



# Fenway News

HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 51 NUMBER 8 • AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 29, 2025

## Roxbury Tenants of Harvard Grapple With Governance, Rodent Issues at Annual Meeting

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The atmosphere seemed low key at the well-attended Roxbury Tenants of Harvard (RTH) annual meeting held in the Mission Park gymnasium on a Sunday afternoon in June. On hand were translators, a parliamentarian, legal counsel, and RTH staff. Board president Daniel Powell distributed a three-page report, director Karen Gately spoke, elections took place with the company Honest Ballot operating automated ballot boxes, and box lunches and gift water bottles were distributed.

Governed by an 11-member resident-controlled board, RTH encompasses 1,114 units of housing. As candidates for six open board seats delivered three-minute speeches, some described problems such as transparency in decision-making and rodent control.

David Swan of 80 Fenwood Road spoke passionately about the crisis at his building, the Mosaic, a mixed-income condo/rental property. He described it as a power grab by one resident, seemingly a hostile takeover of the condo board, with repercussions

affecting all renters and homeowners in the building.

The 145 Mosaic units comprise 60 affordable rentals, 40 market-rate condos, 45 income-restricted condos. The building also contains a YMCA-managed daycare. Together they make up the primary condo association. RTH holds the vote for the rentals, condo owners hold a 52 percent share, and the YMCA controls the remaining 5 percent interest. Condo owners have their own association led by three trustees. Their board president, Dr. Darshan Vora, represents the condo vote in the primary association.

Starting in late spring, The Dartmouth Group assumed management responsibilities for floors 6 to 11, the condos. However, the daycare center and the 60 apartments on floors 2 to 5 remain under management by RTH and Trinity Management. Swan described the two-company plan as inequitable, with security and cleanliness in the rental-floor common areas a top concern. Swan did not win a seat on the board. Li Zhi He (who goes by Justin), an eight-year market-rate condo owner and an incumbent RTH board member, received the highest number of votes with 157.

Board President Daniel Powell referred to the Mosaic situation in his speech and promised a full review of the condo structure and governance documents. Throughout his report, Powell emphasized the past year's work to rebuild and restore a sense of purpose and control to the board of directors and to strengthen oversight of financial and operational procedures and security policies. Because RTH will break ground for a similar mixed-income rental/condo residential building at 775 Huntington Ave., residents expressed concerns that the future governing structure be thoughtfully balanced and that RTH's role not be diminished after the condos are sold.

The Mosaic has a complicated history. It was approved as part of the redevelopment of the former Mass. Mental Health Center site acquired from the State under a long-term lease by Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in 2009. The parcel was subdivided, and RTH signed a 99-year lease with BWH.

In 2010, Mayor Thomas Menino and the Boston Redevelopment Authority Board approved a Planned Development Area (PDA) designation for the former state property. That process essentially authorized the residential building plan, although construction only began in 2015. A paragraph in the PDA document clearly states that the residential building will be developed, operated, and controlled by RTH.

In 2016, BWH built the Hale Building for Transformative Medicine on the remainder of the Mass Mental Health site. Its landscaped plaza with outdoor seating and artwork borders the Mosaic. BWH manages the property. A playground, maintained by the YMCA, opens to the public after daycare hours.

In July, RTH held an in-person town hall with residents of all RTH-affiliated buildings. Rodent control was the major topic: apparently, rats are everywhere, including public open space. The Hale Plaza trash cans were mentioned as problematic.

However, the seriousness of the rodent situation in Mission Park and the Old Neighborhood (Francis Street and Fenwood and St. Albans roads) became evident when it was mentioned that an adult had to be treated for a rat bite. In the spring RTH contracted with the pest control company Ecologic Entomology, ordered new heavy-duty trash cans for Mission Park and the Old Neighborhood, and the City's Inspectional Services Department treated nearby sewers. The RTH board is considering whether trash problems should (or can) be considered a lease violation and whether it can levy fines or penalties on residents who chronically litter, inappropriately dispose of trash, or feed pigeons.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

## ARAMARK WORKERS STAGE 3-DAY WALKOUT OVER PAY, AUTOMATION



In June, 95 percent of Aramark foodservice workers at Fenway Park and MGM Music Hall voted to authorize a strike. Since then, hundreds of workers have signed up for strike benefits and dozens have been trained as picket captains. Aramark and the union didn't make significant progress toward an agreement during their latest bargaining session in mid-July. As a result, Fenway workers went on strike the weekend of July 25. During the strike—and in a full-page ad in the Globe—UNITE HERE Local 26 asked the public to attend games as usual but to support the strikers by not purchasing any food or drink inside the ballpark. Workers want citywide-standard wages; guardrails on automation; increased gratuity for "premium workers," who serve season-ticket holders and special guests; and scheduling that respects workers' seniority. Bargaining is ongoing.

—KELSEY BRUUN

## CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

SAT, 8/23

THE JONAS BROTHERS  
6:30-10:30PM

MON, 8/25

CHRIS BROWN  
6:30-10:30PM

TUE, 8/26

THE WHO, FAREWELL TOUR  
7:00-10:30PM

### REPORT NOISE OR MISBEHAVIOR

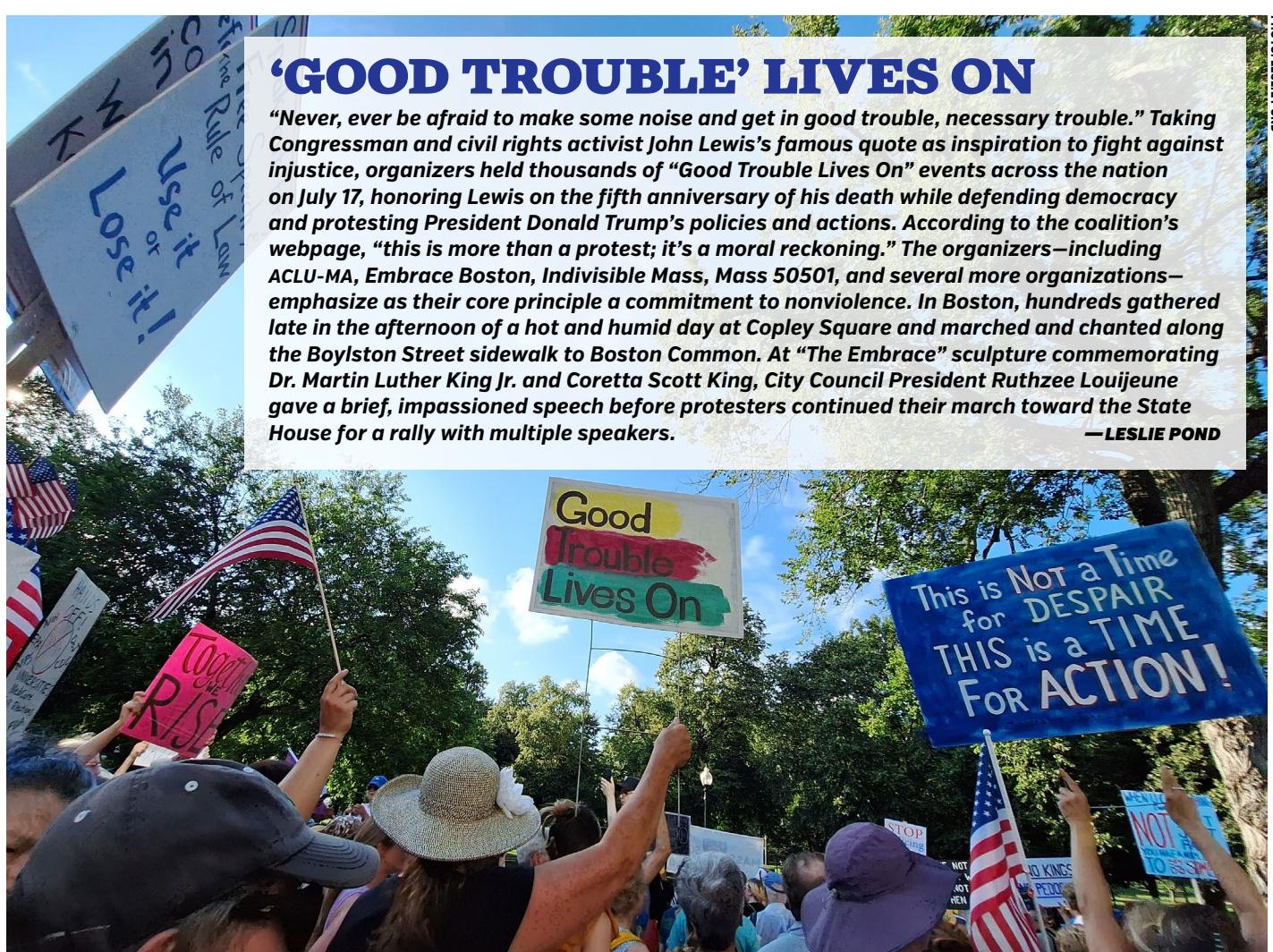
Help document noise or other problems by calling ALL THREE of these numbers:

