzie had transitioned into [her current role as] Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority. But nevertheless, the [District] 8 team hired me, and I started a life-changing internship in June of 2023.

When you work in constituent services, you learn something new every day and you learn fast. In just a few weeks, I went from an onboarding packet to representing the D8 office at an MGH/Beacon Hill community meeting, taking notes and fielding questions from or on behalf of the community. The experience is so rewarding and second to none in any other government or private position. My internship came to an end in August and while I was sad to leave my work, it was time to go back to school.

Halfway into the semester, I was honored to be asked by City Councilor Sharon Durkan to join her team in a part-time capacity so I could still attend class. I immediately picked up where I left off, working on issues, researching how future policy could change the course of long-standing neighborhood concerns, and meeting many of the City employees who are the real change-makers. Now at the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS), I bring my experience and residents to the table to continue work with you and on behalf of the neighborhood.

WHAT DOES THE POSITION OF "LIAISON" ENTAIL ON A DAILY BASIS?

IT'S A 24/7 JOB. From communicating neighborhood wants and needs to City leaders to informing constituents about City initiatives to reporting 3-1-1 cases, I'm constantly looking to get things done on behalf of the community. When I'm in the office, I work with various City de-

partments on projects and check in on permits and ongoing work for residents. I also attend community events, and report 3-1-1 cases. I value strolling through the Fenway to ensure I identify what is going well in neighborhoods and also what needs to be flagged by the appropriate City department.

I also learn from other liaisons who may be working on similar things in their neighborhoods to better serve the public. It's vital to have these conversations and work off each other to maximize expertise in the office.

WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE FENWAY AND MISSION HILL COMMUNITIES?

MY PRIORITIES ARE COMMUNITY CENTERED. Sometimes priorities change day to day or month to month. I want to ensure our neighborhoods are safe and work for everyone, no matter their walk of life.

As a recent graduate myself, I look to bring many of our young residents into the fold.

Civically, as I know how hard it can be to have a work life-balance. Mayor Michelle Wu is making our City work for families, from improving our parks, making our streets safer and working for all modes of transportation, and fighting to make housing affordable. I am by her side in this effort and work with her to create pathways for success.

The Fenway is a beautiful, cherished place in our city and is the crossroads for so many things that define this city. The parks, our place as the city of champions, diverse culture and history, and a center of multimodal transportation (including the 55 bus!).

Mission Hill is no different—amplifying our main streets that hold true the neighborhood's identity, schools that serve and support our young learners



Maccon Bonner at the Back Bay Coffee Hour.

PHOTO: MIKE MEJIA, MAYOR'S OFFICE

both during the school and in the summer, and parks that numerous leagues call home.

There is always work to be done and I am amazed by the commitment so many residents in Fenway and Mission Hill have to vouch for their neighbors. I wouldn't be able to do it without the residents and community organizations that work diligently.

DO YOU COLLABORATE WITH NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS?

YES, I HAVE THE PLEASURE OF COLLABORATING with neighborhood organizations all the time. One of my main priorities since I started is getting City Hall departments to work with the organizations in our neighborhoods to get things done. I constantly talk with organizations and make sure I am available.

I want to give a shout-out to the invaluable folks who dedicate their time to civic services. I couldn't do my job without you. Your partnership means the world to me. I am excited to continue connecting with more organizations in Fenway/Kenmore, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Mission Hill.

HOW HAS THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MADE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES?

EVERYTHING YOU SEE around

the neighborhood has in one way or another been impacted by the ONS liaisons, our Executive Director Beata Coloyan, Director of 311 Irgi Bugo and her amazing staff of call takers, and Community Engagement Cabinet Chief Brianna Millor, just to name a few of my team members.

Of course, the inclusive spirit of ONS is set by Mayor Wu. She is a forward thinker who uplifts historically silenced voices and rethinks processes of the past to bring transparency and accountability as her "non-negotiables."

I also want to thank those liaisons who came before me who have built relationships with the neighborhoods I serve and have the honor of strengthening our ties. I learn from every relationship that has been created. From simple things like working with BTD to install a sign to support residents, to the complexities of advocating for residents to ensure their voices are not only heard but implemented in our city plans.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING IN THE UPCOMING WEEKS AND MONTHS?

