



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 10 • OCTOBER 4 - NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Could Custom Amendment Give 2 Charlesgate A Pass on Park-Protecting Height Limit?

BY ALISON PULTINAS

On Sept. 23 the Fenway Community Center was filled for the Fenway Civic Association-sponsored “Out of the Shadows” meeting, focused on protecting parks from development impacts.

Along with the meeting agenda, attendees received a 25-page memo detailing multiple factors and regulatory review procedures related to parks. And if that wasn’t enough information, a 12-page handout titled “Docket #2024-1197: 2 Charlesgate West; Information Materials re Proposed & Alternative Amendments” was available on the sign-in table after the meeting started.

Speakers tackled various aspects of the complicated topic of balancing the city’s growth alongside the need to protect parks from adverse impacts, including excessive shade. Fenway Civic calls defending the Back Bay Fens a full-time job. Kathy McBride and Tim Horn spoke on its behalf, with Matt Eddy of the Muddy River Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC) facilitating the Q&A.

Not up for debate at the meeting—or mentioned on the agenda—was the already

approved size of the 2 Charlesgate West project. The project is slated to include up to 400 Compact Living Units in a 28-story building. The BPDA Board voted in July to approve that project; next steps include petitioning the Zoning Commission for permission to combine the four contiguous parcels included in the former Transnational Travel office site.

Enforcement of the Boston Municipal Code Ordinance 7-4.10 “Restrictions on Park Frontages,” as specifically related to 2 Charlesgate West, was the key focus for many in the audience. [Editor’s note: the ordinance restricts the height of buildings within 100 feet of a park or parkway, and the 2 Charlesgate West building, which sits within that zone, would violate the height limit.]

According to a January 2024 letter from Park Commission’s executive secretary, Carrie Marsh Dixon (reproduced in the 25-page memo), state law empowers the Commission to uphold the dimensional restrictions. Her letter, representing the views of the Parks Department, concluded by recommending that the City Council advance an amendment to 7-4.10 written specifically for 2 Charlesgate.

RUNNING UP THAT HILL



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Both temperature and cloud cover proved excellent on Sept. 28 for the annual 5K road race sponsored by Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services. The hilly course is challenging, so the race always includes a walking contingent. Many runners are college students, but locals and returning former residents take part every year, including 80-year-old Dan Martin, who completed the route at a careful pace. Registration fees help maintain Kevin Fitzgerald Park at 1 Brigham Circle; the privately-owned park was built atop a former quarry.

But how to ensure that this exception doesn’t set a precedent for other development?

On Aug. 7 Councilor Sharon Durkan presented Docket #1197 to her City Council colleagues, seeking to amend the ordinance to allow the height of the 2 Charlesgate West. Durkan said that the amendment would not affect other parcels adjacent to the Back Bay Fens.

Although this looks like spot zoning, she argued that the amendment would not set a precedent other developers could take advantage of elsewhere. Durkan spoke passionately about her position, “I want this to be untouchable and an amendment process, instead of the proponent’s subdivision plan, allows for public input.” [Editor’s note: Morro, the developer, originally proposed subdividing the parcel to cut off the part that falls within the ordinance’s coverage.]

Two days after the meeting, the Council’s Committee on Government Operations announced that it will hold a hearing on Durkan’s proposed amendment on Oct. 28 at 2pm. Councilor Gabriela Colleta-Zapata chairs that committee with Councilor Ben Weber as vice chair. Public testimony is invited.

The first person to ask a question at the Sept. 22 meeting was parks advocate Frank O’Brien from Jamaica Plain. He presented

an alternative amendment [included in the 12-page handout] with a support letter signed by others, including Caroline Reeves and Jacqueline Royce of the Muddy Water Initiative. Responding to questions in a follow up email to this writer, O’Brien said:

“As Councilor Durkan indicated, the stated reason for going through a proposed Code amendment rather than the Parks Commission is that [the] route allows for elected officials both Councilors and Mayor Wu—presumably responsible to voters—to decide on whether to grant or deny the exception being sought.

“However, Councilor Durkan should not have supported the egregious height exception in the first instance, BPDA staff should have recommended denial, and the BPDA Board should have supported a staff recommendation for denial. If that had occurred, we would not be at this point.

“Closing the [subdivision] loophole does not need to be done in the zoning code. It can be done in the same section 7-4.10 as the 2 Charlesgate amendment.”

O’Brien said the Oct. 28 hearing can offer a process for amending the amendment. Presumably, advocates will coordinate their efforts to speak with one voice.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Get Ready for Ballot Initiatives

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

A familiar scenario: you get to your polling place intending to vote. Besides the candidates, a slew of ballot questions with confusing wording appears on your ballot. Here’s our guide to deciphering the five questions you’ll encounter in early voting or at the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

QUESTION #1: STATE AUDITOR’S AUTHORITY TO AUDIT THE LEGISLATURE

- YES authorizes the state auditor to audit the Massachusetts legislature.
- NO would make no changes in the State Auditor’s authority.

QUESTION #2: MCAS

- YES would eliminate the requirement that students pass the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) in order to graduate from high school.
- NO would make no change in the requirement to pass the MCAS in order to graduate.

QUESTION #3: UNIONIZATION FOR TRANSPORTATION- NETWORK DRIVERS

- YES would give Massachusetts drivers working for ride-share companies (such as Uber and Lyft) the option to join a union. Drivers currently cannot join a union.
- NO would make no change in the law.

QUESTION #4: LIMITED LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION OF CERTAIN NATURAL PSYCHEDELIC SUBSTANCES

- YES would allow people over the age of 21 to grow, possess, and use certain psychedelic substances under licensed supervision. Those substances are psilocybin and psilocyn, found in mushrooms, and three substances found in plants: dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine. The proposed law would allow possession of up to one gram of psilocybin and psilocyn, one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine in addition to whatever they might grow at their home.
- NO would make no change in existing law.

QUESTION #5: MINIMUM WAGE FOR TIPPED WORKERS

- YES would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage that an employer must pay a tipped worker over five years to the full state minimum wage, at which point employers could pool all tips. Restaurants would have the option of distributing tips to all non-management workers, including back-of-house staff.
- NO would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or minimum wages for tipped workers.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

ELECTION VOTING GUIDE

- REGISTER online through 11:59pm on Sat, Oct 26. Use the Secretary of State’s portal at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/
- VOTE BY MAIL: Request a mail-in ballot by 5pm on Tue, Oct 29. Your ballot must be received by 8pm on Tue, Nov. 5, so plan to mail it quickly.
- USE A DROPBOX: You can drop off a mail-in ballot in dropboxes located at library branches. Ballots must be deposited by 8pm on Tue, Nov 5. Best location for our coverage area: Central Library (700 Boylston St.) and Parker Hill Library (1437 Tremont St.) in Mission Hill.
- VOTE EARLY IN PERSON from Sat, Oct 19 to Fri, Nov 1. The City had not released early-voting sites and times by our deadline, but the Elections Department says it will post the information before the 19th at www.boston.gov/departments/elections/early-voting-boston

KEEPING IT LOCAL

ON NOVEMBER 13, CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF THE FENWAY NEWS!