CITY LICENSING BOARD ☎ 617-635-4170  
SOX COMPLAINT LINE ☎ 617-226-6424  
CITY PROBLEM LINE ☎ 311

## 'GOOD TROUBLE' LIVES ON

"Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble." Taking Congressman and civil rights activist John Lewis's famous quote as inspiration to fight against injustice, organizers held thousands of "Good Trouble Lives On" events across the nation on July 17, honoring Lewis on the fifth anniversary of his death while defending democracy and protesting President Donald Trump's policies and actions. According to the coalition's webpage, "this is more than a protest; it's a moral reckoning." The organizers—including ACLU-MA, Embrace Boston, Indivisible Mass, Mass 50501, and several more organizations—emphasize as their core principle a commitment to nonviolence. In Boston, hundreds gathered late in the afternoon of a hot and humid day at Copley Square and marched and chanted along the Boylston Street sidewalk to Boston Common. At "The Embrace" sculpture commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune gave a brief, impassioned speech before protesters continued their march toward the State House for a rally with multiple speakers.

—LESLIE POND



# FENS VIEWS

## The Renter's Lament

BY AHMED M. ABDELFATTAH

It is the hottest day of the year and I'm standing at my window looking out on Queensberry Street. Any other day, gazing through my bay window with its expansive view of the West Fens and the western sky—the sunset colors dancing on

clouds and distant towers—would have filled me with calm and joy. But

### GUEST OPINION

on this day, only one thought comes to mind, something my mentor said years ago: "The most traumatic event in this world is death. The second one is moving." On this sweltering day, as I pace restlessly at my window waiting for the moving crew that is now five hours late, I believe it.

Until very recently, I was a tenant living in the Fenway. The Fenway has had a long history battling with gentrification that made it what it is today: one of the most walkable, safest, greenest, and, therefore, priciest neighborhoods in the city. I knew that my time here was going to end someday, no matter how much I tried not to think about it. And when the renewal offer came in from my soulless corporate landlord, proposing an unexpectedly hefty rent increase, referring to my home as a "unit" and reading like a bad breakup letter from a lawyer, I knew it was time to uproot, move on, and move away.

Boston, I've learned, doesn't like it when people try to put down roots, but prefers us renters to remain transient—here today, gone in a couple years. Settling down and planning for a future isn't easy in a city where more than 60 percent of people are renters living at the whim of landlords and management companies. Instead, we live as migratory birds, here to work or study for a year or three, then pack up and leave—leaving no trace of our passing but the discarded

furniture on Allston Christmas, and the paychecks that paid for our landlord's second home on the Cape.<sup>1</sup>

Boston thrives on this constant churn of students, medical residents, fellows, postdocs, and contract workers, professions that are likely to be too busy to engage meaningfully with local politics or community involvement. By the time renters might consider registering to vote or familiarizing themselves with local politics, graduation day comes around and it's time to go.

This dynamic seems almost intentional. Despite renters' making up the overwhelming majority, renter-friendly laws progress at a glacial pace, if at all. Rent caps remain elusive, and tenant protections weak. Only recently did Massachusetts ban tenant-paid broker fees (but left ample room for loopholes and ambiguous enforcement). It comes as no surprise to learn that a majority of state lawmakers are homeowners, and according to the *Boston Globe* a substantial number also own multiple properties, including rentals. Conflicts of interest? Apparently not an issue. Adequate representation? Not a thing either.

And so, on the hottest day of the year, I stand at my window, lamenting my third uprooting in seven years. I lament leaving the neighborhood I love for new, strange lands. I try to look for a faint ray of hope. Perhaps the city will come to its senses and approve more homes and fewer empty lab towers. Perhaps someone who holds the levers will finally realize that a city can't run, can't have a soul, when people can't truly call it home. But from where I'm standing at my window, all I see is the moving truck, coming to take me away.

*Ahmed M. Abdelfattah is a Fenway News board member and now a resident of South Boston.*

<sup>1</sup> Not hyperbole; this actually happened

## Proposed HUD Cuts Threaten Affordable Housing

BY CAROLINE HICKEY

Affordable housing can be life-changing—and a "godsend," as a resident of a Fenway Community Development Corporation building called it. "Coming off of homelessness," they said, "if it wasn't for affordable housing, I wouldn't be able to afford market rent in this apartment, and I would still be homeless."

Fenway CDC is a mission-driven, nonprofit affordable housing organization. We own and operate more than 550 homes that house

more than 800 people. We rely on

multiple sources of funding, including, indirectly, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), so we are continuously analyzing threats to federal funding. From our analysis, our organization is financially stable, and we don't anticipate HUD cuts will directly impact resident housing or our organizational health. Still, we recognize that HUD cuts could be quite severe and could degrade access to affordable housing.

### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S HUD BUDGET PROPOSAL

On May 30, President Donald Trump and HUD Secretary Scott Turner proposed their fiscal year 2026 HUD budget, with a decrease of \$27 billion, or 44 percent. This budget request is not final, and it is up to Congress to pass the final HUD budget.

### HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSAL

In response to the president's proposal, on July 14 the House Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) subcommittee voted to propose a \$939 million cut from HUD's current funding levels. Most of the budgets for HUD agencies would remain the same or similar. However, with rent increases and inflation, flat funding acts as a cut in rental-assistance programs. Due to limited funds, currently only one of four eligible families receives housing assistance.

Although most of the proposed budget is stagnant, multiple rental assistance programs would take massive hits. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance would be cut by \$773 million. Failing to renew the funding in full could put existing contracts at risk of being terminated and prevent eligible families from obtaining vouchers.

Similarly, the House THUD committee proposed a combined cut of \$1.6 billion in the Public Housing Operating and Capital Fund. This would reduce public housing authorities' capacity and their ability to provide services and manage properties. This could cause rent increases, maintenance issues, and inability to access public housing.

On top of this, the proposal would cut HUD staff by at least 26 percent. The impacts of these staffing cuts would be felt by families trying to navigate the complicated process of obtaining affordable housing. Every program under HUD would run less efficiently,

causing longer waitlists, costly delays, and new barriers to federal resources.

### NEXT STEPS AND TAKING ACTION

This may seem overwhelming, but the House proposed budget is not set in stone. The Senate has not yet proposed its budget, and we should remain hopeful for a more reasonable Senate budget. The Senate budget must pass by a 60 percent majority vote, meaning it will need some bipartisan support. Once both the House and Senate pass their THUD budgets, they will need to resolve any disagreements before the president signs off on the final budget. Congress has until October 1 to pass the final fiscal year 2026 budget for HUD, and if it fails to finalize the budget by that deadline, a continuing resolution may go into effect to ensure adequate funding for THUD programming.

**Until the final budget is passed, it is key not only to stay updated but to exercise your voice!** The HUD cuts may be a source of fear for many, but there are opportunities to mitigate the damage the current administration is causing, and we must continue to advocate for affordable and safe housing for all.

