



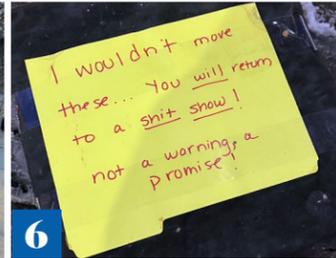
THE Fenway News

HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 52 NUMBER 3 • FEBRUARY 27–APRIL 3, 2026

SNOW ZONE



1 On Feb. 23, the second major snowstorm in four weeks buried the city. Local scenes, during and afterwards: 1) Park Drive eerily free of parking, thanks to a City ban; 2) the Muddy River; 3) intrepid skier crossing Agassiz Road; 4-5) snow-laden tree and Little Free Library in Mission Hill; 6) space saver suggesting anger-management issues on Westland Avenue; and 7) a stop sign seemingly buried in 8 feet of snow on Ederly Plaza actually sits just beyond the pile.



PHOTOS: STEVE CHASE, ALISON PULTINAS, STEVE WOLF

How Well Does City Monitor Owner-Occupant Tax Exemptions?

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Boston property taxes aren't necessarily a dull subject, especially with the current City administration. Investigating potential fraud, though, can take you down a rabbit hole.

The basics of owner-occupancy property tax exemptions seem straightforward. Fill out the application (the deadline for this quarter is April 1); claim that you live where you own as your principal residence; then wait up to three months for Taxpayer Referral & Assistance Center (TRAC) staff to verify your address with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Verification should confirm that your personal state tax return lists the address you've claimed as your principal residence. The City says the exemption saved qualified homeowners an average of \$4,353.74 in taxes this fiscal year.

According to the Assessing Department's web page, if you lie or fail to respond to a follow-up request for documentation, the City revokes your exemption.

Are there penalties for fraud?

An individual can claim only one principal residence and may receive a residential exemption on only one parcel in Boston. The State's definition of a principal (or primary) residence is the location where a person lives most of the time, serving as their permanent, legal, and functional home.

TRAC staffer Grover Petty said in an email that if the Center finds you've claimed exemptions on more than one property, you would be asked to pay the money back in full. Additional inquiries to the City's press and public records offices, however, have not yet confirmed his statement or elicited more explanations.

A curious situation arose recently with an address in Audubon Circle that neighbors identified as operating as a short-term rental property. The most recent tax invoice—available through the property look-up link on the City's website—showed a mailing address in Dover, Massachusetts, and a Boston owner-occupancy exemption. Odd, but perhaps there was an explanation.

However, these owners were also known to hold multiple properties in other neighborhoods, including an address in Mission Hill where, surprisingly, they have a second residential exemption. Other properties are registered as limited liability corporations that legally cannot qualify for the tax break.

Another unanswered question: What happens in a sale when the exemption granted to an owner-occupant seller carries over to the buyer? How long does it take for the TRAC office to correct the paperwork if the buyer is an investor and not a resident? The Assessing Department annually updates property records; would that process also audit for owner occupancy?

Dolores Boogdian, president of the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association, followed up on the short-term rental complaints in her neighborhood. She found it strange that the system, whatever it is, does not attach a red flag to any tax bills that go to an address other than the one to which the residential exemption applies.

Proving owner residency for registering a property for short-term rentals follows a slightly different process. The Inspectional Service Department requires two of these documents: proof of residential exemption; a gas, electric, oil, or water utility bill; a paper voter-registration certificate from the Elections Department; motor vehicle registration; deed; driver's license; or other state-issued identification. The City does levy fines for violations.

This is an evolving story, and maybe will identify a route away from the rabbit hole.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

ORANGE LINE TO SHUT DOWN THROUGH 3/8

The MBTA will suspend Orange Line service between Back Bay and Forest Hills from Feb. 28 to March 8. Free shuttles will run during the work.

White Stadium: One Plan, Many Threats for Residents, Taxpayers, Parks

BY JON BALL

During a Friday, Feb. 6 press conference, Mayor Michelle Wu announced that the City of Boston would commit \$135 million from the Boston Public Schools (BPS) capital budget to subsidize a \$325 million stadium and entertainment venue for the Boston Legacy professional soccer team on the site of White Stadium in Franklin Park.

The press conference featured a remarkable dribbling exhibition by an O'Bryant High School of Mathematics and Science junior, a varsity soccer player. However, two years ago, Wu attempted to move the O'Bryant from its Roxbury location to West Roxbury. Vigorous opposition from parents and staff thwarted that plan, but Wu made it clear that BPS would expend very few resources on O'Bryant's 1987 building, which—like the rest of the Madison Park complex—suffers from neglect.

On Friday February 13, exactly one week later, I reported to a BPS school where I volunteer. At the end of the day, I learned of deep cuts in the BPS budget, reported in the *Boston Globe*, that will affect instructional programs in all schools. In fact, the cuts threaten popular offerings like robotics that, in my educational experience, are the very ones that keep students interested in coming to school.

Wu and others have said that the new stadium might inspire students to become professional athletes. But is the purpose of BPS budgeting to justify stuffing millions into corporate pockets? To this retired teacher, it looks unseemly to dangle before students a shiny object like dreams of professional sports stardom at a press conference designed to counter growing community opposition to an increasingly unpopular and expensive

project, while cutting valuable and popular programs like computer science and robotics.

Franklin Park, the largest of the Emerald Necklace parks, started to decay in the 1950s, when white flight left it inside Boston's infamous red line. For decades, racist neglect of the park has continued, just as it has for the public schools. Community members have done much of the park's maintenance without City help, even including, at times, removing abandoned automobiles.