From 6:30 to 9:00 pm, come to eat, drink, honor **Helen Cox**, dive into the paper’s history, and celebrate community.

Ticket and venue details coming soon by email, on Facebook, and in our next issue.

Join us on the 13th!

FENSVIEWS

Our GPA with the EPA: Muddy River Water-Quality Report Card

BY MATT EDDY

Another year, another less-than-stellar grade for water quality in the Muddy River. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and its dedicated volunteers, recently announced that the Muddy earned a grade of C for 2023. The grade is calculated based on measurements of bacteria, sewage overflows, and algal blooms in comparison to national standards for fishable and swimmable waters. The grade remains consistent with previous years (C last year and C- the year before).

There is something that might feel inescapable about this string of low grades for our river. The durable fact is that the Muddy is an **urban** river and as such it will continue to receive stormwater from our roads and parking lots, carrying all the pollutants of urban life. Regardless of our best efforts, our dogs and wild geese will still poop, fertilizer will still run off our lawns, and winter's road salt will run off our parkways. Aging and leaky underground sewer pipes cannot always handle heavy flow during major storms. Brookline's Village Brook and Boston's Stony Brook remain buried under the city streets, with no upcoming plans for daylighting. **However, even with these challenges, the efforts of public agencies, private citizens, and nonprofits like CRWA have the potential to make**

GUEST OPINION

a significant difference.

Several public works projects are underway that aim to improve water quality. Municipalities in the watershed have developed EPA-mandated "Phosphorus Control Plans" that include ambitious goals for reducing the quantity of phosphorus delivered to rivers and streams. As part of its plan, the Town of Brookline is designing an underground stormwater-infiltration system beneath Pierce Playground. Runoff from the Buttonwood and Chestnut Hill neighborhoods may soon be diverted to the Brookline Reservoir, where natural biological and chemical processes will reduce the pollutant load, sparing the Muddy. Similarly, the City of Boston is planning a green stormwater infrastructure system to be installed under the Daisy Field ballfields. These and other projects are expected to significantly reduce the bacterial and nutrient load affecting the Muddy River.

Some may wonder about the impact of the recently completed Muddy River Restoration Project on water quality. The project included the dredging of more than 90,000 cubic yards of sediment from the riverbed, which removed a substantial mass of legacy contaminants such as oils, arsenic, lead, and PCBs that had accumulated for decades. **While these improvements may not be captured in the EPA grade, they have nonetheless contributed to cleaner river conditions.**

Another key dimension of the Restoration Project has been implementation of "best management practices" (BMPs) for the stormwater systems for Boston, Brookline, and the Massachusetts

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). BMPs have included more frequent inspections of stormwater pipes and outfalls, installation of plastic liners inside leaky sewer pipes, more intensive street sweeping and catchment basin cleaning, and shifts from road salt to liquid brine in winter. For example, in 2023, Brookline Department of Public Works collected more than 1,700 tons of material from streets and drains that otherwise would have ended up in our local rivers.

Over the past decade, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission has identified and eliminated more than 25 "illicit connections" between the sanitary sewer system and the stormwater system, reducing sewage inputs specifically to the Muddy by more than 14,000 gallons per day. And DCR is currently in the process of repairing eight stormwater outfalls that discharge into the Muddy, an effort that will reduce erosion and allow for collection of solid material before it reaches the river. While the effect of these efforts on overall river health has yet to be observed in reduced bacterial counts, they have had positive effects on other metrics of water quality. Our public agency employees are to be lauded for their enormous investment of time and money.

The City of Boston is continuing to assess the results of the Restoration Project by monitoring water quality quarterly at 13 key locations along the river, stretching from Ward's Pond to Charlesgate. Early data suggest modest improvements in levels of chloride, nitrogen, and metals. Oil and grease pollution, which have occasionally bubbled up from long-buried sediments, are currently at undetectable levels. Only phosphorus and E. coli remain consistently elevated above EPA standards. While these two pollutants are concerning—particularly bacteria, which is a key barrier to safe human contact with the water—the broader picture of river health offers some hope.

Local nonprofits also continue to play a critical role. In addition to their monthly monitoring program, CRWA is leading a community-wide visioning process for improving the health of the Muddy River watershed; public participation is strongly encouraged. Other organizations, including the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Muddy Water Initiative, sponsor regular volunteer events that have made a dramatic difference to the appearance of the water.

Finally, **individual actions also play a critical role in improving the Muddy River's water quality.** Cleaning up after pets, using fertilizer responsibly, and avoiding feeding wild geese are simple ways to help.

While it may take time for these collective efforts to improve the Muddy's EPA report card significantly, the groundwork is being laid. I remain optimistic that the health of the Muddy River can improve in the coming years.

Matt Eddy is administrator for the Muddy River Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee. Read more about the Muddy River on page 4.

Join Me in Voting Yes on Ballot Questions 2 and 5

TO THE FENWAY NEWS READERS:

This November, Massachusetts voters will see five statewide ballot questions.

While I would argue for a clear YES on all five, I want to focus here on why you should vote YES on Questions 2 and 5.

LETTERS

Question 2 replaces the use of the state's standardized MCAS test as a high school graduation requirement with a graduation requirement based on successful completion of coursework that reflects our state's high standards.

The overuse and particularly punitive use of high-stakes testing increases anxiety and stress for students and stacks the deck against students of color, students with disabilities, and English language learners. Moreover, it crowds important learning out of the curriculum: more time for test prep means less time for critical thinking, creativity, and other vital life skills we want students to have when they graduate. The only multiple-choice test that students will be guaranteed to face in their adult life is the one they face each year at the ballot box, and the MCAS is not preparing them for that.

Under Question 2, the MCAS would remain as a diagnostic tool: the state will still be able to collect data so that it can

assess schools and districts. But it will no longer be an individualized, high-stakes, punitive tool for individual students, something that it was not designed to be and is not, in contrary to its name, comprehensive enough ever to be.

All of us want our teachers to be able to teach, and our students to be able to learn, and voting YES on Question 2 will push back against how the attachment of high stakes to standardized tests always gets in the way of both.