To take action, I urge you to visit the National Low Income Housing Coalition website ([nlihc.org/take-action](http://nlihc.org/take-action)) and contact the Massachusetts members of Congress to express your disapproval of the budget proposal at the numbers listed below. When leaving a message, you can share how you and your neighbors would be harmed from these proposed cuts, or reference these statistics about the housing crisis in Massachusetts:

- There is a shortage of more than 180,000 units for extremely low-income families.
- 63 percent of extremely low-income families are severely cost-burdened, meaning more than 50% of household income goes to pay for housing (the goal is for households to pay less than 30%).
- 325,000 households are extremely low-income and rely on HUD programs.
- The cost of housing is 118 percent higher locally than the national average.

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

- District 7 Representative Ayanna Pressley: (617) 850-0040
- District 8 Representative Stephen Lynch: (617) 428-2000
- Senator Edward Markey: (617) 565-8519
- Senator Elizabeth Warren: (617) 565-3170
- Steve Womack (House Subcommittee Chairman): (202) 225-4301
- Cindy Hyde-Smith (Senate Subcommittee Chairman): (202) 224-5054

*Caroline Hickey is the community building co-op at the Fenway Community Development Corporation.*

## The Fenway News

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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.

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# MBTA Hedges On Commitment To Finish Fenway Multi-Use Path

BY ALISON PULTINAS

**A** car-free commute or a leisurely ride—especially if it borders beautiful parks—is ideal for many cyclists. However, connecting the Fenway Multi-Use Path, which now ends at the Fenway T station, to the Muddy River Bike Path across Park Drive may have hit a speed bump.

At a public hearing in 2017, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation showed plans for “providing a safe and comfortable crossing under Park Drive” in the path’s third phase. (The first two phases, between Lansdowne and Fenway stations, are complete.) The City’s website states that “Phase III [of the path] will be constructed by the MBTA

and the developer of the Landmark Center using mitigation funds provided by the Landmark Center... [with] completion date to be determined.”

Eight years later, the MBTA appears to be having second thoughts.

In a 2024 letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency related to the 85 apartments proposed for 142-146 St. Mary’s St. in Audubon Circle, Jennifer Mecca, MBTA deputy director for transit-oriented development, raised doubts about the agency’s support for the path’s final phase. “Fenway Station is a key logistics area for MBTA construction activities due to its proximity to the Fenway Portal that provides access into the central tunnel area of the

Green Line,” Mecca wrote. “The MBTA uses available space adjacent to the right-of-way for materials and equipment storage and for work activities, such as welding rail. This area will be even more heavily relied upon over the next decade and beyond for these key functions as the MBTA embark [sic] upon central tunnel and station upgrades.”

Is there an alternative to the MBTA right of way for the Phase 3 connection under Park Drive? Could the Boston Parks Department parking lot be reconfigured? Would a public planning charrette help move the plan forward?

The 142-146 St. Mary’s St. proposal includes a 16-foot-wide walkway north of the D line track to create access to Fenway Station. Boston Transportation Planner Charlotte Fleetwood was asked by this reporter whether this could substitute for the Phase 3 connection if the MBTA does not allow the previously planned design. Nick Osborne from the City’s Streets Cabinet suggested in reply that advocates ask the Town of Brookline as well as the MBTA.

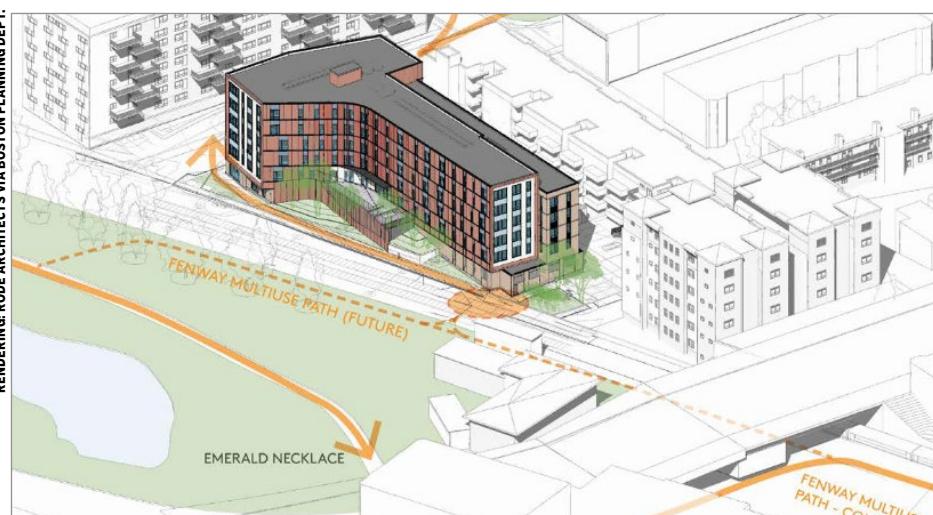
Cyclists already have a less direct way to reach Brookline streets from the Muddy River Path: the Carlton Path, which connects the track-spanning Carlton Street Bridge and Monmouth Court, just a block short of the walkway

planned for the 142-146 apartments. (One obstacle: the outside pool and landscaping at 101 Monmouth.)

Boston’s Zoning Board of Appeal approved the St. Mary’s Street proposal, which will replace a garage on the Boston and Brookline border, at its July 8 hearing. District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan and the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association (ACNA) supported the proposal. However, abutters—including the condo association at 14-18 Medfield St. represented by Attorney Greg Mistikawi of law firm Allcock & Marcus—opposed granting needed zoning variances, citing potential degradation of privacy and quality of life and other impacts.

ACNA’s letter to the ZBA also expressed concerns about the proposed paved walkway linking to the MBTA station, stressing potential negative consequences for residents in adjacent buildings.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



## Project Oscar (Finally) Reaches The Fenway

In June, the City installed two food-waste bins on New Edgerly Plaza in front of Whole Foods (Mission Hill already has bins at the Tobin Community Center).

The bins carry detailed instructions but work simply: unlock a bin using the combination shown on the box and drop in food waste. Acceptable “donations” include fruit pits, meat, dairy, coffee grounds, and, of course, vegetable peelings and scraps. See a full list and learn more at [boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar](http://boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar).



## DASHBOARD

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Monday and Thursday

#### FENWAY

Tuesday and Friday

#### MISSION HILL

Tuesday and Friday

### STREET CLEANING

In the Fenway, check both City and DCR schedules to see when street cleaning takes place. Find City info at [tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8](http://tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8). See the DCR schedule at [tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3](http://tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3).

# Before It Was 401 Park, It Was the Amazon of Its Day...Sears

BY ED BALLO

**F**or 60 years, the Art Deco building now known as 401 Park (formerly the Landmark Center) was the Northeast catalogue and distribution center for Sears, Roebuck & Co. For our younger readers, the company was the Amazon of its day!

Sears occupied the site from 1928 until 1988. The building is a masterpiece of the Art Deco style popular from the 1920s to the 1940s. Buildings of this era often stress verticality and use chevrons, zigzags, and other geometrical forms. Art Deco can very often look nautical or aeronautical, since it corresponds to a period when great strides were being made in the field of design, such as the streamlining of ships, cars and airplanes. The style is somewhat rare in Boston—certainly on this scale—since it corresponds to a period when Boston’s economy was slowing down. That said, the Financial District has a handful of lovely examples, the best being the United Shoe Building of 1930.

At 1.5 million square feet, the Sears building was the largest building in the city by square footage. It was designed by Chicago-based George Nimmons (1865-1947). In addition to studying architecture in Europe, *de rigueur* for any aspiring artist or architect of his day, he studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1887, he joined the prestigious Chicago architectural firm of Burnham and Root as a draftsman.