I AM EXCITED about the stories of the people who live, work, lead, study and serve in the community. I encourage you to reach out to me about what is going well in your neighborhoods, suggestions on improvements, and any issues or concerns.

I look forward to hearing your stories, grabbing a coffee, or talking about the history of Ramler Park (shout-out to Freddie!).

Carol Lasky lives in the East Fens. Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway/Kenmore, and Mission Hill Liaison for the Office of Neighborhood Services, Maccon Bonner meets with residents and hosts office hours every Friday. View his schedule at boston.gov/events. Contact Maccon at maccon.bonner@boston.gov.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

About 4,500 workers at 35 area hotels voted for a strike if negotiations falter after their current contract expires on Aug. 31. Locally, the strike would hit the Hotel Commonwealth in Kenmore Square; the Sheraton and the Hilton at the Prudential Center; and the Hampton Inn near Boston Medical Center. 📰 **The Globe profiled the 2,200-resident Mission Park development at the foot of Mission Hill, citing it as a national model for mixed-income, multiracial communities. The**



article marveled at the wide range of services available to residents—including a pool, fitness center, library, classes, and scholarships—which may explain the average tenant tenure of 24 years. 📰 **If the owners of the Celtics sell the team [they said they would earlier this year], observers suggest they'd rake in \$5 billion. And who's got that kind of money sitting around? Possibly Red**

Sox owner John Henry, according to the *Globe* and the cranky Substack newsletter *Contrarian Boston*, run by a former *Herald* reporter. *Contrarian* dug up an interview Henry gave in June in which he appeared to suggest that he'd sell his British soccer team, Liverpool FC, to cover the Celtics tab. *Contrarian Boston* also cited a "sports marketing executive" who speculated that a sale might actually hit \$6.5 billion, making the Cs the NBA's third-priciest team. 📰 **The Boston Preservation Alliance will honor former District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok at a fundraiser on Sept. 12, alongside planner and activist Karilyn Crockett (keynote speaker at *The Fenway News's* 2019 annual meeting), and three other civic leaders for protecting "not just our buildings, but the histories, untold narratives, cultures, and heritage that propel our city into the future." Details and tickets at bostonpreservation.org.** 📰

FENWAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

20 YEARS & COUNTING

Opening

Our Doors

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

Monday,
October 14, 2024
10am - 4pm

¿Porque Puma? member of ZUMIX performing in Opening Our Doors 2023
Photo credit: Anniely Camargo

fenwayculture.org • [#fenwayculture](https://twitter.com/fenwayculture) • [#openingourdoors](https://twitter.com/openingourdoors)

The Fenway Alliance

Boston Cultural Council

Mass Cultural Council

Fenway Cultural District

City of Boston Arts & Culture

Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust, Inc.

NEWSLINES

Hardly A Model of Speed, Transportation Plan Pokes Along

AT THE AUG. 17 FENWAY COMMUNITY DAY, the Planning Department's community engagement specialist Naiose McDonnell shared news about the long-awaited Fenway Transportation Plan. After completion of Phase 1, "Visioning," the study has entered Phase 2, "Analyzing Data." McDonnell explained that Transportation Access Plan Agreements for a flurry of recently approved projects with large parking garages will not be finalized until the Transportation Plan is completed.

On another neighborhood topic, BTD will move ahead with a plan to create a plaza west of New Edgerly Road between Harry Dickson Park and the sidewalk in front of Whole Foods. The design remains under review, although the City Council passed a resolution last year to support the permanent pedestrianization of New Edgerly Road. As currently described on the BTD website, the design would eliminate parking in front of Whole Foods; the roadway would remain a street but be closed to vehicles. Direct comments and questions to newedgerly@boston.gov.