But now, gentrification is the agenda for the communities of color surrounding the park. One often hears that "Franklin Park is underused" and should become a "destination." This means that the "wrong people," namely Black and Brown neighbors in surrounding neighborhoods—who also attend BPS schools like the O'Bryant and English—are the park's main users. For far less than \$135 million (\$30 million by one estimate), Wu could have renovated White Stadium for community use and then set aside additional funds for maintenance and operations.

Instead, as reported in the *Boston Herald* and elsewhere, Wu secretly negotiated a deal with Legacy owner Jennifer Epstein's speculators to demolish White Stadium and build a massive complex, which would also attract further real estate speculation in the area and help displace current residents. The request for proposals on the White Stadium site, tailored for the results of this deal, naturally attracted exactly one bid.

High school football practice or games will be forbidden during soccer season because football cleats degrade the turf. So, the new stadium is clearly not intended for the current users, who will likely be priced out of their community anyway, by design.

Franklin Park is a National Historic Landmark. When the Boston's Landmarks Commission in April 2024 criticized plans to demolish White Stadium, also a Landmark, Wu immediately fired its director Rosanne Foley. **SEE WHITE STADIUM ON PAGE 2 >**

GUEST OPINION

FENSVIEWS

> WHITE STADIUM FROM PAGE 1

The City held only one public meeting, on March 25, 2024, at the Trotter School. After two hours of most participants' expressing fury that the community was never consulted, the City promised to hold a further meeting. But officials scheduled it for a Friday evening at 6 pm! As if that weren't enough to discourage public participation, 48 hours prior to the meeting, the City changed its format to a Zoom call.

In the mid-1980s, and again in 1994, our Back Bay Fens too was threatened with top-down planning. The City proposed such drastic measures as eliminating the Victory Gardens, removing the basketball courts, and even spraying the phragmites along Muddy River with the Monsanto's carcinogenic glyphosate. Fenway residents saw these plans as part of a move to gentrify the neighborhood, which at the time was relatively affordable.

There was one key difference a generation ago: numerous public forums. The City responded. Apparently, Mayors Ray Flynn and Tom Menino were not determined to stamp out democracy

just to get their way. Our voices prevailed, with plans redrawn, yielding compromises most people could live with.

And in 1998-2002, the Fenway encountered another "done deal": a plan to subsidize the Red Sox with \$213 million in public funds to obtain land and build a garage on Boylston Street for a new ballpark. We vociferously resisted. It's hard to forget those shouting matches at Fenway High. City Councilors, Mike Ross, Chuck Turner, and Dapper O'Neill, stood with us. The Red Sox stayed put. No public money for a private corporation.

It's worth asking if even Franklin Park—Frederick Law Olmsted's masterpiece and a National Landmark—isn't safe from private developers, is any park anywhere, safe? We all have a stake in the White Stadium struggle. For more information, or to join this community effort, visit FranklinParkDefenders.com, or watch YouTube documentary *Removed* at tinyurl.com/2dwr6r4a.

Former Fenway News board member and contributor Jon Ball is a member of Franklin Park Defenders, a citizen group advocating a publicly owned renovation of White Stadium.

Long Local History of Organizing Shows the Need to Get Involved

BY KERIN WELLS

An address is more than just a number and a spot on a map; it's a determining factor for the quality of resources and opportunities you have access to and who your community is composed of. An address shapes your daily life in more ways than you may even be conscious of.

For that reason, there is incredible value in being informed, engaged, and empowered about local housing policy.

GUEST OPINION

Many institutions and systems were built by and for a privileged few, but that's not where the story ends.

Through the acquisition of knowledge, experience, and social connection, concrete and lasting changes can be made. As a Master of Social Work student, I am constantly inspired by the resilience of the human spirit and the pioneers of social change who have made the "impossible" possible.

When you engage with your community, you are more than likely to find that others share your concerns and passions. From this, an opportunity arises to organize. Organizing is a mechanism of democracy and political autonomy, the power of which is often underestimated, especially by those in power. The Fenway is an apt example of resilience and community mobilization.

The Fenway Community Development Corporation (now Fenway Forward) was established in 1973, a produce of grassroots activism led by low- and moderate-income residents in the neighborhood. There was growing concern about the Fenway Urban Renewal Plan, which proposed demolishing large sections of the neighborhood, including numerous affordable housing units.

Once 300 units of affordable housing had been torn down, Fenway residents filed a lawsuit, known as *Jones v. Lynn*, against the plan. With this lawsuit, the community fought to establish an elected board that would play a significant part in neighborhood development. Though not the legal victory they had hoped for, it demonstrated the power of community

organizing and catalyzed establishment of the community development corporation, which has protected the interests of low- and moderate-income residents for decades.

The Fenway's history of community organizing doesn't end there; it also includes the Symphony Tenants Organizing Project (STOP), which organized residents to confront an arson-for-profit ring in the East Fenway that resulted in five fatalities and, eventually, jail time for perpetrators. Fenway CDC created the Urban Village Committee, the Walk to Work Program, Fenway Votes, and advocated for the Community Preservation Act. Residents also staged strikes against rent increases and building-code violations. It's valuable to celebrate these successes; they reminds us that "people power" has yielded positive change, and it will continue to do so.

One prominent current organizing movement is the rent-control ballot initiative. It's no secret that rent has gotten increasingly difficult to afford, making it harder for people to pay for other necessities like food, childcare, insurance, and transportation. Since 2010, rent has increased 55 percent on average for a two-bedroom apartment, making housing in Massachusetts the third most expensive in the nation.

Massachusetts is a vibrant and prosperous state, filled with globally renowned universities, businesses, and medical institutions. These are resources that should be available to people from all backgrounds so they can thrive and grow to their full potential. However, skyrocketing rents and corporate greed are making that impossible for individuals and families. A 2024 SmartAsset report found that a single adult in Boston must earn \$60.08 an hour, or \$124,966 yearly to "live in sustainable comfort" and that Boston is one of six U.S. cities where families must make at least \$300,000 yearly to comfortably raise kids. Without action from the state or voters, displacement will continue to increase.