Nimmons quickly began to specialize in commercial and mercantile structures and in 1904, he landed the commission of a lifetime for Sears, Roebuck & Co. Over the next 25 years, he would go on to design seven large commercial buildings for them in Chicago, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Seattle, Memphis, Los Angeles, and Boston—his last—in 1928. The year 1928 also represented Sear’s major pivot from catalogue-only sales to

PHOTO: BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRIARLY COLLECTION VIA DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH



Sears Distributing Center in paved-over parkland in July 1954.

catalogue AND retail.

Mail orders for New England and parts of New York, previously handled by the Philadelphia distribution center, could now be handled swiftly out of Boston. The building was served by two rail spurs, which veered off of the Boston and Albany Railroad tracks at the present-day Lansdowne commuter rail station; the spurs became the bed for the current “Fenway Multi-Use Path” (see related story above; the Boston and Albany tracks became the D Line branch of the MBTA in 1959). I did find it amusing to note that the Boston and Albany line, now used for Amtrak’s Lake Shore Limited, leads to Chicago!

Construction of the building was swift but, unfortunately, not without peril. There were several fatal accidents. On April 18, 1928, three men died and four were seriously injured in two accidents that occurred within hours of each other. The latter was especially dramatic, as workers were swept away in

a wave of liquid concrete and debris. Workers said that the job was “rushed,” which put safety protocols at risk. It’s true that Sears was extremely eager to push the building along so that it would be ready for the 1928 Christmas shopping season.

Despite these unfortunate incidents, as an employer Sears was very progressive. It sourced much of its merchandise from New England suppliers, provided an onsite hospital staffed with a doctor and two nurses, and offered a pension plan and profit-sharing. (As recent obituaries in The Fenway News have shown, some employees moved to the Fenway to live close to their jobs at the warehouse and its retail store—Editor)

The Sears building opened just as automobile use began exploding. Soon, the building needed more and more parking. By the early 1950s, Sears threatened to leave Boston unless the City allowed it to purchase the parkland across the street—part of the Emerald Necklace—and pave it over for parking. It must have been a bitter pill for the City to swallow, but Sears was a major employer with well over 1,000 people. As egregious as this seems today, in the 1950s, Boston’s economy was in free fall, and urban renewal in all its horrific manifestations (the Central Artery, the West End, and Government Center) ruled the day.

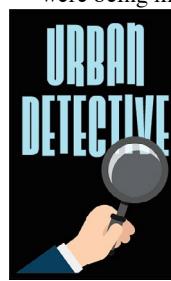
Sears left in 1988, and the City moved swiftly to have the original 1928 building classified as a city landmark (later additions were demolished). This classification, as well as U.S. Department of the Interior recognition, would guide redevelopment over the next decades. Today, with Time Out Market, Trillium Brewery, REI, and a large life-sciences presence firmly anchored, 401 Park’s future looks bright indeed. While you can no longer buy a washing machine or a dryer here, they have you covered if you’re hankering for a sashimi bowl with a side order of nori and a cold Côte de Provence rosé on a warm summer night!

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. To learn more about the creation of the Sears parking lot in the 1950’s, read the excellent account on Universal Hub at [tinyurl.com/p5vj3kez](http://tinyurl.com/p5vj3kez).



Phase 3 of the multi-use path would run just behind the vantage point for this photo, taken on the Fenway Station platform. The building sits on the 142-146 site.

RENDERING: RODE ARCHITECTS VIA BOSTON PLANNING DEPT.



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLINES

### In A Surprise, 2 Charlesgate Heads to the Auction Block

The much-debated 2 Charlesgate project on the old TransNational Travel (TNT) site in the West Fens goes up for auction on August 12. Multiple websites and publications reported the news almost exactly one year to the day after the project's approval by the BRA board (legally still the entity under which the Planning Department operates). UK-based developer Scape purchased the TNT site at Ipswich Street and the Bowker Overpass in 2019 and ultimately came up with a plan for a 28-story building with 400 furnished "compact" apartments—68 of them, or 17 percent, affordable—extensive social spaces, and 2,400 feet of ground-floor retail. Scape's design team developed intriguing elements, like a monumental staircase connecting the site's two levels. Although Scape billed them as community benefits, they would convey equal value to the project itself. Many residents vocally opposed the building's height, and parks advocates argued that it violated a City restriction on buildings taller than seven stories within 100 feet of a park (the Back Bay Fens). In response, a community benefits package promised \$700,000 for park maintenance, tree care, and the Charlesgate Park redesign. It also included a \$300,000 contribution to support affordable housing development by the Fenway CDC. Those numbers matter, as development rights typically transfer with sale of a parcel.

### Tania Fernandes Anderson Officially Steps Down

District 7 City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson left office on July 4. She'd postponed her resignation long enough to avoid a special election that would have given the district an interim councilor for less than six months. Fernandes Anderson pleaded guilty in April to one count of wire fraud and a second count of stealing federal money. She was convicted of paying a \$13,000 bonus to a relative she'd put on her payroll with the understanding that the relative would kick back \$7,000 of the money. A biographical page remains posted on the City's website. It notes her resignation and directs voters in need of constituent services—including her constituents in the East Fens—to call (617-635-3510) or email (district.7@boston.gov) her former office.

### New Korean Food and Drink Coming to Mission Hill

Mission Hill will welcome a Korean restaurant and a Korean distillery once the usual hurdles—licensing hearings, financing, and major remodeling (especially for the distillery)—are cleared. The owners of the Bibim Box food truck posted a flyer outside the now-closed Butterfly Café at the Roxbury Crossing T station announcing their future restaurant. And Namu Distilling Co, a small-batch distillery, will brew *soju* and gin

flavored with green botanicals, grown onsite, at their newly leased facility at 89 Heath Street. The building, now vacant but zoned for industrial use, was formerly owned by the Lenox Martell soda and syrup company.

### Committees Endorse Ahead of Sept. 9 Preliminary Election

Three area Democratic ward committees have announced endorsements for this fall's municipal elections. A preliminary election on Sept. 9 will select two candidates for each office. They will compete in the general election on Nov. 4.

#### BOSTON WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE:

- Mayor: Michelle Wu
- At-large City Councilors: Ruthzee Louijeune, Julia Mejia, Henry Santana, Alexandra Valdez
- District 7 City Council: Mavrick Afonso
- District 8 City Council: Sharon Durkan

#### BOSTON WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE:

- Mayor: Michelle Wu
- At-large City Councilors: Ruthzee Louijeune, Henry Santana
- District 8 City Council: Sharon Durkan

#### BOSTON WARD 10 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE:

- Mayor: Michelle Wu
- At-large City Councilors: Ruthzee Louijeune, Henry Santana
- District 6 City Council: Ben Weber

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

The Boston Arts Academy mounted its first professional stage production with *Kufre N' Quay*, the halfway point in a citywide initiative, spearheaded by The Huntington, to present nine plays by Mfonisio Udofoia about Nigerian immigrants and their descendants. Wheelock Family Theatre co-presented the production with a cast of adult professionals and about a dozen Arts Academy students. *Globe* theater critic Don Aucoin, who thought the script didn't

live up to the earlier plays in the cycle, nevertheless had special praise for BAA student Ngolela Kamanampata, 13, calling her a "clear standout." ➤

Matthew Teitelbaum has (almost) left the building. The Canadian-born art historian leaves the Museum of Fine Arts this month after ten years as director. Teitelbaum oversaw a significant expansion of the museum's collections; led the museum through the pandemic; and helped direct the institution's response to charges of elitism, exclusion and racism. ➤ *The Boston Real Estate Times* reported on a major refinancing of The Viridian on Boylston Street, calling the West Fens property—in language that could only have come from a PR firm—"a hallmark of upscale urban living in Boston." (Our readers prefer to call it the home of the Fenway Community Center.) ➤