Question 5 would phase out the use of subminimum wages for tipped workers in Massachusetts so that tipped workers get the full minimum wage with tips on top.

When legislators voted to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour back in 2018 (an increase that took full effect last year), they only modestly increased the tipped wage: to \$6.75 an hour, 45 percent of the full minimum wage.

Overreliance on tips as a source of income for restaurant workers fuels bad working conditions, as both sexual harassment and wage theft are common. In investigations of over 9,000 restaurants, the U.S. Department of Labor found that 84 percent of investigated restaurants were in violation of wage-and-hours laws.

Restaurant owners have been fearmongering about this ballot question, but in states that have passed a One Fair Wage model, including California and

Washington, tipped workers' median hourly pay (wages + tips) is significantly higher, poverty rates among restaurant workers are lower, and restaurants still thrive.

We all win when workers are treated well at the job, and I hope you will join me in voting YES on 5 this November.

JONATHAN COHN
SECRETARY, BOSTON WARD 4
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
AND POLICY DIRECTOR FOR
PROGRESSIVE MASS.

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.

- Thu, Oct. 3, 12pm: **HARVEST PARTY**
- Thu, Oct. 17, 12pm: **SHINE PRESENTATION**
- Thu, Oct. 24, 12pm: **CITY OF BOSTON RECYCLING AND SANITATION PRESENTATION**
- Tuesdays, 2pm: **MUSIC 4 WELLNESS BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC**
- Wednesdays, 12pm: **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT WITH LBFE & NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**
- Wednesdays, 1pm: **TECH CAFE WITH LBFE**

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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The Fenway News is published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., a community-owned corporation dedicated to community journalism. If you'd like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, distribute, or sell ads, please contact us at

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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, November 1.**

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

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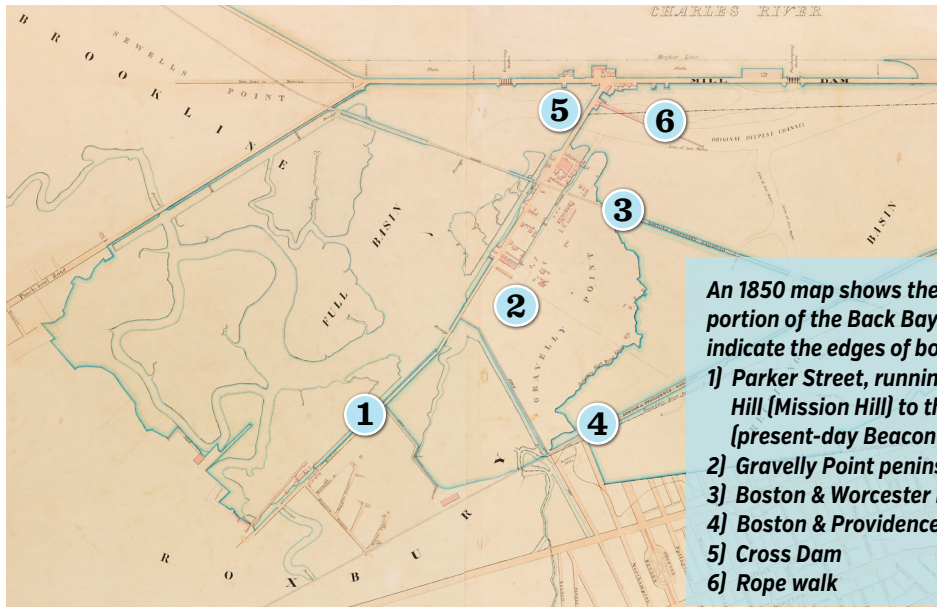
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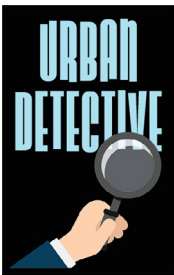
IMAGE: MASS. STATE MUSEUM



An 1850 map shows the western portion of the Back Bay; blue lines indicate the edges of bodies of water.
 1) Parker Street, running from Parker Hill (Mission Hill) to the Mill Dam (present-day Beacon Street)
 2) Gravelly Point peninsula
 3) Boston & Worcester RR
 4) Boston & Providence RR
 5) Cross Dam
 6) Rope walk

BY ED BALLO

Parker Street in Mission Hill and its extension, Hemenway Street in the Fenway, have an intriguing history. As any quick scan of a city map reveals, the street runs at a contrary angle to the prevailing Back Bay street grid. More than two centuries ago, this path ran along a low-lying peninsula known as Gravelly Point. At that time, Gravelly jutted into the then free-flowing and tidal Back Bay, nearly dividing it into two smaller bays. Let's explore some of the history of Parker and Hemenway streets, beginning at the base of Mission Hill and descending to its former soggy bottom.



While the neighborhood is more commonly referred to today as Mission Hill, it was previously known as Parker Hill, taking

its name from the wealthy Parker family, who once owned much of the land. By the 18th century, the hill featured country estates, orchards, and later, a stone quarry. The hill was part of the Town of Roxbury.

Peter Parker (1720-1765) and his wife Sarah Ruggles (1732-1802) had orchards on land that belonged to Sarah's family. We forget today that two centuries ago, cider was a popular drink, as it was pure—unlike often tainted and polluted drinking water in crowded cities—and had a high sugar content, something valued in an age where sugar was still quite expensive. All was going well for the Parkers until 1765 when Peter was crushed to death by a cider barrel!

Moving down the hill, in 1898 the City of Boston decided to rename the section of Parker Street north of Huntington Avenue "Hemenway Street," after Harriet Hemenway (1858-1960), a socialite who co-founded the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The

society—founded to protect birds from being killed for their plumes, quite fashionable for women's hats—used its political power to have a state law passed in 1897 outlawing the trade in wild bird feathers. In 1900 a federal law prohibited the interstate shipment of animals killed in violation of local laws.

Proceeding out further along Hemenway, we approach the tip of Gravelly Point with its mills, foundries, and rope walks. A map from 1850 shows the industrial development as well, as the Cross Dam dividing the Back Bay into two basins.

Industrial promoters in the second decade of the 19th century intended to allow water from the Full Basin (now the Fenway) to flow into the Receiving Basin (now the Back Bay), turning mill wheels in the process. Tides and outflows from the Muddy River and the Stoney Brook would replenish the Full Basin's water supply. The project never materialized to the extent its promoters imagined, and the introduction of two railroads—as mentioned in our previous installment—would doom this project to failure.