On Feb. 4, Fenway Forward hosted "Dinner with Delegates," which provided an opportunity for community members to ask local state legislators questions about housing-justice bills like rent control and TOPA (Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act) and to hear directly from local

politicians. The event was attended by State Sen. Will Brownsberger, State Sen. Lydia Edwards, State Rep. Jay Livingstone, State Rep. Dan Ryan, and about 40 community members. The room was filled with anticipation, frustration about renters' housing needs, and the hope that their voices would be heard and would influence policy decisions.

A young man named Alex, a member of Fenway Forward's Organizing Committee, delivered an impactful speech, in which he said:

"Rent control is not just a policy, it's a mechanism to preserve the diverse social and cultural fabric of our community. By stabilizing housing costs, we enable more people to stay long-term and invest in their community. When rent control keeps housing costs lower, essential workers like healthcare staff, teachers, and service employees are able to live closer to their jobs, which is important for their quality of life and for the city of Boston itself."

Alex touched on a key argument for rent control: rent-related displacement of long-term residents is a threat not only to the individual renters, but also to the social and cultural fabric of the entire community.

A common thread runs through the Fenway's history of community organizing: residents identify injustices or problems, engage in direct action by organizing to increase capacity and impact, and demonstrate to major institutions and corporations that they will not be silenced nor stifled in their pursuit of equity.

Achieving long-term goals in community organizing can feel like an arduous process marked by seemingly incremental changes, but it is well worth it. The recipe for sustainable change includes civic engagement, community involvement, and direct-action organizing, but the active ingredient is you. To Fenway residents who love their community and want to help maintain its unique social and cultural fabric: Get involved!

Kerin Wells is the policy and community organizing graduate intern at Fenway Forward. For more information on how to get involved, contact Leo at lruizsanchez@fenwayforward.org.

LETTERS

There's More to the Mudflat Problem Than Meets the Eye

On behalf of the Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance and Management Committee (MMOC), I want to commend *The Fenway News* for your ongoing attention to the Muddy River, most recently with the February cover story.

Low water levels and resulting mudflats continue to plague the innovative and historically significant linear park, even

after the remarkable work achieved by the Restoration Project, a collaboration among the City of Boston, Town of Brookline, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The mudflats have been described as an "unintended consequence" of this complex rehabilitation process. Whatever the cause, the solution will require the collaboration of professional, government, and community

resources to ensure a sustainable future for the Muddy River and its parklands, our valued urban resources.

As the MMOC continues to lead these efforts, it's important to share what we know. These clarifications to the recent article might be helpful:

1. The Muddy River has always been a sluggish waterway. There is a minimal change in elevation from its sources to its outlet at the Charles River. This is why,

SEE MUDFLATS ON THE NEXT PAGE >

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. If the original motto no longer fits today's Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

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A 13TH BALLPARK CONCERT? COMMENT BY MARCH 3

Citing last summer's canceled concerts, Fenway Sports Group asked the City at a hearing on Feb. 25 to license one more concert than allowed under its 2023 "good neighbor" agreement. Email comments by March 3 to rebecca.phu@boston.gov; include "Fenway Park concert request" in the subject line.

Wentworth Scholarships Target Neighbors

Wentworth Institute of Technology offers free tuition for some Mission Hill and Fenway residents. For information, including whether you qualify, contact Johanna Sena at Senaj@wit.edu or 617-930-3664.

IN MEMORIAM

BOB CASE, 1932–2026: FRIEND, NEIGHBOR, INSPIRATION

Longtime East Fens resident and community leader Bob Case died on Jan. 15. The Fenway News has compiled tributes to Bob from a few of the people who knew him best.

BOB'S PASSING IS A LOSS that will never be filled. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family members and countless friends. For more than 50 years, Bob (later joined by Osla) was a mentor, friend, colleague and partner to us on many different issues and causes—both in the Fenway and around the world. We were also fortunate to come to know several members of Bob's and Osla's growing, loving family. Physically they have moved on, but their legacy of generosity and compassion, and unshakable commitment to social and environmental justice, equity, and human welfare, will live on and continue to inspire generations to come!

—ROSIE AND SAJED KAMAL



Rosie and Sajed meet with Bob at his "office" at Pavement last year.

I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE to record three interviews with Bob for the

Fenway Memory Project, an oral history of the neighborhood. He had such a positive spirit and clarity of thinking. He was inspirational. He encouraged others to excel, to do good, and not to be discouraged. He often signed his messages "Couragio." Boston-bred, he attended Hyde Park High School, spent a year at Northeastern, then graduated from St. Anselm College in New Hampshire, where he became a Benedictine monk. He went on to Fordham University for a master's degree and Yeshiva University for a Ph.D. in mathematics. He came back to Northeastern where he taught mathematics and logic for 45 years.

In his interviews and writings, Bob spoke about a "cultural bulldozer," the conflict between neighborhood residents and the actions of City Hall and real estate developers.

Mass Avenue was filled with a variety of locally controlled shops and stores—pet stores, confectionery stores, a fish market. There was a specialty shop for groceries. I remember as a kid growing up I could come here, you know, and it would be like being downtown. You could go to the movies here. There was the Fenway Theater where you could see first-run films. That all went with urban renewal. It became a very much more monolithic approach to things.

Bob's answer to the bulldozer



A still from a Fenway Memory Project video interview with Bob

was to protest, to organize, to teach. His co-founding of the First Fenway Co-op helped provide housing and community, enabling families to stay in Boston to contribute and improve the neighborhood over five decades.