*The Boston Public Library* officially renamed its Nubian Square branch to honor WBZ-TV news reporter Sarah-Ann Shaw, the first black journalist hired by a Boston television station. According to a *Globe* feature, the Roxbury native strongly supported the branch from the time of its creation in 1978 and the BPL generally. ➤ ICYMI neglected to report last month on the Elliot Norton Awards—Boston's version of the Tonys—where local theater companies walked off with several prizes. Overall, The Huntington received five awards in the large theater category. Among midsized and small companies, Wheelock Family Theatre won for outstanding sound design and shared an award with Lyric Stage Boston for outstanding costume design. ➤

Roger Norrington, Handel & Haydn Society's artistic director from 2006 to 2009, died in his native England, according to *The New York Times*. ➤



## Book Northeastern's Community Event Space, Northeastern Crossing

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

### BOOK HERE:



1175 Tremont St,  
Boston, MA 02120



communityengagement@northeastern.edu



communityengagement.northeastern.edu



617-373-2666

### Follow us!

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N  
Northeastern University  
City and Community Engagement

## FARMERS MARKET CONTINUES AT CHARLESGATE PARK

Visit the Charlesgate Farmers Market on Comm. Ave. between Charlesgate East and Charlesgate West on Sundays 10am-2pm and enjoy fresh-squeezed lemonade, pastries and coffee, fresh produce, fresh bread, seafood, meats and cheeses, as well as other locally produced products. Relax at picnic tables and listen to live music while meeting neighbors and supporting local small businesses. The Charlesgate Farmers Market is sponsored by the Muddy Water Initiative.

## 71 Apartments Proposed on Parker Hill Ave.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

**B**rookline developer Jason Savage has proposed another real estate venture in Mission Hill at 11-11A Parker Hill Avenue. It would add 71 apartments in a six-story addition to the existing 24-unit building at number 11. At 49,000 square feet, the design qualifies for the City's zoning for small projects; 50,000 square feet represents the threshold for Article 80 large project review.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for August 13; public comments should be sent to the Planning Department's project manager, Tyler Ross.

The odd-shaped parcel was historically part of a large estate owned by the heirs of Boston's Reverend Samuel Stillman (1737-1807). The existing building, built in 1965, faces the street diagonally with a long driveway leading to a parking lot at the rear where the new

project will be built. Although it was labeled "luxury" in a 1965 *Boston Globe* article and named Parker Hill Manor—a nod to the sprawling pre-Civil War house on the site razed in 1964—the four-story building has no elevator, fitness center, or roof deck. The 11A addition would contain all of these features.

The proposed development represents the third Parker Hill Avenue real estate deal in recent months for Savage. The recently approved 36 Parker Hill Ave. (now 200 Hillside St.) is also a multistory rental project designed by the same architectural team. However, Savage has yet to submit a proposal for the vacant property at 63 Parker Hill Ave., a former assisted living facility that Savage purchased in February at a foreclosure auction.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

## Musk May Have Left DOGE, But Tesla Takedown Rallies At The Pru Roll On

BY LESLIE POND

**N**early six months into the grassroots Tesla Takedown movement, weekly protests continue on Saturdays at Tesla's Prudential showroom. Even with fewer participants (about 40 on June 28 and 25 on July 19, down from several hundred in March and April) and without the clowns and musicians, the energy at the protests remains high. Some passersby show their support with fist pumps and clapping in time with chants.

Protester Julie Comptois was visiting from Detroit and attended the June 28 rally with her sister, Fenway resident Sue Comptois. Julie Comptois said she showed up "because I'm angry...and something awful is happening every day," citing the arrests and detentions of immigrants and recent Supreme Court rulings. Holding a sign with the demand "ABOLISH ICE AND DOGE," she said, "I couldn't think of a better way to spend my vacation."

Peggy Belmonte, who is 81 years old and came in from Saugus, held a sign calling for "NO KINGS" and "Hands Off! Vets and Social Security," among other messages. She said many of her friends are disabled, so she

was protesting on their behalf as well.

The organizers also remain resolute. Michael Sabatini, who commutes from Hingham to co-lead rallies, and Jo Lee said the protests have broadened to focus on both President Trump's and Elon Musk's actions. Lee wrote in an email: "We're ultimately here because of how Trump and Elon have been hurting all of us and our country," and they're "serving the rich at our expense."

Even more than Musk's role in the massive federal jobs and funding cuts, it was his gesture at a rally on January 20—seen by many as a Nazi salute—that continues to be the "gamechanger" for Sabatini. Its significance is a major reason why he "wants Musk and his money out of politics" altogether.

Lee says her motivation also comes from awareness that "protest is illegal in a lot of countries around the world" and seeing how Trump deployed the military against protesters in Los Angeles. She plans to "keep showing up to reinforce our First Amendment rights, and keep organizing to build our power."

What's next for the Tesla Takedown movement? Lee emphasized that Musk is



"still entwined in our government, and we're still left with the damage from his attacks on our government services." So, organizers are continuing to put financial pressure on Musk "in multiple ways: continuing the social pressure not to buy Teslas, pressuring T-Mobile to ditch their contract with Starlink (part of SpaceX, the other pillar of Elon's wealth), and convincing local government pension funds to divest from Elon's companies."

Sabatini noted that the Tesla showroom and T-Mobile store on Boylston Street are across the street from each other, so protesters are well-positioned to call on T-Mobile to cancel its Starlink contracts.

Backlash against Musk's political actions

is often credited as one of the factors affecting Tesla's performance this year. Tesla's stock price has rebounded somewhat from the lows seen in March and April. However, media outlets recently reported that Tesla's earnings have suffered a significant dive, and according to a July 23rd CNN article, Tesla's net revenue fell 16 percent from one year ago.

In lieu of a protest at the Prudential on August 2, Tesla Takedown organizers will be tabling at the Massachusetts 50501 "Rage Against The Regime" festival. Protests will resume the following Saturday.

For previous articles on the Tesla Takedown protests, see the April and May issues of *The Fenway News*.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

JOIN FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, & LOCAL DEMS

## 14TH ANNUAL WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**Saturday, August 16  
2:00PM - 4:00PM  
Titus Sparrow Park  
75 W. Rutland Square**



**Co-Hosted by  
Mayor Michelle Wu**

Rain Date:  
Sunday, August 17  
For more information,  
scan the QR code or visit  
[bit.ly/ward4icecreamsocial](http://bit.ly/ward4icecreamsocial)



## Keep Wipes out of Pipes!



Towelettes



**DOING THIS**



**AND THIS!**

Bathroom Wipes Baby Wipes Disinfecting Wipes

Wipes that claim to be "flushable" and "sewer safe" in fact are not sewer friendly. These wipes do not break down as they travel through pipes and the public sewer system. Instead, they create backups in your home plumbing and can cause sewer overflows in the street. To protect your plumbing and the sanitary sewer system, only toilet paper belongs in the toilet. No wipes!

 **Boston Water and  
Sewer Commission**



PHOTO: LESLIE POND

## Recalling The Day A Cop Told Salerno To 'Put Down the Bullhorn, Sister!'

BY BOB CASE

**T**hat was the order a Boston police officer gave Rosaria Salerno, in her nun's habit and addressing a crowd of citizens gathered in protest in 1972, as she told the truth about the flaws in the Boston Redevelopment Authority's urban renewal plan for the Fenway. The protestors had carried a coffin to the door of the Christian Science Mother Church to symbolize the potential death of the Fenway neighborhood.

Rosaria had come to the Fenway from the South Side of Chicago in



1970 to engage in campus ministry. She quickly became embroiled in the wonderfully rich and, at the time, chaotic and turbulent place.

Over time, Rosaria became involved in opposition to the Vietnam War and activism against nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. After leaving the ministry she ran for and was elected to the Boston City Council, and she ran for mayor in 1993, fighting

**Bob Case and Rosaria Salerno at Salerno's 90th birthday celebration in June.**

for an affordable and green Boston. She contributed to the vitality of St. Cecilia Parish and has links with church leaders working in South Africa.