For Now, Workers' Trucks No Longer Abusing MFA Oaks

ON AUG. 26, ALL WAS QUIET at the MFA's Fenway entrance. Specifically, no pickup trucks were parked on turf beneath the century-old oaks (see the August *Fenway News*). Trucks had parked there the week before, and vigilantes—including Emerald Necklace staff, Parker James of Charlesgate Park, the Fenway Alliance, Annie Mazzola of State Sen. Will Brownsberger's office, and DCR's Aaron Tourigny—are now all on the case. The MFA's Karen Frasca said by email that the museum has "followed up with our building contractor and are working on resolving this issue." Whether the Museum has stepped up to offer the workers parking remains uncertain, and watchful eyes are still appreciated!

Christian Science Complex Wins Two Preservation Awards

NOT ONE, BUT TWO historic preservation organizations recently selected the First Church of Christ Scientist—a designated city landmark—for awards. The Boston Preservation Alliance (BPA) announced theirs in August, after Preservation Massachusetts, a statewide nonprofit, had recognized the Church with a Paul and Nikki Tsongas Awards at a June State House event. (In 2022, the BPA also nominated the church's plaza for an award for updating the 1968 design in an effort to create a more welcoming public space.) The phased restoration of the Mother Church's interior, begun in 2017, remains under way and continues to undergo monitoring by Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) staff. In 2021, the BLC design review subcommittee held multiple hearings on initially controversial exterior changes to create access to a new elevator for the Mother Church extension. The work was completed this spring in time for the annual gathering of church members from across the country the first weekend of June.

Chabad Proposal Wins Key Approval in Mission Hill

THE TRIANGLE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION approved the latest iteration of Harvard Chabad's plan for a new center at 1615-1617 Tremont St. in Mission Hill. While the height and massing remain contentious, the latest design moves the proposed building away from the Tremont sidewalk, allowing for a small front yard. Although it does not match the existing setback at 1615, it does relate to the historic rowhouses on the block between Wigglesworth and Worthington streets. Previous versions of the design set the building right at the property line, just like the American Legion Post, which will be razed.

MFA Concerns Postpone BPDA Vote on 500 Huntington

THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF WENTWORTH Institute's athletic field complex—a prominent parcel on Huntington Avenue extending to Ruggles and Parker streets—received an unusual response from the BPDA board in August. The board postponed a vote on the proposal to Sept. 12 because of concerns from the Museum of Fine Arts, giving the proponents 30 days to reach a compromise solution.

Water Main Work Ties Up Mass. Ave./Huntington Intersection

JUST IN TIME for Northeastern students to move into the Midtown Hotel on Huntington Avenue, a Boston Water and Sewer Commission construction project has practically taken over the Huntington/Mass. Ave. intersection—not to mention Cumberland Street. Work on the water main project could run into November, and fliers were posted on neighboring businesses. The area will undergo at least three water shutdowns after Aug. 26.

Planning Department Gears Up For Growth

THE CITY'S PLANNING DEPARTMENT (formerly the BPDA) issued a request for proposals in July for a massive undertaking, a "Citywide Land Use Impact and Needs Assessment." The Planning Department received seven bids by the Aug. 16 deadline. The department will ask the consultant team to create recommendations for a future land use map and related policies. According to the RFP, the overall goals are resilience, affordability, and equity. More specifically, it calls for:

- Accommodating growth to 800,000 residents while mitigating displacement (based on Census figures, the City estimates the current population at 676,000)
- Increasing the population of school-aged families
- Increasing housing affordability
- Balancing access to City services
- Improving and increasing accessible open space
- Fostering economic growth by supporting local businesses and attracting new enterprises
- Encouraging transportation mode shift and improving overall mobility
- Implementing strategies to reduce carbon emissions and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Kennedy Avery Has Left The Building (And The City)

KENNEDY AVERY, CHIEF OF STAFF for City Councilor Sharon Durkan, left her position at the end of August. Avery stayed a year longer than planned and will move back to her native Iowa. In 2021, Avery started as a temporary employee for then-Councilor Kenzie Bok. She stayed on as constituent services director, then move up to chief of staff. When Bok left to head the housing authority and Sharon Durkan succeeded her, Avery stayed on as chief of staff.