In our last interview, Bob said activism is really necessary to spark change, and he looked to young people to bring passion to change: "If you look at the anti-war movement, the feminist movement, civil rights and so forth, young people were part of that in a very integral way, and I think it's going to be true here. So, I'm hopeful."

—TIM NEY

THE FIRST FENWAY COOPERATIVE remembers our friend, neighbor and founding member, Robert Case, with love and respect. Bob's signature can be found on our Articles of Organization, filed on Jan. 29, 1980. For 46 years, Bob loved and cherished the co-op. As much as he believed in our model of affordable housing, Bob felt that the true value of the co-op lay in the freedom it offered residents, through predictable and affordable

housing costs, to pursue the work they most wanted to do. He rejoiced in the writers and artists among us and often spoke of the co-op as "the Left Bank of the Fenway." His influence remains.

—FIRST FENWAY CO-OP

I KNEW BOB CASE for nearly 50 years. We did not work very closely together on anything, but he was always to me an elder statesman of the Fenway, a gentle moral presence in our sometimes rough-and-tumble neighborhood politics.

Reflecting about the activism that shaped the neighborhood in the 1970s and 80s, I realize that Bob was a rare member of that tribe who was not a Boston transplant. I remember his stories about visiting the Fenway from his Hyde Park home as a child and hanging out here as a young man.

As a native Bostonian, Bob could make very concrete our battles for social justice and equity. That is why he could bring his stature and prestige as a professor at Northeastern to create in the early 70s, with Rosaria Salerno, the Free University of the Fenway, where the Fenway CDC was conceived. That is why he was able to see so clearly that the establishment of the Huntington Avenue Cultural district by the Commonwealth was once again forgetting the surrounding neighborhood...and why the fledgling neighborhood-arts-focused FENSfund brought him onto its board several years ago.

—MAT THALL

LETTERS**> MUDFLATS FROM PAGE 2**

when Frederick Law Olmsted chose to retain the Muddy as a picturesque feature in his linear park system rather than putting it in a culvert, he deepened it, re-contouring the banks to maximize its scenic benefits.

- Initially in the Muddy River Restoration Project it was anticipated that the Army Corps of Engineers would dredge the riverbed bank to bank, but for various reasons, this did not happen. The riverbed was dredged only in selected places deemed critical. The clogged area in the photo accompanying the article in the February 2026 *Fenway News* is one of the areas that was not dredged.
- The cofferdam device was installed to al-

low the Army Corps to daylight the river that had been put in a culvert when Sears Roebuck Co., original occupant of the Landmark building, privatized the land into a parking lot. While there have been significant changes in the waterway over the more than 20 years of planning and construction, the present low-water areas and mudflats are not necessarily a consequence of recent cofferdam alterations.

- Global climate disruption must be considered in calculating mitigation of low water levels. Climate change has created prolonged dry and hot periods, resulting in scorched landscape conditions with intense, short rain bursts that easily run off parched ground—with no adequate budgets for local irrigation systems

that would ameliorate negative climate impacts.

- Among the Muddy River Restoration Project's initial goals was ensuring that best management practices for sustainable, affordable management are included in the reconstructed parklands. While the MMOC's stewardship is meant to protect the rehabilitation work, public maintenance budgets and skilled staff are difficult to sustain. As the leaves and debris in the photograph in the article clearly show, there are urgent and ongoing maintenance needs. Cleaning riverine waterways has its own set of complications. Likewise, sustaining the appropriate healthy vegetation to hold the fragile river banks and limit continual river siltation remains a challenge driven by limited budgets.
- Impending development pressures threaten to alter the environmental framework along the park's periphery. It is critical that all new developments need to be considered in conjunction with the riverine park's environments to avoid shadow, heat, wind, and glare damage on the park's fragile ecosystems.

ARLEYN LEEVE
MUDDY RIVER MANAGEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Why I'm Running in September's Democratic State Senate Primary

My name is Daniel Lander and I am lucky to call the Fenway home. My husband Michael and I have created a vibrant life here—running through the Fens, grabbing banh mi at Phinista, and afternoons reading in Ramler Park.

It's a great place to live, but our state is facing an affordability crisis. Since 2011, the cost of living has skyrocketed in Massachusetts. Rent, health insurance, energy bills, childcare, tuition—each has rapidly increased. Despite this we have the least effective state legislature in the country, who aren't tackling these challenges head on.

I have worked for leaders like Mayor Michelle Wu and Sen. Elizabeth Warren who work urgently to tackle our problems. I am running for State Senate to fight for all of us—to make Massachusetts more affordable and a great place to build a good life!

That means lowering housing costs: I'll fight to build more affordable housing and for rent stabilization to make the dream of putting down roots in our neighborhood a reality.

That means fixing our transportation: I'll fight so that the MBTA runs all night, ensuring late night hospital workers aren't stranded; and push for more service on the 55 bus so residents can easily navigate our city.

That means supporting marginalized communities: I'll fight for our immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities, and will fight back against the lawlessness of ICE and the Trump administration.

I've been honored to learn from and represent our neighbors, as I have proudly served on the licensing committee of the Fenway Civic Association and as elected Chair of the Ward 21 Democratic Committee. I will be a champion for our neighborhood at the state level.

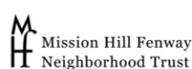
I am running because I know we can tackle our biggest challenges. I hope to earn your vote on September 1st.

DANIEL LANDER
THE FENWAY

MISSION HILL FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

We invite proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of the Mission Hill and Fenway neighborhoods.

Please visit www.missionhillfenwaynt.org to access the on-line application.



Mission Hill Fenway
Neighborhood Trust

DEADLINE: Submit your proposal no later than 5pm on March 31, 2026. Please email HELLO@MISSIONHILLFENWAYNT.ORG with any questions.