With David Sondras, Randy Fadem, Karla Rideout, and many others, Rosaria started the Fenway Interagency Group and the Fenway Community Development Corporation in 1973. She has lived in the First Fenway Cooperative since its founding in 1980.

Rosaria, thank you for being a friend, and thank you for never having put that bullhorn down!

**Bob Case lives in the East Fens.**

## CARTER SCHOOL NEARS COMPLETION

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



**A photo from the Gainsborough Street footbridge over the Orange Line shows the new William E. Carter School as it nears completion. Located next to the Southwest Corridor Park, the school is on track for pupils to return this fall. The multimillion-dollar facility, partly funded by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, will accommodate up to 60 students, ages 3-21, with significant cognitive disabilities and complex medical needs.**

## Muddy River Gets Middling Grade in Watershed Quality 'Report Card'

BY GRANT HILLYER

**A** recently released Water Quality Report Card announced the latest letter grades for the rivers that flow into Boston Harbor. The Charles, Mystic, and Neponset watersheds were all included in the rankings, which highlighted trends in recreational water quality. All three rivers continued to show improvement, yet have struggled to reach the highest available grades due to lingering issues.

The grade and report for Muddy River will likely be of most interest to Fenway residents. The Muddy River received a C+, on the lower end of grades received across the Charles River. The C+ followed closely behind the Bs received in the headwaters and Lower Basin and the As in the upper and lower-middle watersheds of the rest of the Charles River. While the more urban parts of the Charles have shown improvement over time, progress has stalled in the upper and middle watersheds.

The rivers continue to struggle with a few issues, particularly those water bodies that are surrounded by paved or

impervious surfaces. In those areas, pet waste and other runoff can enter waterways unfiltered, leading to worse water quality. Additionally, the most recent grades reflected the trends and environmental facts of the last year. Heavy rains in the past year led to overwhelmed sewer systems, causing overflows into waterways. This is especially a problem for the Charles, which suffers from combined sewer overflows, a design flaw that sends untreated sewage into rivers during heavy rains. Large storms also contribute heavily to pollution entering the river in runoff from the streets.

Another factor contributing to the grades received by all three watersheds is phosphorus pollution. While a necessary plant nutrient, phosphorus in excessive amounts contributes to algae and aquatic plant overgrowth. This fuels cyanobacteria blooms, particularly during summer, which produce toxins dangerous to people and pets and can shut down beaches and recreation areas. The Charles and Mystic rivers both experienced cyanobacteria blooms last year.

*Grant Hillyer lives in the West Fens.*

## SOX BOX

FRI, 8/1 7:10PM	SAT, 8/2 4:10PM	SUN, 8/3 11:35AM	MON, 8/4 7:10PM
TUE, 8/5 7:10PM	WED, 8/6 7:10PM	FRI, 8/15 7:10PM	SAT, 8/16 4:10PM
SUN, 8/17 1:35PM	MON, 8/18 7:10PM	TUE, 8/19 7:10PM	FRI, 8/29 7:10PM
	SAT, 8/30 4:10PM	SUN, 8/31 1:35PM	

**This month's home games at Fenway Park**

**MAAM CELEBRATES SUMMER WITH 'ART ON THE PLAZA'**  
On July 24, the MassArt Art Museum hosted its annual summer party, Art on the Plaza, with dancing, games, music, and artmaking.



for an affordable and green Boston. She contributed to the vitality of St. Cecilia Parish and has links with church leaders working in South Africa.

With David Sondras, Randy Fadem, Karla Rideout, and many others, Rosaria started the Fenway Interagency Group and the Fenway Community Development Corporation in 1973. She has lived in the First Fenway Cooperative since its founding in 1980.

Rosaria, thank you for being a friend, and thank you for never having put that bullhorn down!

**Bob Case lives in the East Fens.**

*The documents mentioned contain crucial information to you as a city of Boston resident and stakeholder. Translation services are available to communicate the content of these documents at no additional cost to you. If you require translation services, please contact [idevoe@vzb.com](mailto:idevoe@vzb.com), (617) 607-0091.*

*Los documentos mencionados tienen información crucial para usted como residente y parte interesada de la ciudad de Boston. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles para comunicar el contenido de estos documentos para usted sin costo adicional. Si necesita servicios de traducción, contáctese con [idevoe@vzb.com](mailto:idevoe@vzb.com), (617) 607-0091.*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Boston Redevelopment Authority ("BRA"), d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA"), acting by and through the Boston Planning Department ("Planning Department") hereby gives notice pursuant to Article 80, Section 80A-2 of the Boston Zoning Code ("Code") that on **July 30, 2025**, an Institutional Master Plan Notification Form //Project Notification Form ("IMPNF") was filed pursuant to Section 80D-5 and Section 80B-5 of the Code, respectively, by Wentworth Institute of Technology, Inc. ("Wentworth") in collaboration with Balfour Beatty Campus Solutions, LLC (the "Developer"). With the submission of the IMPNF/PNF, Wentworth is initiating IMP review under Article 80D of the Code for adoption of an amendment to the 2024-2034 Wentworth Institute of Technology Institutional Master Plan (the "2024 IMP"), which was approved by the Boston Zoning Commission in November 2024, as well as initiating review of the Pike Residence Hall project (the "Proposed Project") to be developed by the Developer, under Article 80B, Large Project Review.

The Proposed Project, which is designed to house Wentworth's

entire first-year class, will contain approximately 222,200 square feet of Gross Floor Area, measure approximately 212 feet in height and contain approximately 964 student beds, three resident advisor apartments, student support and amenity spaces, and dining, wellness and gathering spaces. To enable construction of the Proposed Project, approximately 181 parking spaces within the existing West Parking Lot will be eliminated. The IMPNF also reflects Wentworth's desire to modify two previously approved Proposed Institutional Projects—the Huntington Residence Hall and the West Quad Academic Building—by revising and relocating those Proposed Institutional Projects to provide for: 1) an academic building along Huntington Avenue (the Huntington Academic Building), and 2) a smaller residence hall also in the heart of the Wentworth Campus (the Quad Residence Hall) situated to the east of the Proposed Project along the Pike pedestrian connector that runs east-west on the Wentworth campus.

The Proponent is seeking a Scoping Determination for an IMP Amendment pursuant to Section 80D-5.3 of the Code and a Scoping Determination for

the Large Project Review of the Proposed Project pursuant to Section 80B-5.3 of the Code. The BPDA/Planning Department, in its Scoping Determination on the PNF, may waive further review, pursuant to Section 80B-5.3(d) of the Code. The IMPNF/PNF may be obtained from the Planning Department website—[www.bostonplans.org](http://www.bostonplans.org)—or at the Office of the Secretary of the BPDA, Room 910, Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. Copies of the IMPNF/PNF are also available at Wentworth's library at 550 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. **Public comments on the IMPNF/PNF, including the comments of public agencies, should be submitted in writing to Nick Carter, Boston Planning Department, One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201 or by e-mail to [nick.carter@boston.gov](mailto:nick.carter@boston.gov) within 30 days of the publication of this notice.**

**BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
Teresa Polhemus  
Executive Director/Secretary  
August 1, 2025**

*The documents mentioned contain crucial information to you as a city of Boston resident and stakeholder. Translation services are available to communicate the content of these documents at no additional cost to you. If you require translation services, please contact [idevoe@vzb.com](mailto:idevoe@vzb.com), (617) 607-0091.*

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### AVISO PÚBLICO

La Autoridad de Desarrollo Urbano de Boston («BRA», por sus siglas en inglés), que opera bajo el nombre de Agencia de Planificación y Desarrollo de Boston («BPDA»), y actúa por y a través del Departamento de Planificación de Boston, notifica por la presente que, en virtud del Artículo 80, Sección 80A-2 del Código de Zonificación de Boston (el «Código»), el **30 de julio de 2025**, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Inc. («Wentworth»), en colaboración con Balfour Beatty Campus Solutions, LLC (el «Desarrollador»), presentó un Formulario de notificación del Plan Maestro Institucional//Formulario de notificación del proyecto («IMPNF/PNF») en virtud de la Sección 80D-5 y la Sección 80B-5 del Código, respectivamente. Con la presentación del IMPNF/PNF, Wentworth inicia la revisión del Plan Maestro Institucional (IMP) en virtud del Artículo 80D del Código para la adopción de una enmienda del Plan Maestro Institucional 2024-2034 del Instituto de Tecnología Wentworth (el «IMP 2024»), que fue aprobado por la Comisión de Zonificación de Boston en noviembre de 2024, y también da inicio a la revisión del proyecto de la residencia universitaria Pike (el «Proyecto propuesto») que estará a cargo del Desarrollador, en virtud del Artículo 80B, Revisión de grandes proyectos.