Of the few industrial buildings that we see on the point in 1850, ropewalks were the most unusual. On the map, the ropewalks are shown as the pink line extending out perpendicular to the Cross Dam. Ropewalks were used to create long ropes and cordage for sailing ships and other industrial purposes. These long buildings were always placed at arm's length from populated areas, as they were prone to explosion and fire. The atmosphere inside active ropewalks was quite volatile, as it was filled with both visible and invisible hemp dust. The slightest spark could set it off!

Finally, we move to the Cross Dam itself, which connected the tip of Gravelly to the Mill Dam beneath Beacon Street, meeting at approximately the intersection of today's Hereford and Beacon streets. In 1877, with the mill project deemed a failure and Back Bay housing development proceeding west toward the Cross Dam, the City Commissioners discontinued the extension of Parker Street between Beacon and Boylston. An interesting side note is the decades-long feud between Roxbury and Boston for ownership of and jurisdiction over these created lands. This municipal entanglement came to an end in 1868 when Boston annexed Roxbury.



PHOTO: ED BALLO

Street signs recall the colonial-era Ruggles and Parker families on what was once known as Parker Hill.

Returning to Peter Parker and Sarah Ruggles, I doubt that many commuters today navigating a difficult intersection will catch the significance of the signage at the southeastern edge of the Wentworth athletic field (pictured above)!

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

MFA's Concerns Delayed BPDA's Vote on 500 Huntington Project

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Prior to the BPDA board's approving two new lab buildings for Wentworth Institute's Sweeney Field site, a back-and-forth between lawyers for the Museum of Fine Arts and the Huntington Development Group took place earlier in the summer.

The MFA's board of trustees, the board's Real Estate Committee, and the MFA director met in July with lead developer the Fallon Company. Huntington Development Group (Fallon and partners

Waldwin Development and the Owens Companies) will lease the location from Wentworth to build a 640,000-square-foot development. The development would sit across Huntington Avenue from the museum.

The MFA opposed the project at a BPDA board hearing in August, and the board put off approval with the understanding that the parties would negotiate and settle their disagreements before it voted in September.

The deep foundation work required for two tall buildings and an

underground garage would involve pile driving and heavy equipment. MFA Chief Operating Officer Eric Woods raised concerns about the work's impacts on groundwater levels and possible vibrations. The MFA had earlier submitted comments about the storage of ancient and delicate objects in its basement levels, in addition to those in public galleries directly facing Huntington. They also expressed concern about potential risks to outdoor sculptures as well as air quality impacts on the museum's HVAC systems.

Whether these concerns were resolved or will require further negotiation remains unknown. The Sept. 12 BPDA board agenda did not allow for public comments. Board member Ted Landsmark, an honorary trustee of the museum, recused himself from the vote.

The timeline for the project depends on Wentworth's completion of a new parking garage and athletic center under construction in Mission Hill, expected by the end of this year.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Laurie Glimcher stepped down after eight years as CEO of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She engineered a major LMA shake-up when she ended DFCI's contract with Brigham & Women's to care for Institute patients and signed a deal with Beth Israel to build and jointly run a new hospital. That proposal remains under review at the BPDA. [Fun Fact #1, courtesy

of *Globe* columnist Shirley Leung: Glimcher's son is US Rep. Jake Auchincloss.]

Northeastern broke ground on a 245,000-square-foot "innovation hub" on the waterfront in Portland, Maine. According to the BLDUP Boston newsletter, the Roux Institute will mix lab and classroom space. Fun Fact #2: The building will sit at 1 Beanpot Circle, named for an earlier occupant of the parcel, a cannery for B&M Baked Beans.

US News & World Report's annual college rankings—which, as usual, drew

flak for being easy to game—placed B.U. 41st among "national" colleges (tied with Rutgers) and Northeastern 54th, tied with three other schools. **In more Northeastern headlines, the state's Appeals Court ruled unanimously against the Town of Nahant, which had sued to block a plan to expand the university's marine-research facility. The Town fought the proposal for six years, arguing that N.U. had agreed to maintain the site—a decommissioned military installation—as a nature preserve.**

Why, yes, you DID see some West Fens landscapes in the *Globe* feature on Park-9, a pop-up "dog bar" at The Station on Park Drive. Entry for humans is free—no canine required—but owners must register their dogs in order to bring them. Park-9 also offers training, daycare, and the delight of watching dogs frolic while you down a beer. [park9dogbar.com]

COMMUNITY

meetings

MON, OCT 7 The BPDA hosts a task force meeting for the proposed **INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN FOR DANA FARBER AND BETH ISRAEL**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the overall Institutional Master Plan and its potential impacts. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the task force and the public. Register at bit.ly/DFBIDMC. Call-in number is (833) 568-8864, meeting ID is 161 510 1698. Contact Tyler Ross at tyler.c.ross@boston.gov with any questions. 6pm.

TUE, OCT 8 The **FENWAY CDC'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**, a group of residents interested in advocating together for affordable

housing and other neighborhood needs, hosts its October meeting. It will focus on residents sharing organizing priorities. Food will be provided. Contact iruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org for more information. 6pm to 7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St.

WED, OCT 9 The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host an online **COMMUNITY MEETING ON THE EVANS WAY BRIDGE** in the Back Bay Fens. The meeting will feature a presentation by the designers. Register at boston.gov/calendar/back-bay-fens-evans-way-bridge to receive a Zoom link. 6–7:30pm.

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.

Watershed Group Dives Into Muddy River Problems

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

On Sept. 26 and Oct. 1, the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) presented an update of conditions in the Muddy River. CRWA's overall goal is to "protect, restore, and enhance the Charles River and its watershed through science, advocacy, and the law," according to its website.

The Muddy River anchors a watershed, defined as a geological area that drains to a river. The CRWA explained that there are many watersheds along the Charles River from its origin in Hopkinton. Sixty percent of them lie in Brookline, with the rest in Brighton, Newton, and Boston. The Muddy River is an interconnected watershed.

The biggest issue in cleaning up the river is stormwater runoff, the polluted water from rain or snow that washes across rooftops,

streets, and lawns. When stormwater is absorbed into soil, it is filtered and ultimately replenishes aquifers or flows into streams and rivers. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), however, heavy rainfall or significant flooding can overwhelm ground saturated by water, with excess flowing across the surface and into storm sewers and ditches. This water often picks up debris, chemicals, and bacteria (including E. coli), eroded soil, and other pollutants and carries them into streams, rivers, lakes, or wetlands.

Another problem is old infrastructure—leaky pipes that release wastewater into stormwater sewers that ultimately send it to the Muddy River. A third issue is illicit connections that allow the sewage-disposal system to interact with storm drains.

For example, wastewater piping may be mistakenly or deliberately connected to the

storm drains, or paint or used oil might be dumped directly into a drain. The result is the release of untreated wastewater and pollutants into storm sewers that contributes to high levels of pollutants in the river, including heavy metals, toxic substances, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria.