IN MEMORIAM

Bruce Scott

COMPILED BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Bruce Scott, a long-time resident of the West Fens, died on Feb. 7 after a long battle with cancer. He was 88.

Born in Detroit, Bruce earned a bachelor of arts degree from Michigan State and a master's degree from Ohio State.

He traveled with his late wife Marcia to Europe, the Middle East, and Indonesia. On his own, Bruce spent a year in India and six months in Japan. Bruce taught philosophy for many years at Boston State College (now UMass Boston) and at Roxbury Community College.



Bruce loved the wealth of cultural activities available in the Fenway. With Marcia, he attended weekly concerts at the New England Conservatory. He volunteered at Remis Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts. He loved reading books, listening to music, and cooking.

Following his wishes, there was no funeral or memorial service. Donations in his name can be made to the Animal Rescue League.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas L. "Tom" Morganti

Thomas L. "Tom" Morganti, a proud and devoted member of Boston's LGBTQ+ community and a longtime resident of the Fenway neighborhood, died on Jan. 27. Born in Walpole on Jan. 18, 1943, Tom lived a life marked by authenticity, activism, and deep care for those around him.

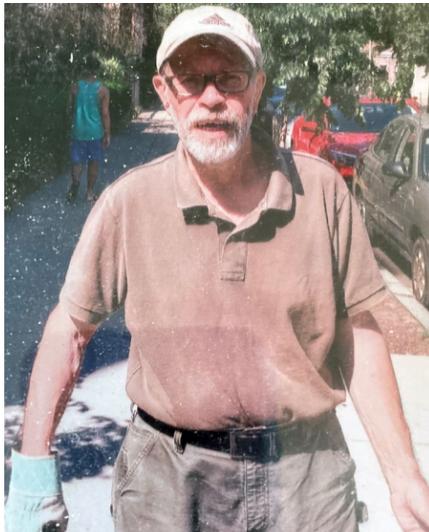
Tom's life was defined by his devotion to his partner of more than 30 years, Eric Schlott, who ensured that Tom's home was filled with love and safety through the challenges of Lewy Body Dementia in his final years. Their bond was a testament to enduring love, care, and partnership.

Tom lived his adult life as an out, proud gay man and was a trailblazer in Boston's early gay liberation movement. In 1974, he was instrumental in creation of the iconic Lavender Rhino, a symbol of gay pride designed to represent strength, courage, and inclusivity. He also helped distribute *Fag Rag*, a grassroots publication promoting awareness, community, and equality for gay and lesbian individuals during the early years of LGBTQ+ activism.

A resident of the Fenway for more than 50 years, Tom was a beloved fixture of the community. He took great pride in the neighborhood; in his later years he could often be seen on walks picking up trash along streets, in the Back Bay Fens, and around the Victory Gardens, quietly caring for the place he called home.

"There are those that care for their community in many ways and never get

recognized," said neighbor Gerry Cooper. "Tom, you spent many years cleaning the streets to make the Fenway a more beautiful place to live. Thank you. We will miss you."



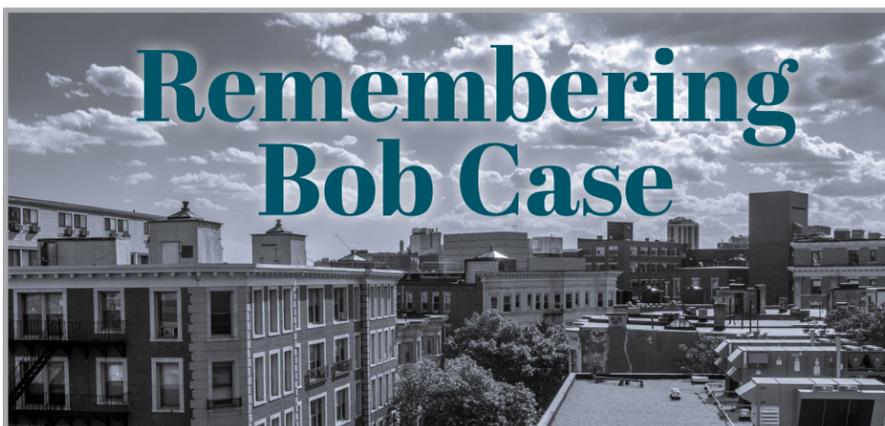
Tom had a deep love of music and dance, which defined much of his social life. In the 1980s and 1990s, he frequented dance clubs and bars, forming lasting friendships with those who shared his passion for rhythm, movement, and joy. He worked at Vinyl Connection, first in Copley Square and later near Kenmore Square, where he sold dance records and connected with a wide community of music lovers. Many of these friendships endured throughout his life, reflecting the warmth and generosity of his spirit.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Aileen (Yorston) Morganti and Louis L. Morganti, and his sisters, Shirley Morganti Warden and Dorothy Morganti. He is survived by a wide circle of friends who loved him for his humor, generosity, and zest for life.

Tom's life was a celebration of courage, community, and joy. He will be remembered for his activism, his music and dance, his dedication to Fenway, and the love he shared with

all who knew him.

Services are private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to organizations supporting Lewy Body Dementia research or LGBTQ+ community initiatives.



Remembering Bob Case

Bob's role and impact in the Fenway extended far beyond his valuable and treasured life in the First Fenway Coop, which he helped found and where he lived. Throughout the neighborhood he served on countless boards and committees and spoke at countless meetings advocating for justice, affordable housing, and maintaining the vibrant culture in the place that he loved.

Some of the institutions that Bob started, led, or helped build over the years include...