In an email, Avery said, "I count myself extraordinarily lucky to have been able to work for Kenzie Bok and Sharon Durkan.... They're both intelligent, bold, and compassionate, and yet their application of these qualities yields two entirely different leadership styles.... Witnessing their leadership was so helpful for me to understand that even in Boston City politics, there is not just one way of getting things done." She thanked District 8 constituents, calling them "my best and most constant teachers. Thank you to all the community leaders out there who showed me that hard fought wins were often decades in the making. And thank you to the residents who taught me that ...a simple request for help not only lifts you up (hopefully), but your whole community, too."

FRIENDS ON THE HARBOR

Special Guest, Boston Housing Authority CEO
& Administrator, Kenzie Bok

2024 GALA

Tuesday, October 1, 2024
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Hyatt Regency
Boston Harbor



LBFE
LITTLE BROTHERS
FRIENDS OF
THE ELDERLY
BOSTON

Join the LBFE Boston Community for Our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year & Help End Social Isolation Among Older Bostonians!

Cost: \$70 per ticket, includes one drink

Enjoy: Business casual reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres, DJ, dancing, silent auction, raffles, and special guests

Purchase Tickets: <https://bit.ly/FOTH24>

All proceeds help us bring digital equity, intergenerational, & arts programs to older adults in public/affordable senior housing & community centers.



The Bad Old Days Before Muddy River Restoration

BY LESLIE POND (PHOTO CAPTIONS BY STEVE WOLF)

The Fenway News has been reporting for decades on the travails and triumphs involving our Muddy River.

A March 1984 article by Bette Keva paints a not-so-pretty picture: “If you could ask the ducks in the Muddy River how they mind diving for fish beneath the murk or sitting atop rusted No Parking signs and overturned baby carriages that somehow made their way to the bottom, they’d probably tell you

that they don’t mind at all. Ducks, like people, have a way of adapting.” In the same article, resident Ed Burke noted that “whenever there is more than an inch of rainfall in a 24-hour period, the sewage and rainwater spill out into the Muddy River at the Gatehouses near Forsyth Way.”

That article covered some of the most pressing concerns that a \$13 million appropriation for Olmsted Parks, from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, could be spent on. With the recent comple-

tion of the Muddy River Restoration Project—a collaboration of the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Commonwealth, City of Boston, and Town of Brookline—we’ve come a long way toward revitalizing our treasured urban waterway and its parks.

These headlines and photos, all from The Fenway News, help

chronicle the saga of the Muddy River.

Leslie Pond and Steve Wolf both live in the West Fens.

OUR BACK PAGES



THE FENWAY NEWS 1974-2024



Statistics say violent crime is down, but violence continues to plague the Fens. News photo

The phragmites on the west bank of the river were for decades a venue for gay cruising and (semi-) public sexual encounters. (ISSUE OF NOV. 26, 1988)

ted and afflict the comfortable.”—H.L. Mencken September 1991

Army engineers may clean up Muddy River

US Rep Barney Frank (r) and ROW's Irene Gillis are among those gathered at the Muddy River bank as Senator Edward M. Kennedy announces \$250,000 Army Corps of Engineers study.

by Michael C. Jones
Senator Edward M. Kennedy and U.S. Representative Barney Frank were featured speakers at an August press conference sponsored by the ROW (Restoration of the Waterway) coalition, along the shores of the Muddy River near Longwood T station, to

in concentrations of such waste materials as motor oil, salt, ammonia, heavy metals and pesticides. A layer of toxic sediment rests on the river's bottom. ROW maintains that the point where the Muddy empties in to the Charles is the most polluted spot on the Charles.

Even with the support of influential Sen. Edward Kennedy, repeated attempts in Congress to pass funding to dredge the riverbed ran aground on Republican objections to earmarks and “pet projects.” Severe floods in 1996 [see image at right] helped sway opinion, but federal funding still didn’t win approval until 2000. (SEP. 1991)

paper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”—H.L. Mencken November 1996

Storms flood Fenway

The Muddy River overtakes a park bench in the Fens in this photo shot the afternoon of October 20. Usually, the Muddy's shore line is located in the middle of the towering reeds, and no water is visible from the bench.