EPA studies have shown high enough levels of pollutants from these illicit discharges to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic species, wildlife, and human health.

"We need to address urban drainage challenges, including stormwater runoff and illicit discharges," said Lisa Kumpf, CRWA river science program manager. One solution is to plant more trees, which can absorb and remediate polluted water.

Another solution lies in "green" stormwater management. Examples include trenches,

filtration and disinfection, and constructed treatment wetlands, which can improve water quality by trapping pollutants or transforming them to inactive forms. One such constructed wetland, at Alewife Reservation, treats contaminated stormwater before it flows to Alewife Brook and the Mystic River. Kumpf noted that in the next few months the EPA will release new regulations designed to reduce stormwater pollution.

Many projects are in process, said Emily Norton, executive director of the CRWA, citing the dredging of Willow Pond, the daylighting of the Muddy River, Storrow Drive's realignment, and the Charlesgate revitalization. These projects are expensive, but Norton noted that widespread support and widespread advocacy from residents and neighborhood organizations do encourage cities and towns to fund these projects.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

COALITION SETS SIGHTS ON EXPANDED 55 BUS SERVICE HOURS

BY ALISON PULTINAS

After a mid-summer hiatus, the 55 Bus Coalition met in September, with Jamie Culbertson of the Fenway CDC leading the group and staff from local elected officials attending.

In June, the campaign scored a success with the month-long placement of "We Love the 55" posters at various bus shelters. Advocacy continues, with members determined to persuade the MBTA to extend both service hours and the route. Exactly a year ago, *The Fenway News* published an editorial stressing the identical concerns, but the MBTA has announced that the pandemic-era shortage of bus operators has ended, so the agency can no longer use that as its excuse.

Could the 55 buses see an increase in ridership from the 366 apartments at the "Idyl"/60 Kilmarnock development? Two of the route's stops could not be any closer. The apartments are essentially complete, and marketing has kicked into high gear.

Given that the 55 makes only ten daily round trips, how likely are new residents to use the bus? The restricted schedule makes it hard for people to use it for a regular or even occasional commute. And making it harder, explained Coalition member Eileen Maguire, is the buses' uncertain reliability, even with such a minimal schedule.

The history of the 55—like so many Boston bus routes—dates back to street cars in the early 20th century. Known as the Ipswich line, the inbound leg originated at the Cypress Street carhouse in Brookline. Transit historian Jonathan Belcher provides a detailed description of the route's various iterations over the years at transithistory.org.

In Belcher's account, truncating the Ipswich line, and detouring it because of development, are not recent

strategies, but almost customary practice. He cites a 1984 reference from *Rollsign* magazine that described a 1925 cutback in service, which changed the terminus from Park Street Station to Massachusetts Station (predecessor to Hynes). *Deja vu!*

An interesting element of the historical account is the frequently mentioned connection to the former Massachusetts station, which sat just a block from Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street (a significant location in 2024 with the opening of the air rights project, dubbed Lyrik, above the Mass Pike). The connection was not only the terminus for the streetcar route in the 1920s and 1930s but also a major transfer location, just as adjacent Hynes is today. Yet today's inbound 55 bus route skips the intersection completely and drops off riders closer to the Prudential—that is, if the driver can make it to the curb.

The previous Boylston Street stop on the traffic island at Cambria Street even had a bus shelter until 2020. Now, the new Boylston bike lane lined with white flex posts prevents all vehicles from getting anywhere near that traffic island.

In words of another Coalition member, Conrad Cizek, "The story was [the former stop near Berklee] was removed because 1000 Boylston Street was going to be constructed...then it was going to be returned once the [Dalton Street] bridge reconstruction was completed..." The next excuse was that the stop was removed because the city needed to install curbs on the traffic island to make it handicapped-accessible. Never mind, as Coalition member Charles Martel has pointed out, that Hynes Station is completely inaccessible for riders with mobility limitations.

According to Fenway CDC's Culbertson, the agreed-on top priority



Mass Ave Streetcar Station on the Newbury Street side in the 1930s.

for advocates is pressuring the T to implement extended hours for the route as its Bus Network Redesign process promised. The coalition will meet again in mid-November; CDC

organizers are coordinating. Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill. Coalition meetings are open to all; for more information check www.fenwaycdc.org/55bus.

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: Annielly Camargo

fenwayculture.org • #fenwayculture • #openingourdoors

FENWAY The Fenway Alliance

BCC BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

MC Mass Cultural Council

Fenway Cultural District

City of Boston Arts & Culture

Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust, Inc.

LEGAL NOTICE

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a virtual public hearing will be held on October 9, 2024, at 9:00 A.M., in connection with the **First Amendment to the 2022-2024 Institutional Master Plan for the Berklee College of Music** ("First Amendment") and Map Amendment Application No. 785, filed by the City of Boston Planning Department.

Said map amendment would amend "Map 1Q, Fenway Neighborhood District," by adding the designation "IMP," indicating an Institutional Master Plan overlay district to the existing zoning of land located at 1249 Boylston Street in the Fenway. Said First Amendment would allow for the renovation of 1249 Boylston Street into academic space with approximately 1,800 square feet of ground floor space used for retail space.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. You can participate in this meeting by going to <https://bit.ly/BZCOct92024>. A **copy of the petition and a map of the area involved, may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.**

Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. If you require interpreting services, please contact the following: zoningcommission@boston.gov or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024. **Please request interpreting services no later than October 5, 2024.**

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

NEWSLINES

Council Has Support Funding for Arts Groups; Apply by Oct. 16

The Boston Cultural Council (BCC) issues grants to small and mid-sized organizations that offer arts, cultural, and/or creative programming. Their grants are meant to support general operating expenses at nonprofit and unincorporated organizations. Applications for 2025 are due by Oct. 16; learn more at boston.gov/departments/arts-and-culture/how-apply-organizational-grant. A small committee with two staffers, the BCC operates under the umbrella of the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC). This year the committee will also distribute money remaining in the Red Sox Arts Fund, part of a \$300,000 contribution the Red Sox Foundation made in 2022 and designated for programs that serve the Fenway. MOAC staff review those grant applications alongside an appointed advisory team whose members receive stipends for their work.