- THE FENWAY NEWS (board member and writer/contributor) *
- FENWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (co-founder and board member) *
- FREE UNIVERSITY OF THE FENWAY *
- FENWAY INTERAGENCY GROUP *
- FENWAY CENTER FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY *
- FENWAY SOLAR GROUP *
- FENSFUND *
- HALEY HOUSE *
- A BRIDGE TO CALCULUS

A list can't begin to capture the full dimensions of Bob's life and work, but it offers a glimpse into how he lived and shared his life with the people and place that he loved so much, the Fenway community.

We will miss him deeply.

THE FIRST FENWAY COOPERATIVE



City of Boston
Planning
Department

The City of Boston's Planning Department invites residents to participate in planning that will help shape the future of the City.

You can sign up to receive Planning Department emails and learn about opportunities to get involved here:

bosplans.org/GetInvolved



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Trident Booksellers hosted Boston's second "F*uckup Night," a roving, food- and drink-fueled networking session that operates on a TED Talks model but focuses on workplace failures. It tries to disrupt the carefully curated ways people present their work histories. The *Globe* spotlighted the event on the front of its business section. And, yes, you can get copies of *The Fenway News* at Trident's checkout counter. 🐾 **BU left the finals of both Beanpot hockey tournaments sans any crowns. The women's team lost to Harvard in January, and the men lost to BC on Feb. 10.** 🐾 Terriers can, however, take some consolation in the fact their endowment grew faster last year than either Harvard's or BC's, according to a trade group of university business officers. In fact, the school's 13.56% rate of growth nearly doubled growth at Harvard and Yale. 🐾 **A feature splashed across the *Globe* Metro section showcased students from the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers during a winter-break "boot camp."** The academy, based partly on Fenwood Road, organized the training to help 11th graders prep for an April state exam that qualifies them for jobs as certified nursing assistants, a credential that opens the door for the school's students—largely low-income—to land good-paying jobs while still in school plus further educational opportunities. MBG, in turn, builds a pipeline of enthusiastic new workers. The article reported that the academy will add a medical-assisting track next year and hopes to move to a new site and double current enrollment by 2028. 🐾 In other Longwood news, the largest gift in Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's history will give naming rights to the two couples making the donation. At the donors' request, the amount remains under wraps, but it tops the previous record, last year's \$78 million haul from the Pan-Mass bike ride. 🐾 Meanwhile, the *Globe* reports that Mass General Brigham received \$35 million from Irving Oil—which took out a full-page ad in the paper to pat itself on the philanthropic back—for a competing cancer hospital at MGH's campus downtown. The hospital showdown pits the state's two largest health-care systems against each other after Beth Israel Leahy (#2) lured Dana-Farber out of a long-standing agreement with Brigham & Women's to provide in-patient care for DFCI patients. 🐾 A *Globe* story on the recent MFA staff cuts revealed that the museum's 1 million visitors in 2025 fell more than 15% below pre-pandemic levels. 🐾 **Celebrity Chef Tiffani Faison opened yet another restaurant at High Street Place Food Hall (her fifth) in the Financial District. Asian fusion Tigerbaby calls back to Faison's short-lived Tiger Mama in the West Fens, which closed during the pandemic.** 🐾

ICYMI

NEWSLINES

BIDMC/Dana-Farber Cancer Hospital Wins Another Approval

On Jan. 29, the state's Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs allowed Dana Farber and Beth Israel to proceed with construction of a new cancer hospital without filing an additional environmental report. The state review came about because of supplemental documents submitted late last year that described a plan to use Joslin Park as a construction-staging site then, following construction, to reconfigure the park with a new road cutting through it that will create one intersection with Brookline Avenue instead of the current two. The fact that the existing narrow park falls under Article 97 protections triggered the supplemental filing. Under the filing, 3,639 square feet of Joslin Park will go to the new road design; in exchange, Boston's Parks & Recreation Department will get 3,928 square feet of City-owned right of way, allowing a slight expansion for the rebuilt park.

A more recent state action involves the Department of Environmental Protection and the Joslin Diabetes Center. On Feb. 21, the agency issued a 30-day emergency license for treatment of hazardous waste for four containers found at 1 Joslin Place. A legal notice published in the *Boston Herald* said that members of the public could get further information about the license from DEP's Bureau of Air & Waste, at 857-286-5530.

New Huntington Liquors Owner Gets Licensing Hearing

On March 4 at 10am, the Boston Licensing Board will hear from a new liquor store owner, Tushar Patel, for the former Huntington Wine and Spirits storefront at 295 Huntington Ave.

BPL Picks Nia Grace As Entrepreneur-in-Residence

The Boston Public Library Fund recently announced that Nia Grace—owner of Grace By Nia and Uptown Social (formerly Darryl's Corner Bar and Kitchen)—will serve as the new BPL Entrepreneur-in-Residence. Grace's year-long residency will focus on the design and delivery of entrepreneurial boot camp programs that provide first-time and early-stage entrepreneurs with the skills, resources, and networks to launch and grow successful small businesses. bpl.org/kblic-entrepreneur-in-residence has details on programs, schedules, and mentoring for the free and public program.

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



FENWAY NEWS ON THE GO

There's a new Fenway News box outside Boston's Preferred Properties at 57 Gainsborough St. (Thank you, board member Evan Fisch!) And on that topic, here are a few other pick-up sites across the community:

- EAST FENS:** The Bebop, Caffè Nero, Fenway Forward offices, Kaji Aso Studio, Whole Foods, Woody's Grill
- WEST FENS:** Fenway Community Center, Phinista Café, Star Market newsrack, The Sipping Room, Wow! Tikka
- MISSION HILL:** Betty Powers Library at Mission Park, Mike's Donuts, Parker Hill Library
- AUDUBON CIRCLE:** The Wine Press, Café Landwer



Northeastern University's City and Community Engagement provides individuals with complimentary access to a conference room and classroom space. Advance reservations are required for both spaces. Event organizers may only host programming that is free to participants.