Flood conditions hit homes, businesses, schools, parks
by Ruth Khowais and Jon Ball
The fierce rainstorms of September 18 and October 20-21

Officials say drain system worked; floods due to intensity of storms
by Joseph Kenyon
With more serious flooding than any in recent memory

Heavy rains in 1996 caused disastrous flooding; water reached (and closed) Kenmore Station through the D Line tunnel. (NOV. 1996)

The Fenway

Volume 20, Number 1 “The duty of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”

Parks department seeks to eradicate reeds

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has applied for permission from the city's Conservation Commission to treat the phragmites reeds that line the Back Bay Fens with the chemical herbicide glyphosate (trade name Roundup, by Monsanto). Targeted spraying may start by mid-May, when shoots reach about 3 feet in height. See announcement, p. 24.

A Parks Department plan to spray the phragmites with herbicides in an effort to eradicate them sparked strong pushback from Garden Society members and residents and was ultimately blocked. (APRIL 1994)

A 1990 study by the engineering firm Metcalfe & Eddy revealed the depths of the pollution problem in the Muddy River: heavy metals, oil, and sewage. (JULY 1990)

The Fenway News

Volume 16, Number 4 “The duty of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”—H.L. Mencken July 1990

SURPRISE PROTEST GREETS BRA

A demonstration by KAFNI (Kenmore/Audubon/Fenway Neighborhood Initiative) greeted Boston Redevelopment Authority staffers arriving for BRA's June “town meeting” to discuss zoning changes in the West Fens. More meetings are planned.

Consulants console us: At least it's not radioactive

Muddy River woes: Oil, heavy metals, sewer overflows

by Susan Schmitz
First in a series
After many months of research, study and community meetings, an engineering consulting firm last month presented their final report on the problems and prospects for the polluted Muddy River and Back Bay Fens. The 500+ page study by the firm Metcalf and Eddy documents the severity and diversity of

ber two” collects from Old Stony Brook in Roxbury.
• High levels of toxic “heavy metals”—lead, zinc, cadmium, copper and mercury—have accumulated in a layer of sediment at the bottom of the Muddy River and the Back Bay Fens, in violation of Massachusetts minimum water quality criteria, according to a 1989 Metcalf and Eddy interim study.

Demonstrators decry state of Muddy River

The overflow gatehouse near the Museum of Fine Arts in the Back Bay Fens on the Muddy River will be evaluated by the Metropolitan District Commission. Friends of the Muddy River and other groups demonstrated against the decline in the quality of life since the days when cows were driven in herds between Boston Common and Brookline.

by Michael Morgan
On October 9 the Friends of the Muddy River, Greenpeace, and the New England Rivers Center decried the plight of

Muddy River, when grazing land diminished and the population increased around 1630. Bostonians would drive their cows up the Muddy River for summer pasturage in Brook-

The river’s abysmal water quality prompted protest in the 1980s. Widespread leaks in sewage pipes and illegal dumping regularly fed sewage into the river. (OCT. 17, 1984)

After a Decade, Horticultural Hall Set to Receive Landmark Status

BY ALISON PULTINAS

If all goes smoothly, Horticultural Hall (pictured), which faces Symphony Hall across Mass. Ave., will become a designated City landmark on Sept. 6.

The multistep designation process began with residents submitting a petition more than a decade ago. The request triggered hearings with the Boston Landmarks Commission that culminated in a unanimous vote in June.

Mayor Michelle Wu signed off on the designation July 31. Then the order went to city councilors, who get 30 days to review potential designations.

The building is owned by the First Church of Christ Scientist and occupied by Northeastern University, which signed a 99-year lease on the hall in 2020. Northeastern’s other leases of buildings around the Christian Science Plaza—177 Huntington Ave. and 101 and 102 Belvidere St.—are much shorter.

Viktorija Abolina, Northeastern’s vice president of campus planning,

described the future uses of the building as office, academic, and a gathering space for students.

In its 100-year history in Back Bay, the public enjoyed annual flower shows and access to the richly endowed library on the third floor when the building served as headquarters of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. MassHort significantly downsized operations and moved its offices to Dover in 2001 after a series of financial crises. More recently, Boston magazine and other businesses and organizations, including the publisher David Godine, the Handel & Haydn Society, and the Museum of Fine Arts library, were tenants.