Conservancy Brings Tree Survey to the Fens and Charlesgate

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy will launch a tree inventory in the Back Bay Fens and Charlesgate this month, part of a repeating seven-year cycle of care that entails cataloging, assessing, and pruning all trees within the 1,100 acres of Emerald Necklace parklands. The work will produce updated notes and condition assessments for 1,545 Back Bay Fens trees already in the Conservancy's database. Arborists will add new trees that have established themselves or been planted in the survey area, ensuring a review of all trees on both City of Boston and DCR property. The team will measure each tree, record tree locations, and conduct a thorough evaluation of each tree's health and condition, noting structural defects, growth challenges, diseases, and other concerns. Certified arborists will determine whether the trees could benefit from pruning and, if so, will determine the pruning methods best suited to the species, location, and park-user needs. Contractors will also remove dead branches, lift branches over paths and walkways, prune tree structure to improve growth, and reduce tree weight to improve the chances particular trees can survive future storms and stressors like drought.

Tree Canopy Expands on St. Alphonsus

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Here's a benefit to serving on a community advisory group you might not have considered. At the behest of Toni Komst—a Mission Hill resident who sits on the Wentworth Institute Community Task Force and lives in the Charlesbank Apartments at 650 Huntington Ave.—Wentworth has donated 12 new street trees. The six zelkovas and six red maples have been planted along the St. Alphonsus Street sidewalk south of the apartments.

Plans for Growth Mean a Move for EMK Health Careers Academy

BY ALISON PULTINAS

As reported last winter and announced in Mayor Michelle Wu's State of the City address, Bloomberg Philanthropies awarded \$37.8 million—the largest grant ever directed to Boston Public Schools (BPS)—for the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (EMK). Not explained in that January announcement: EMK, at 10 Fenwood Rd. in Mission Hill, isn't the direct grant recipient but a subgrantee of Mass General Brigham (MGB), a partner to the school.

MGB, the health care industry behemoth in Boston, has supported both summer and afterschool internships for EMK and will use the additional funding to deepen its relationship with the school. Already this year it has announced a distribution of \$1.4 million from the grant to cover a full-time psychologist and social workers for every grade level.

BPS plans to double enrollment at EMK to 800 students in grades 9 through 12 over the next five years. At a meeting on Sept. 25, the School Committee approved adding 100 students to the 9th-grade cohort for the 2025-26 school year. As committee member Michael O'Neil stated, ensuring career training for the next generation of healthcare workers is an important City goal, but can the City find EMK a building that makes sense for the enrollment increase while keeping proximity, or at least easy access, to the Longwood Medical Area?

The search for a permanent

facility is the conundrum to solve. EMK has occupied oddball buildings ever since it began in 1998 as an initiative of the Center for Community Health, Education, Research, and Service at Northeastern University.

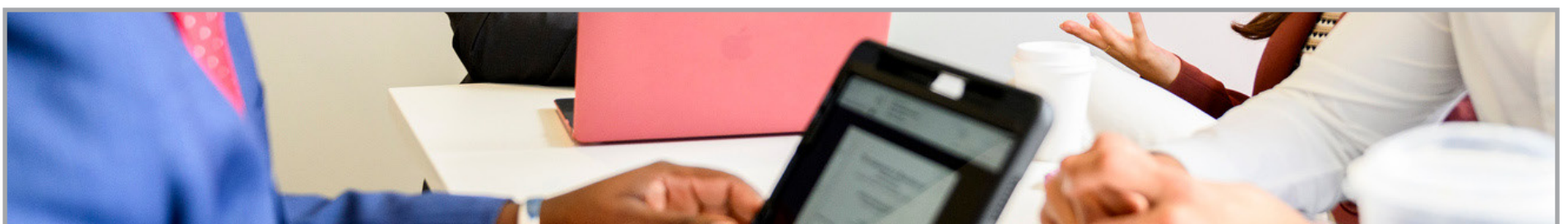
Currently the 9th and 10th grades are housed on Fenwood Road at the former David Farragut Elementary, and the 11th and 12th grades use a leased building at 384 Warren St. in Roxbury.

As announced in September by head of school Dr. Caren Walker Gregory, beginning next fall, the former Abraham Lincoln School in Bay Village will serve as the EMK's lower campus for a maximum of two years. The facility formerly served as the temporary home for the Josiah Quincy Upper School.

EMK is one of six Horace Mann Charter Schools in Boston—semi-autonomous schools approved by both the School Committee and the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and funded by BPS. They are also referred to as "in-district" charters. Admission to EMK is by lottery, and there is a long waitlist.

As the *Boston Globe* recently editorialized, BPS is a system with too many buildings and not enough students, and emphatically asserts that now is the time to close schools. However, Superintendent Mary Skipper explained that expanding capacity at a highly desirable school provides opportunities for high school students who might be transitioning from other programs.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



Non-Profit & Small Business Development Series

Join Northeastern City and Community Engagement for a series of online and in-person trainings around key topics for non-profits and small businesses.

**October 16th
12:00-1:30pm**

In person location:
**Northeastern Crossing
1175 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02120**

Register Here:



N Northeastern University
City and Community Engagement

This first session is led by branding expert, Fena Fenlon, and focuses on developing your "branding DNA." Exploring the art and science of creating a strong brand, it delves into key components of branding, such as brand strategy, positioning, messaging, and identity design. This session is open to the public and targeted at non-profit organizations and small businesses in the City of Boston. Join us to build your organization or business' capacity for storytelling, stakeholder engagement, and funding.

The Arts

At MassArt, Artists Ask How We've Treated Our Planet

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Left: Akea Brionne's, "Begin Again: Land of Enchantment," Center and right: "The Black Gold Tapestry" by Sandra Sawatzky

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

A major new exhibit at the MassArt Art Museum (MAAM), "Displacement," examines various ways we interact with our environment—both past and present. Using textiles, film, aromas, and found objects that have been discarded, the display moves us to think about how we impact the world today and to reflect on our past.

MAAM takes ownership of its waste and explains how it is trying to diminish it. Explanatory text points out that museums produce "about 4 million

metric tons of greenhouse gasses yearly." MAAM is trying to repurpose exhibit structures, minimize shipping, and use more environmentally-friendly materials. MAAM also invites viewers to write their own ideas about reducing environmental impacts. Recycling textiles, cooking at home, and the importance of voting were some of the suggestions written by visitors.

The exhibit explains that stabilization of the earth's climate about 10,000 years ago enabled plants and animals to develop ecosystems and gave humankind the opportunity

to settle in certain areas and develop agriculture. The exhibit features the works of nine artists.

In Katie Peterson's work, "To Burn, Forest Fire," two incense sticks imbue the visitor with scents from an ancient forest and a more recent one.

Akea Brionne's "Begin Again: Land of Enchantment" tells how colonial systems shape cultures and the stories they tell. Manipulated photographs with the addition of sequins and beads speak to the journeys that cultures take as they grapple with displacement, colonial domination, and environmental changes. Brionne reflects on her own family's move from Belize to New Orleans and the impact of rainfall and drought on families and communities.