Book
Northeastern's
Community
Event Space,
Northeastern
Crossing

- 1175 Tremont St,
Boston, MA 02120
- communityengagement@northeastern.edu
- communityengagement.northeastern.edu
- 617-373-2666

BOOK HERE:



Project Proposals and Updates Pop Up In Mission Hill

BY ALISON PULTINAS

77 Terrace Street

On Feb. 11 Boston's Community Preservation Committee voted to award the Parker Terrace development team, ODJ Dev LLC, \$646,929 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for Phase 2 of its open space plan. The 48 income-restricted condominiums (not yet under construction) will set aside land for a public park and community garden, both managed by the nonprofit organization The Trustees. The proponents are Jonathan Garland, Dariela Villon-Maga and Kevin Maguire.

The request for proposals released by the Mayor's Office of Housing identified the

apartments proposed by Terrace Charlie LLC. Kirby Lui of Houston is the designated manager for both Terrace Charlie and Terrace Bravo, the company that developed 40-42 and 132 Terrace.

154 Terrace Street

The BPDA board's Feb. 12 meeting yielded a controversial approval related to 154 Terrace St. Tenants at the adjacent Oliver Lofts (166 Terrace St., also known as the "Pickle Factory") currently use 154 for parking.

The parcel's new owner, Joseph Federico of Dedham, filed a Notice of Project Change in December. Frederico

he ask extensive questions, but he also voted to oppose the project, an unusual occurrence at the monthly hearings. His questions focused on traffic and parking concerns for both the future occupants at 154 and the community at large.

At the Feb. 12 hearing, the Planning Department's senior project manager Stephen Harvey stated that the project required no zoning relief. Yet, he acknowledged that the Zoning Board of Appeal had scheduled a "final arbiter" vote for Feb. 24. Subsequent research shows that the variances granted to Winn in 2022 expired in 2024; on Feb. 24, the ZBA Board voted to revive them. The agency allows no public testimony for final arbiter applications.

Controversy over the revised plan has come from different quarters. One issue is the change from home ownership to rentals. In addition, concerned representatives of local organizations wonder if the new owner agreed to the previous list of community benefits, including restrictions meant to prevent undergraduate occupants. The Project Change filing itself was controversial, because of a lack of clarity around the changes.

Residents at the Oliver Lofts expressed personal concerns that resonated with others, even non-abutters. The mixed-income Lofts have 43 income-restricted apartments and 19 condos. Condo owners can park in a basement garage, but the households that rent use the so-called overflow lot at 154 Terrace. They'll lose their spaces, which some have used since the building opened in 2012. Loss of access from the lot to the protected side entrance of the Lofts represents an equal—if not bigger—fear, especially for seniors and families with young children. The City doesn't allow stopping or parking on this block of narrow and congested Terrace Street, not even for short term drop-off and pick-up.

Ironically, these tenants live across the street from a large, gated lot strictly for employees of New England Baptist Hospital, built on the site of a demolished brewery.

At the Feb. 3 public meeting, the

architects for 154 Terrace St. explained that the new building will stand too close to the property lines to allow for windows on its side elevations. They made no mention of a once-promised small park between the two buildings.

Other Development News

- Elsewhere on Terrace, the auction of the **110-128 Terrace St.** development site, previously set for Feb. 24, will now take place June 2 at 11am with the Paul Saperstein Company.
- The former Eblana Brewery complex at **117-127 Heath St.** faces subdivision. At its Wensley Street edge, owner Peter Zagorianakos is offering two 5,000-sq-ft vacant parcels for \$850,000 each at 40 Wensley, a reminder of the failed Wensley Heights proposal from years past.
- More subdivision looms over the top of the hill. Developer Jason Savage has filed plans for another project on Parker Hill Avenue with the Planning Department. Dividing a property he bought at auction will allow for two separate developments.

The first converts a historic brick structure at New England Baptist Hospital, **63 Parker Hill Ave.**, to rental apartments. The former Haskell Home for Nurses served more recently as the Landmark at Longwood Assisted Living facility. Following redevelopment, the building—renamed 85 Parker Hill—will contain 114 small apartments, 10 parking spaces, and storage for more than 100 bicycles.

Dividing the parcel will allow for a second housing development on the large surface lot at the rear. In the meantime, however, New England Baptist leases the lot for overflow parking. A virtual March 4 public meeting is scheduled with the Planning Department's Stephen Harvey. Comments on the 114-apartment proposal are due March 19 to stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Planned pocket park and community garden at 77 Terrace St. The ownership housing faces the Boston Building Resources Center across Terrace Street.



future park as an existing 18,000-sq-ft urban wild at 790-796 Terrace St. After officially

defining the boundaries, the future Parker Street Pocket Park will transfer to Boston Parks and Recreation with a permanent recorded conservation restriction.

The CPC lists the project as the "Mission Hill Pathway," but a significant grade difference and a requirement for fencing means no pedestrian connection can join the Parker and Terrace parcels, as originally planned. Therefore, the project name is something of a misnomer.

134 Terrace Street

Coldwell Banker is asking \$600,000 for vacant land at 134 Terrace St., a narrow lot next to seven recently built income-restricted condos at 132 Terrace St. The vacant site previously won approval for a six-story building with five market-rate

bought the parking lot for \$2.5 million from Winn Properties. Instead of Winn's Pickle Ditson Phase II 65-unit condo project, approved in 2021, Frederico has proposed market-rate apartments with eight affordable units. The project keeps the same number of units but drops one story.

At the Feb. 12 meeting, District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan registered non-opposition because the developer did not reach out to her office before the hearing.