In one of those odd street-numbering conundrums, the official landmark designation paperwork lists the building’s address as 247 Huntington Ave., but the main entrance is located at 300 Mass. Ave.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

The Arts

Hogarth Collective Mixes Funk, Soul at Verb Hotel Shows

BY BEATRICE GREEN

The sound was tastefully modulated for all ears at the poolside space. No blaring, jarring sound. The song selection and order moves along well.

The brilliant guitar, vocals, and harmonica have been acknowledged by *Billboard* magazine (“it’s not hard to believe in Hogarth”) and the *Boston Globe*.

Yet, Thaddeus does not ride on these accolades. He continues to write and produce new songs that he and the Thaddeus Hogarth Collective (THC) perform along with classic funk covers.

“Everybody’s Welcome In the Groove” and “Thank You” are two of the leader’s tunes that might be in a set with “Everybody Can’t Be On Top” and “Buying an Electric Car.”

On June 28, Thaddeus masterfully moved fingers across frets, reaching in and outward for solos, with a soulful harmonica splash. Aaron held court with bass funk. Matt, dexterous on the keys, brought strong harmonic bones and rhythmic texture. Rich, on the drums, kept the band’s rhythm “in the pocket.”

We, as audience, enjoyed the vibe of hope, humor and reflection. Moments of joy, as resistance helped us through the barrage of news. We danced or sat, hearts energized and breathing relaxed.

Thaddeus Hogarth is a two-time winner of the Independent Music Award for R&B/Blues. He has been a prominent guitar player/singer-songwriter in the New England music scene since the 1990s, leading his own all-star group, The Thaddeus Hogarth Collective. Thaddeus has shared the bill or

ROXBURY OPEN STUDIOS DEADLINE EXTENDED

The application date for Roxbury Open Studios 25th Annual Arts Festival has been extended to Sept. 21 (while spaces last). The event takes place at the Reggie Lewis Center Oct. 5-6. Learn more at roxosc.org.

HAPPY HAT-CLAD HOOFERS MAKE MARIACHI MAGIC AT MAAM



An all-female mariachi band showcasing leader and singer Veronica Robles performed at a family-friendly event Aug. 8 at the MassArt Art Museum. Planning to hold the concert outside, concert organizers quickly regrouped to move it into the museum when rain threatened—letting audience members experience the current exhibit as backdrop to the music. Free ice cream, drinks, and craft tables downstairs added to the fun. The music inspired a high level of audience participation: when Robles pulled hats out of a suitcase for the hat dance song, audience members quickly donned them.

Concert Marks 20 Years of Ramler Park



The Friends of Ramler Park celebrated the 20th anniversary of the park’s creation with a jazz concert on Aug. 20 featuring Kenji Kikuchi and Friends. Friends board member Freddie Veikley acknowledged the generous donation of land by the David and Dorothy Ramler family and the tireless work of Fenway activists that combined to create Ramler Park.

stage with such legends as Tower of Power, Average White Band, Ernie Isley, Bernie Worrell, James Montgomery, Fred Wesley, Donald Harrison, Steve Kimock, and Johnny Winter.

His work (seven solo CDs and a live concert DVD) includes collaboration with reggae legend and Grammy nominee, Sister Carol. The Thaddeus Hogarth Collective (THC), featuring Aaron Bellamy on bass, Matt Jenson on keyboards, Rich Evangelista on drums and Thaddeus on guitar, vocals, and chromatic harmonica, play a mix of original and cover material from the genre of R&B/funk/soul.

Beatrice Green lives in Jamaica Plain. THC will play upcoming shows on Sep. 27, and Oct. 25, both Fridays, 6-9pm.

KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



Flying together celebrating 50 years

Solo Exhibition:
Gary Tucker, artist
“My Backyard—The Muddy River”

RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | 7 PM

Concert:
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 3 PM

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THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS



Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust



The Thaddeus Hogarth Collective at its June 28 show.