El proyecto propuesto, que está diseñado para alojar a todos los estudiantes de primer año de Wentworth, tendrá

aproximadamente 222,200 pies cuadrados de superficie construida total, medirá aproximadamente 212 pies de altura y contará con aproximadamente 964 camas para estudiantes, tres apartamentos para consejeros de residentes, espacios de apoyo y servicios para estudiantes, y espacios de comedor, bienestar y reunión. Para poder avanzar con la construcción del proyecto propuesto, deberán eliminarse aproximadamente 181 plazas de estacionamiento en el actual estacionamiento oeste. El IMPNF también refleja el deseo de Wentworth de modificar dos proyectos institucionales propuestos previamente aprobados—la residencia universitaria Huntington y el edificio académico West Quad—mediante la revisión y la reubicación de dichos proyectos institucionales propuestos con el fin de proveer: 1) un edificio académico sobre Huntington Avenue (el edificio académico Huntington) y 2) una residencia más pequeña también en el corazón del campus de Wentworth (la residencia Quad), ubicada al este del proyecto propuesto sobre el conector peatonal Pike que se extiende de este a oeste en el campus Wentworth.

El proponente solicita una Determinación de alcance para una enmienda del IMP de acuerdo con la Sección 80D-5.3 del Código y una Determinación de alcance para la Revisión de grandes proyectos del

proyecto propuesto, de acuerdo con la Sección 80B-5.3 del Código. La BPDA y el Departamento de Planificación, en su Determinación de alcance sobre el PNF, podría decidir omitir una revisión adicional, de conformidad con la Sección 80B-5.3(d) del Código. El IMPNF/PNF puede obtenerse en la página web del Departamento de Planificación—[www.bostonplans.org](http://www.bostonplans.org)—o en la Oficina del Secretario de la BPDA, Sala 910, Ayuntamiento de Boston, Boston, MA 02201, de lunes a viernes de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m., salvo los días festivos oficiales. También pueden obtenerse ejemplares del IMPNF/PNF en la biblioteca de Wentworth, situada en 550 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, de lunes a viernes de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m., salvo los días festivos oficiales. **Los comentarios del público sobre el IMPNF/PNF, incluidos los de los organismos públicos, deberán enviarse por escrito a Nick Carter, Boston Planning Department, One City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201 o por correo electrónico a [nick.carter@boston.gov](mailto:nick.carter@boston.gov) en un plazo de 30 días a partir de la publicación de este anuncio.**

**AUTORIDAD DE DESARROLLO URBANO DE BOSTON  
QUE OPERA BAJO EL NOMBRE DE  
AGENCIA DE PLANIFICACIÓN Y  
DESARROLLO DE BOSTON**

**Teresa Polhemus,  
Directora Ejecutiva/Secretaria  
1 de agosto de 2025**

# TheArts

## SENIOR EVENTS

For more information, view the calendar at [operationpeaceboston.org](http://operationpeaceboston.org) or drop by 11am-3pm for a paper calendar. Call 617 536-7154 to get on the mailing list.

- Wednesday, August 6 and 27 at 12pm: **SELF-GUIDED WATER COLOR**
- Thursday, August 7 at 12pm: **COMMONWEALTH CARE ALLIANCE** with Andreia Varela
- Wednesday, August 13 at 11:30am: **ROCK DECORATION**
- Thursday, August 14 at 12pm: **NARCAN PRESENTATION** with Sam Greene, Fenway CDC Community Engagement Director
- Thursday August 21 at 12pm: **ICE CREAM PARTY**
- Thursday August 28 at 12pm: **RAMLER PARK**
- Tuesdays at 2pm: **MUSIC4WELLNESS** with Berklee College of Music
- Wednesdays at 1pm: **TECH CAFE** with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly

## The Verb Plunges Visitors into '60s Rock Revival



*The Verb Hotel lobby doubles as a gallery of ephemera from Boston's storied rock music scene, particularly in the 1960s and '70s. It sets the tone for a hotel built to convey a rock-music vibe.*

BY ALISON BARNET

**M**y friend Jerry and I recently took a walkthrough of the Verb Hotel with manager Joe Arbeely. I'd been curious about the hotel after reading recent articles in both

the Boston University alumni magazine and *Spare Change News*.

Verb's welcome mat says "Verbvibe." "Verb" is short for *reverb*, short for *reverberation*, which is guitar lingo. The exhibit starts in the lobby, where, conspicuous among many framed relics that include a Fleetwood Mac album cover, is a long skinny poster of a naked Mick Jagger holding a Rolling Stones "Sticky Fingers" cover strategically placed in front of him (pictured).

We proceeded down the hall, traveling back in time to hippie-dippy glory days. We saw hundreds of relics: framed music posters, album covers, ads, drawers full of vinyl records, and a wall of 45s in a bathroom.

### I Can See for Miles [the Who]

The Verb, located at 1271 Boylston St., "in the very heart of the Fenway neighborhood," has been open for 10 years. Before that, it was Howard Johnson's hotel and in 1959 the Fenway Motor Lodge. I'd been in HoJo's back in the 1990s to celebrate Helen Cox's retirement—we presented her with her first computer. At the Verb a computer is a thing of the future with the

hotel's focus on "oldies but goodies" of the late '60s and '70s.

The Verb's main curator is David Bieber, a 1970 BU alum with a masters degree in journalism. He "never passed by a free fanzine [fan magazine] or poster without picking it up." A friend of Peter Wolf of J. Geils Band fame, he now lives in Norwood, where he has an enormous archival space with more than one million items. When I read about it in the alumni magazine, I got such a kick out of the idea that I cut the article out and saved it—just like him!

Bieber worked for the *Boston Phoenix*, *Boston After Dark*, and other alternative newspapers that began in the 1960s. Later, he worked for FM station WFNX (bought by *Phoenix* publisher Steve Mindich in 1983). He was music director at WBCN when it was next door to the HoJo's at 1265 Boylston. Back in the day, the Fenway-Kenmore area was hip, with many hot spots—the Tea Party, the "Rat" (Rathskeller), clubs and bars, and underground newspaper offices.

### The Big Mattress [WBCN]

Our tour included the "backstage," an outdoor area where VIP deluxe trailers are parked in front of Fenway Park bleachers, welcoming to visiting performers, the Red Sox, and other ball players. They have big beds, showers, sound systems, and outdoor chairs. Said Jerry, "This is wild; you don't expect to see this in the middle of a city."

Everything was wild! Next, we went into one of the Verb's boutique bedrooms. In addition to a guitar and drums, it held a small typewriter, a turntable, and an ironing board with the message "some like it hot."

### Still Crazy After All These Years [Paul Simon]

There's also an outdoor swimming pool and Hojoko, a Japanese tavern. At one time, the *Phoenix* had offices in the Verb. The Verb's owner is Samuels and Associates, noted for 401 Park, the Lyrik and many other Fenway real estate developments.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End.

## KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



**Flying together celebrating 51 years**

## UPCOMING EXHIBITION: Seasonal Inspirations— The Muddy River

**GARY TUCKER, ARTIST**

**OPENING RECEPTION WITH THE ARTIST  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 4 PM**

**Free and open to the public**

**RSVP to [administrator@kajiasostudio.com](mailto:administrator@kajiasostudio.com)**

**Exhibit continues through October 18.**

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# August CALENDAR

## Now ☰ Sun, 8/24

A heavy hitter among MFA film programs, the **BOSTON FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL** unspools across the first four weekends of August with 16 films released in 2023 and 2024. Showtimes vary across Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with three to five films per weekend. The films span comedy, drama, and historical spectacle and address everything from politics to the struggles of immigrants to the intersecting love lives of a trio of women. Tickets \$12 members/\$15 nonmembers. For film details, times, and ticket purchases, visit [mfa.org/programs/films](http://mfa.org/programs/films).

## Now ☰ Sun, 9/21

Known for both a flower-filled courtyard and dense outdoor garden, the **GARDNER MUSEUM** hosts three related exhibitions focused on gardens. *Ming Fay: The Edge of the Garden* explores familiar botanical elements—seeds, fruits, vegetables—displayed at unusual scales and “how they can unlock memory and imagination.” *Flowers for Isabella* focuses on Gardner’s decades-long interest in gardening, the seeds (get it?) of the museum’s iconic courtyard. On the Evans Way façade, *Yu-Wen Wu: Reigning Beauty*, 2025 projects a shower of blossoms from the Gardner’s own plants against a stormy sky. That piece runs through October. Visit [gardnermuseum.org](http://gardnermuseum.org) for details and ticket prices.

## Now ☰ Fri, 12/19

The Mass Historical Society commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with the exhibition **1775: REBELS, RIGHTS & REVOLUTION** and a variety of public programs, including gallery talks, an author talk, and moderated discussions. Details at [masshist.org/events/series/250](http://masshist.org/events/series/250).

## CORRECTION

Last month, we incorrectly referred to Carmen A. Pola as Rosa. We regret the error.

## Sea God Born In His Father's Vomit

POEM BY JOHN ENGSTROM

The god of oceans is looking pretty washed up these days.

Neptune's looking like someone who really was Hatched in his father's gut and Spewed out over dinner.

(As soon as that baby saw light, He knew his best days were behind him.)

Neptune used to be a paragon of masculinity. Because of ancient Greek sculpture and pottery, We picture the oceanic Olympian as a muscular, athletic male in his prime, A thrower of tritons, a shaker of earth and sea, Beefed-up and naked like Johnny Weissmuller in “Tarzan,” Manhood incarnate.

Not any more—or so Flemish artist Gerrit von Honthorst Wants us to believe, with his sprawling Baroque painting “Triumph of the Winter Queen: Allegory of Justice” (1636). (housed in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.)

Honthorst makes Neptune a victim Of revisionist mythology, picturing him not as

## Sat, 8/2

**JUNKYARD MARKET JAMBOREE** at New Edgerly Plaza features local vendors offering art, vintage clothing, handmade jewelry, and more, alongside a live funk and jazz jam session showcasing talented local musicians. Supported by a grant from Age Strong Boston, the Boston Rhythm Riders provide a special line dancing session at 6pm. 15 Westland Ave. 3pm. **FREE**

## Sun, 8/3

The upstart **BOSTON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA** concludes its summer series with a concert featuring Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 and complementary contemporary pieces by Jessie Montgomery and Emma Lou Diemer. Jordan Hall, 3pm. Tickets \$30/50/pay what you can. Visit [bforchestra.org/summer-stage](http://bforchestra.org/summer-stage) for details and tickets.

## Tue, 8/5

**SUNSET CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY PARK** present Sofia Sunshine. The series features Berklee musicians in one of Boston's most charming outdoor spaces and is presented by Berklee College of Music, the Fenway Civic Association, Friends of Symphony Park, and the City of Boston. 6pm. 39 Edgerly Road. **FREE**

## Wed 8/6, 13, 20, & 27

**BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA** closes its summer season with a full month of concerts at the Hatch Shell. **AUG. 6:** Award-winning Cambridge ensemble Mercury Orchestra performs works by Respighi and Finzi; **AUG 13:** The Landmarks Orchestra returns with “Debussy & Music of the Sea” in collaboration with the New England Aquarium, with works by Ravel, Mendelssohn, and Erich Korngold; **AUG 20:** Symphony No. 3, “Eroica,” heads a Beethoven-heavy program; **AUG 27:** Aug 27: Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe Suit No. 2 and Mahler's “towering” Symphony No. 1. All concerts at the Hatch Shell, 7pm; bring a blanket or low chair. Details at [landmarksorchestra.org/](http://landmarksorchestra.org/). **FREE**

## Sat, 8/16

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee, in partnership with Mayor Michelle Wu, welcomes neighbors to its **14TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**. Join them for friendship, fun and delicious ice cream at Titus

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

## MAIN STREETS GRANT SPIFFS UP TREMONT STREET IN MISSION HILL

*Mission Hill Main Streets Director Courtney Wright shared updates on the business district at the July meeting of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill. Thanks to a beautification grant from the Boston Main Streets Foundation, Wright has hired the Clean Corners crew from Project Place to work on Tremont Street twice weekly on trash-pickup days. [Nonprofit Project Place provides jobs for individuals moving out of homelessness and incarceration.] They focus on sidewalks and litter removal. The grant also funded 13 planters for Tremont from Terrace Street to St. Alphonsus Street co-sponsored by Atlas Consultants. Businesses adjacent to the planters all received watering cans and plant-care instructions.*



## COMMUNITY

## meetings

for affordable housing and other neighborhood needs. Dinner provided. Contact [iruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org](mailto:iruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org) for more information. 6–7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St.

**MON, AUG 18** The Boston Parks and Recreation Departments hosts the second community meeting for the **REDESIGN OF JOSLIN PARK**. Improvements to the park, at the intersection of Joslin Place and Brookline Avenue, are being considered as part of the new cancer hospital proposed by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The park was established in 1860. Learn more and register at [boston.gov/joslin-park](http://boston.gov/joslin-park). 6pm.

**WED, AUG 13** The Planning Department hosts a public meeting for the proposed **11A PARKER HILL AVE. PROJECT** in Mission Hill. The meeting will examine the project and its potential impacts. The meeting will comprise a 45-minute presentation followed by 45 minutes of questions and comments from the public. This meeting was originally scheduled for August 5. Register at [bosplans.org/11Aparkerhill\\_pub](http://bosplans.org/11Aparkerhill_pub). Contact Tyler Ross at [tyler.c.ross@boston.gov](mailto:tyler.c.ross@boston.gov) with any questions. 6pm.

**THU, AUG 14** Join your neighbors for the August meeting of **FENWAY CDC'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**, a group of residents that advocates together

thoughts. They had just enjoyed a court performance of “The Tempest” by the King’s Men.

John Donne, the poet, wrote an epithalamion for the politicized pair, “the Lady Elizabeth and Count Palatine Being Married on St. Valentine’s Day.”

It’s all in rhymed couplets, with some variations in stanza form.

Donne likens the royal couple to a pair of phoenixes embracing. Elizabeth is an ornament to the heavens.

She is a sex object: “A bride, before a good night could be said, should vanish from her clothes, into her bed...”

In “Triumph of the Winter Queen,” Elizabeth looks blankly ahead, Seemingly unfazed by anything Going on around her.

Underneath her chariot, flattened to his last gasp by the heft of wheels and spikes, old Neptune expires in agony, like poor “witch man” Giles Corey, over eighty but “pressed to death” under Salem boulders in 1692, a half-century after Honthorst painted the “winter queen.”

History, the world’s biggest rolling pin, crushes god and man indiscriminately, making tragicomic pancakes of us all.

John Engstrom lives in the West Fens.

Sparrow Park (75 W. Rutland Square in the South End), 2–4pm. Rain date Sun, 8/17.

## Sat, 8/28

During **MOVING ON FENWAY** at New Edgerly Plaza, the Boston Rhythm Riders provide a special line dancing session at 6pm. 15 Westland Ave. In the event of rain, classes will take place the following day.