Nyugen E. Smith's, *Tribamatica* and *Bundle House: Rise Up And Walk* combines found objects such as fabric, canvass, fur, metal, rubber, shoes, nails, and plastic. "Bundle House" reflects the resolve of Indigenous populations and the African diaspora who continue moving forward in the face of colonization and attempts to eliminate culture and take land.

The Black Gold Tapestry by Sandra Sawatzky is a hand-stitched textile masterpiece that takes the viewer through an overview of humans' history with oil. This work alone represents a reason to see this exhibit.

The tapestry measures 60 meters long (roughly 195 feet) and took 16,000 hours over nine years to complete. Sawatzky took inspiration from the Bayeux Tapestry, created in the 11th century to tell the story of the conquest of England by the Duke of Normandy. *Black Gold* draws the viewer in through its color and sheer size.

It begins eons ago, with sticky black oil seeping to the surface of earth that Neanderthals used to fasten sharpened stone to wooden shafts. Mesopotamians used bitumen—a viscous black liquid derived from crude oil—to seal boats and build cities. Egyptians embalmed their dead with it. The Chinese used oil fires to reduce brine collected from the sea into salt. Coal oil lit 19th-century city streets. The viewer is inspired to become a very willing student of the history, moving from ancient to modern, panel by panel.

You might leave the exhibit with a sense of appreciation for the gifts of the earth. The gentle beauty of colors, lines, and shapes that tell these stories, and the impact of our use and abuse of earth's gifts hits close to home.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens. "Displacement" remains on view through Dec. 8. The museum, at 621 Huntington Ave., is open Thursday through Sunday, 12-8pm. More details are available at maam.massart.edu.

Reliving the Glories of Boston Punk

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Incongruent: punk rock and the basement auditorium of a public library on a Saturday afternoon? On Sept. 14 it happened in Mission Hill, when librarian Amy Layton brought in music industry veteran AJ Wachtel to talk about his experiences in Boston's music scene in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Wearing a t-shirt advertising his podcast, "Wachtelligence," Wachtel expounded on Queensberry Street's Jumping Jack Flash, Fathers II drinking bouts, Kenmore Square's the Rat (of course), Allston's Bunratty's, and favorite hit songs from Boston bands—The Neighborhoods' *Prettiest Girl*, Mission of Burma's *That's When I Reach for My Revolver*, and Treat Her Right's *I Think She Likes Me*.

The talk marked 50 years since the Rat, short for Rathskeller, became the place for live local rock, roll-punk, and post-punk-hardcore whatever—a label that started with bands like the Lost, the Remains, and the Barbarians in the late 1960s. Then in the 1970s came the Real

Kids, the Nervous Eaters, DMZ, the Dogmatics, the Lyres, and many others. Wachtel stressed their influence on the Cars, Aerosmith, and even the Dropkick Murphys.

Mr. Curt from the band Pastiche; former Sob Story drummer and Mission Hill resident Paula Lawrence; music fan and past record producer Jack Vaughan (now acting head of the Friends of Parker Hill Library) attended the event. (To dig deeper into the history of the music, visit the Music Museum of New England website, mmone.org.)

If an all-talk library event disappointed some who were expecting music, fans can get their fill at the Harvard Film Archive on Nov. 8 at 7pm. Harvard is celebrating punk with excerpts from Arthur Freedman's film collection of performance recordings, live musical accompaniment, and a coordinated exhibit at the Loeb Library. The Nov. 8 showing, while free, has already sold out. However, tickets might be available at the door 10 minutes before showtime, according to the Film Archive website.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

SPOTLIGHT ON WU AT 'CONCERT FOR THE CITY'

PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS



Mayor Michelle Wu performed George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" on the piano, backed up by the entire Boston Pops Orchestra

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

On Saturday, Sept. 21, the Boston Symphony Orchestra presented its fifth Concert for the City at Symphony Hall. Tickets were free but had to be acquired in advance through the BSO website. The event was part of the kick-off weekend for the BSO's 2024-2025 season.

The Orchestra presented an exciting program to a completely full Symphony Hall. The Boston Children's Chorus started the concert, which also featured Veronica Robles and her all-female Mariachi Ensemble dressed in

elaborately embroidered costumes, and a chamber music quartet from the Boston Festival Orchestra. Three different conductors led orchestral works by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Carlos Simon, and Adolphus Cunningham Hailstork III.

A highlight of the evening: Mayor Michelle Wu, at the piano, performing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and backed by the entire Boston Pops.

The concert ended with a rendition of "America the Beautiful" by vocalist Renese King.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

TimeOut MARKET

BEST OF THE CITY, UNDER ONE ROOF!



15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS.
ENDLESS ENTERTAINMENT
401 PARK DRIVE, BOSTON



October CALENDAR

Now ➔ Sun, 10/13

The latest masterpiece and most personal play from Tom Stoppard, **LEOPOLDSTADT** recounts a stirring story of love, family, and bravery based on his own late-in-life discovery that his parents were Jewish. Tickets at huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/leopoldstadt.

Now ➔ Sun, 10/27

In an audacious experiment, playwright Nassim Soleimanpour's **NASSIM**, brings a different VIP onstage while the script waits unseen in a sealed box. 527 Tremont St. Tickets and showtimes at huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/nassim.

Now ➔ Wed, 10/30

The **ALBERTINE CINÉMATHÈQUE FILM FESTIVAL** returns to B.U. with a mix of classic and contemporary films from the Francophone world. For the film summaries and times, visit bu.edu/rs/2024/09/09/2024-french-film-festival-films. **FREE.**

Sat, 10/5 ➔ Sun, 10/27

THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL at Wheelock Family Theatre. Tickets \$30–58, but discounts available through WFT@BU's Friends & Family, "Buy One, Get One Free Night." Call the box office at (617) 353-3001. 200 The Riverway.

Sat, 10/5

Bring broken household items and learn to repair them for free at the **FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER'S FIX-IT CLINIC** in partnership with the Boston Public Library. Items may include clothing and fabric, computers and phones, toys and wooden items, kitchen equipment, small electrical devices, jewelry, and more. Info at fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar/fix-it-clinic and boston.gov/calendar/fix-it-clinic-7. 1282 Boylston St., entrance on Jersey St. 11am–2pm.