September

CALENDAR

Wed, 9/4

EAST FENS BLOCK PARTY. Join residents for a party with family fun, music, food, and dancing at Symphony Park, 4:30–7pm. 39 Edgerly Rd. Rain date: Thu. 9/5. FREE

Sat, 9/7

• Celebrate the hard work of bees in the Emerald Necklace at the **NATIONAL HONEY BEE MONTH CELEBRATION.** See live bees in an observation hive and tickle your taste buds with a honey taste test. The Back Bay Fens will become the backdrop for family fun at the Shattuck Visitor Center, Kelleher Rose Garden, Fenway Victory Gardens, and more. 10am–12pm. Info at emeraldnecklace.org/event/honeybee-celebration. FREE

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is open six days a week. Visit fenwaycommunitycenter.org for details.

- Tue, Sept 17, 6pm: **TEXTILE WORKSHOP**, intro to Sashiko Mending
- Thu, Sept 19, 4pm: **LANGUAGE LINK WITH FENWAY HEALTH** is a night filled with fun and food paired with resources in Russian
- Fri, Sept 20, 12pm: **COFFEE HOUR WITH OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES LIAISON MACCON BONNER**
- Saturdays, Starting Sept 21, 11:30am: **MOVEMENT MATTERS WITH THE BOSTON CONSERVATORY**

• Artist reception for **"MY BACKYARD—THE MUDDY RIVER."** Kaji Aso hosts a reception with artist Gary Tucker. 7pm to 9pm. RSVP at administrator@kajiasostudio.com. 40 St. Stephen St. FREE

Sun, 9/8

The final day of **OPEN NEWBURY STREET** (which will take a break over Labor Day weekend). The street will close to vehicular traffic, 10am–8pm, between Berkeley Street to Mass. Ave. FREE

Thu, 9/12

- Join your neighbors for the September meeting of **FENWAY CDC'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**, a group of residents interested in advocating together for affordable housing and other neighborhood needs. Food provided. Contact lruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org for more information. 6pm to 7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. FREE
- The **MASSART ART MUSEUM** hosts a fall party from 6:30 to 8pm. The evening will offer a blend of art, music, and community.
- View the 2010 **DOCUMENTARY FILM "BIRDS OF PASSAGE" / "AVES DE PASO,"** by Rachel Lears, as a part of the BPL's Never Too Late series and in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. 2pm. Details at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66bb5436982fdb26f8abfa8. Central Library, Copley Square. FREE

Thu, 9/12 → Sun, 10/13

The latest masterpiece and most personal play from Tom Stoppard, **LEOPOLDSTADT** recounts the stirring and epic story of love,

family, and enduring bravery. In Vienna, the heart of European culture at the start of the 20th century, two brothers have conflicting visions of prosperity—both for their family and the Jewish people—a tension that will echo through the generations that follow. Tickets at huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/leopoldstadt/.

Fri, 9/13

PROCESSING PLACE: HOW COMPUTERS AND CARTOGRAPHERS REDREW OUR WORLD. In the long history of mapmaking, computers are a relatively new development. In some ways, computers have fundamentally changed how cartographers create, interpret, and share spatial data; in others, they simply mark a new chapter in how people have always processed the world. This exhibition features objects from the Leventhal Center's collections in the history of digital mapping to explore how computers and cartographers changed one another, particularly since the 1960s. Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St. This is the show opening; the exhibit will remain on display through March 2025. FREE

Tue, 9/17

- In celebration of **NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY**, stop by the Boylston Street lobby at the Central Library and meet staff from the City's Election Department. Register to vote, check your registration status, and learn all you need to know about voting in Boston. 12–4pm. Info at bpl.bibliocommons.com/event/s/66aa396942fa12abcec85f5b. Central Library in Copley Square.
- **MUSIC OF VELOSO AND JOBIM WITH GAIA WILMER AND JACQUES MORELENBAUM.** Two highly regarded Brazilian musicians team up for this tribute to two of the country's greatest composers, with backup from the Berklee World Strings and faculty and student soloists. 8pm, Berklee Performance Center. Tickets \$15/20 in advance or \$20/25 day-of. Details and tickets at berklee.edu/BPC/full-calendar-of-events-at-the-bpc.