Sat, 10/5 & Sun, 10/6

The **25TH ANNUAL ROXBURY OPEN**

STUDIOS ART FESTIVAL is a multicultural, multigenerational community event. The artist-run arts collaborative works to help artists and artisans increase knowledge, advance skills, exhibit work, and build economic security while elevating the rich artistic and cultural assets of Roxbury. Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont St. 11am–5pm. Email roxburyopenstudio@gmail.com to learn more. **FREE.**

Sat, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, & 10/26

The Parker Hill Branch Library presents **SATURDAY YOGA CLASSES** for adults 55+. Yoga mats and props provided; all experience levels welcome. Made possible by N.E. Baptist Hospital, Friends of Library, and Mission Hill Health Movement. Pre-registration required at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66fbdbd47fde612f00edce2c. For details call Karen Gallagher at (617) 427-3820 or email kgallagher@bpl.org. **FREE.**

Wed, 10/9

- Join Fenway CDC for a **CAREER FAIR**. Connect with hiring employers from various business sectors and explore career opportunities in education, biotech, healthcare, transportation, accounting, public service, information technology, and service industries.

@ THE CENTER

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

- Sat, Oct 5, 11am to 2pm: **FIX-IT CLINIC** with the Boston Public Library (more information in main calendar)
- Tue, Oct 15, 5pm to 6pm: **OFFICE HOURS** with State Rep. Livingstone
- Thu, Oct 17, 5pm to 7pm: **ORAL HISTORY TRAINING** with the BPL
- Mon, Oct 21 & 28, 2:45pm to 4:15pm: **LIFE WRITING** with Boston University

Huntington YMCA, 316 Huntington Ave. 3–6pm. **FREE.**

- The Boston Public Library and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay present **ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN 2024**, an in-person forum to discuss new investments in public and affordable housing to address the housing shortage. Panelists: Dr. Howard Koh, Harvard School of Public Health; Kenzie Bok, BHA administrator; and Joshua Cuddy, of the Mass. Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Moderated by Jennifer McKim, WGBH. Registration required at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66e47f5379c37d9f5da6e2fa. Central Library in Copley Square. 6–7:30pm. **FREE.**

Thu, 10/10

- Berklee presents the 6th **MUSIC OF MASS INCARCERATION**, a powerful concert showcasing compositions by Berklee students from the LENS: Contemporary Issues/Mass Incarceration course. Tickets \$12–\$17 at the Berklee Box Office or etix.com/ticket/p/62721794. 8pm.
- The BPL and Boston LGBTQ+ Museum of Art, History & Culture host **QUEER NARRATIVES: CELEBRATING LGBTQ+ VOICES IN LITERATURE** as part of the inaugural Boston Queer Arts Festival. Details at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66f30037f520192f0063fd2b. Central Library in Copley Square. 10am–3pm. **FREE.**

Sat, 10/12

Join Berklee's **GRADY HARRELL** in an homage to The Temptations. Guest appearance by Pat Braxton. 136 Mass Ave. 7pm. Tickets \$95–\$120 at etix.com/ticket/p/40847667.

Mon, 10/14

The Fenway Alliance hosts the 23rd annual **OPENING OUR DOORS** festival. Visit locations throughout the Fenway Cultural District for exhibitions and activities, cultural experiences, musical and dance performances, and more. Free entry to the

MFA, Gardner MassArt Art Museum, and Christian Science Publishing House. 10am–4pm. **FREE.**

Tue, 10/15

LET'S DANCE! AN INTRODUCTION TO LATIN DANCE. Valeria Vinuesa, a certified Zumba and Latin rhythms instructor in Spain and Boston, leads participants in different styles of Latin dance. Wear sneakers and clothing to move in. Register at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/66e9810ef520192f0062e428. Central Library in Copley Square. 5:30–6:30pm. **FREE.**

Sat, 10/19

Boston Building Resources hosts a **NATIONAL REUSE DAY CELEBRATION**. The event includes a Fixit Clinic: bring broken items ranging from bicycles to electronic gadgets to garments that need mending. Coaches will be on hand to walk you through repairs. Live music, a tie-dye station, and free food! 100 Terrace St. 11am–2pm. **FREE.**

Sun, 10/20

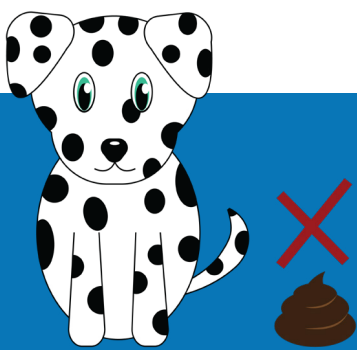
The **BOSTON PHILHARMONIC** kicks off its season with a program of Beethoven (*Egmont: Overture*), Brahms (*Violin Concerto*), and Bartók (*Concerto for Orchestra*). 3pm at Symphony Hall, or come at 1:45 for conductor Benjamin Zander's "Guide to the Music" pre-concert talk. Tickets \$32–128. Details at bostonphil.org/concerts

Fri 10/25 & Sat, 10/26

"An Evening With Malcolm Gladwell," the author and *New Yorker* writer, has already sold out, but the rest of the **16TH BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL** offers the usual dazzling array of literary stars. Events take place at the BPL's Central branch and a half-dozen churches and cultural spaces in and around Copley Square. Presentations take place 10am–6pm, and six musical acts perform 11am–5pm on the Berklee Stage in the square. Details and the full schedule at bostonbookfest.org. **FREE.**

Don't Forget Pick Up After Your Pet!

Pet waste discarded on the street or in catch basins carries harmful bacteria straight into the waterways we rely on for recreation.

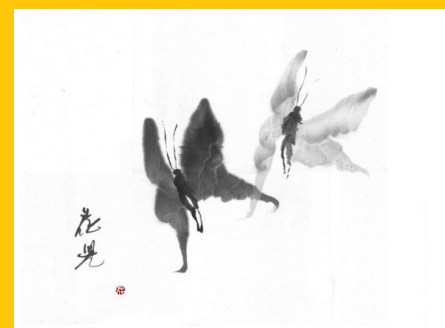


Remember to "Scoop the Poop" and dispose of pet waste in the trash.

Proper disposal of pet waste protects the environment and our waterways from contamination.



KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



Flying together celebrating 50 years

Gary Tucker, artist "My Backyard—The Muddy River" WATERCOLOR DEMONSTRATION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 1 PM
THIS IS PART OF THE OPENING OUR DOORS DAY EVENT.
SEE THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT FENWAYCULTURE.ORG.

Kaji Aso Studio 51st Anniversary Show—"A Spot of Beauty" Art ✿ Music ✿ Poetry

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 7 PM

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





Find your flavor in The Fenway

Your dining destination awaits, from quick pit-stops to cozy sit-down spots, and secret menu items to unlock—we've got it all and a whole lot of mouthwatering flavor!

**THE
FEN
WAY**