Thu, 9/19

- Sociedad Latina hosts its annual **LATINO HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION.** One Brigham Circle, 5–8pm. FREE
- The BPL offers **CAN I TRUST THIS? IDENTIFYING RELIABLE SOURCES ON THE INTERNET (ELECTION EDITION)**, an in-person class to learn how to find reliable sources on the Internet, focusing specifically on election-related websites and resources. 2:30pm. Details at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66b3b2c4897288371b2c3785. Central Library in Copley Square. FREE

Sat, 9/21

During Banned Books Week libraries across the Commonwealth will celebrate the freedom to read with a statewide read-in. Join the Boston Public Library for a silent read-in at **LET FREEDOM READ: BANNED BOOK READ-IN TO FIGHT CENSORSHIP**

and demonstrate your support in the fight against book bans. BPL will have a large selection of banned books to browse, read, and check out. #letfreedomread. 2pm to 4pm. bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6678a0c6045cd5e3f927a005. Central Library in Copley Square. FREE

Tue, 9/24

MISSION HILL MAIN STREETS ANNUAL MEETING. Join Mission Hill Main Streets to celebrate the achievements of the Mission Hill business community over the last year. The group will honor the 2024 Legacy Business Awardee, Mike's Donuts, and celebrate other notable achievements by local businesses. 5:30pm, Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St.

Wed, 9/25

TASTE OF THE FENWAY. Sample unlimited food and drink tastings from Fenway restaurants while celebrating community, culture, and the vibrant energy of the neighborhood. More information and tickets (\$50) at tasteofthefenway.org. 5–7pm. Van Ness Street.

Fri, 9/27 & Sun, 9/29

The **HANDEL & HAYDN SOCIETY** launches its fall season with a blockbuster program of two requiems. It opens with Michael Haydn's (G.F.'s brother) requiem, setting the stage for Mozart's *Requiem*, which the Haydn piece influenced. Both concerts at Symphony Hall. 9/27 at 7:30pm (tickets \$15-117); 9/29 at 3pm (tickets \$15-140). Details and tickets at handelandhaydn.org.

Fri, 9/27

The Fenway Community Center holds its annual fundraiser, **LOVE THE FENWAY**, featuring food, an open bar, a raffle, live music, and much more. Tickets are \$80 and available at fenwaycommunitycenter.org/lovethefenway.

Sat, 9/28

CELEBRITY SERIES opens its season of Neighborhood Arts performances with the Fabiola Méndez Quartet. Méndez, the 2023 Boston Music Awards Latin Artist of the Year, is a cuatro virtuoso. Her music blends jazz, folk, and Afro-Caribbean influences. Roxbury Community College, Media Arts Center, 3pm. FREE

Thu, 10/3

The Central Library hosts **PLANNING FOR MEDICARE**, a presentation and discussion led by a Blue Cross Blue Shield representative for people approaching Medicare eligibility. The session will cover health insurance information outside of employer-sponsored coverage, such as an explanation of Medicare, the Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and programs available to early retirees, and COBRA. 10am–12pm. Info at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66c0d9ac0308723000453999. Central Library in Copley Square.

City (Finally) Replaces Textiles Dropbox in Audubon Circle



When the City's Department of Public Works changed vendors for its textile-recycling program, it also changed drop-off bins. Removal of the bins took place with little notice in late June; signs posted at the bins' previous locations promised replacements by early July. That appears to have happened at 28 of the 29 sites citywide—the sole exception being at one of the Mel King Academy schools, the former McKinley School] in Audubon Circle. The replacement bin, delayed by apparent miscommunication between DPW and Boston Public Schools, now sits on the south side of the school, with easy access from St. Marys Street.



Prodded by an order from the State, the City began accepting a wide range of textiles last year, including clothes, shoes, bed linens, towels, and even small rugs. The idea is to divert textiles from landfills; the City says that 85% of discarded textiles still have useful life left in them, which can take the form of donations, reuse, or recovery. To learn more about the program, visit www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-clothing-and-textiles.



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