Neighbors spoke at the Planning Department's last-minute public meeting on Feb. 3; comments were due Feb. 6. David Mynott, a resident at 166 Terrace, said the development would come at the cost of livability and common sense.

It appears likely that board member Ted Landsmark would agree. Not only did

PHOTO: ASHLEY PURVIS



GOLDBERG, CHIEF OF GBH, KEYNOTES IFILL FORUM AT SIMMONS

On Feb. 12 the Gwen Ifill School of Media, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Simmons University hosted its annual event in honor of Ifill, a groundbreaking Black woman in journalism. The Ifill Forum brings together national voices for a public conversation on key questions of the day. Susan Goldberg, award-winning journalist and president and CEO of GBH, delivered this year's keynote address. In "Storytelling That Matters," Goldberg—the first woman to lead GBH—reflected on how journalism makes a difference in local, national and international communities, and how public broadcasters like GBH can remain strong despite the elimination of federal funding.

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 March 11, 2026, at 9:15 A.M.**, in connection with a petition for approval of the First Amendment to the Wentworth Institute of Technology 2024-2034 Institutional Master Plan ("IMP Amendment").

The proposed IMP Amendment describes changes proposed to three of the Proposed Institutional Projects ("PIPs") described in its October 2024 Institutional Master Plan (the "2024 IMP"): (1) the Pike Residence Hall PIP (the "Proposed Project"), (2) the Huntington Academic Building PIP, and (3) the Quad Residence Hall PIP.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. **You can participate in this meeting by going to <https://bosplans.org/BZC-Mar112026>.** A copy of the IMP Amendment 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 March 11, 2026. Please request interpreting services no later than March 6, 2026.**

FOR THE COMMISSION
JEFFREY M. HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

53RD ANNUAL MEETING

Save The Date

APRIL 16

Celebrate Fenway Forward's past year of accomplishments on Thursday, April 16, at the Linda K. Paresky Conference Center at Simmons University. Doors open at 5:45pm; the program starts at 6:30pm.

Join us to engage and uplift the people, partnerships, and collective action that make our work possible and our neighborhood strong!



USE THE QR CODE TO RSVP →



FENWAY FORWARD ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 16 | 5:45-8:00PM
PARESKY CONFERENCE CENTER
300 THE FENWAY

The Arts

After 15 Years, The Citizen Gets A Refreshed Name, Decor, Menu

BY CELINA COLBY

An old timer in the Fenway food scene has a fresh new face that's turning heads on Boylston Street. Citizen Public House & Oyster Bar, newly rebranded as The Citizen (thecitizenboston.com), has a sleek new image to match its zippier name.

This is the restaurant's 15-year anniversary, and Dave DuBois, co-owner of the Franklin Restaurant Group that also includes Tasty Burger and The Franklin Café in the South End, felt it was time for a facelift.

"We wanted to make a functional change in the flow," he says. "And also we wanted to brighten it up and refresh it, because 15 years is a long time."

The interior decor and menu stick to its original English pub inspiration but with a brighter, perkier feel. Diners will see new paint, a pastoral mural on the back wall, new tan upholstery and extended bar seating. The oyster bar has been removed to allow for more

spacious bar dining (but don't worry, oysters are still on the menu).

Perhaps the most staggering change is the removal of the four-season patio structure that dominated the facade. For the first time in a decade you can see the front of the restaurant in its full glory. The Citizen will still have outdoor patio seating in the warmer months, weather dependent, but more connected to Boylston Street.

In keeping with the aesthetic changes, the menu has gone through an overhaul as well. It stays in the pub comfort-food realm but the team describes it as "a little bit more elevated." Here that means bacon-wrapped dates and confit duck croquette appetizers instead of fried pickles and meatball parm sliders and entrees with more thoughtful plating, like a bone-in braised lamb shoulder with a sage-tahini crumb crust. Never fear, the signature whole roasted pig remains on the menu.

"Originally it was sort of an English

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITIZEN



The Citizen boasts new interior colors, a mural and extended bar seating. It has removed the permanent outdoor dining structure but will continue to offer street-side dining during warm weather. The updated menu, left, keeps the restaurant's focus on pub-style comfort food.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITIZEN



tavern menu," says DuBois. "We wanted the food to still be super approachable and comfortable and in the same price point. But we wanted it to be a little more updated."

Whiskey has always been a highlight at The Citizen. In January 2025, *Whisky Advocate* named it one of the "top 100 whisky bars in America." Many whiskeys on the menu are single-barrels unique to The Citizen and can only be sipped here, such as the Gordon & MacPhail 2009 Craigellachie and the Gordon & MacPhail 1999 Strathmill.

As part of the spruce-up, the whiskey collection has moved front and center near the entrance. The restaurant will also host accessible, open-to-the-public tastings and programs to get locals comfortable with the Scottish spirit.

The Citizen opened when the Fenway was on the cusp of a period of intensive development. The neighborhood has become a trendy hot spot with rent prices to match. As the landscape continues to evolve, maintaining connections to the neighborhood's history is more important than ever.

"There's so much connective tissue in the neighborhood. The MFA; the Fens; all the music venues; Boston's cathedral, Fenway Park; not to mention 50 to 60,000 workers at the hospital enclave right up the street," says DuBois. "We're looking forward to the next 15 years."

Celina Colby is a journalist and West Fenway resident. She has been covering arts, culture and food in Boston for more than a decade.

SHUNNING THE THROW-AWAY ECONOMY

PHOTO: ALISON PULTIMAS



On Feb. 21 the Boston Building Resources Center's hosted a second round of its popular sock-darning workshop, led by instructor Tricia Ryan of the BBR's Mending Corner. Ryan brings yarn and darning tools, including the mysterious mushrooms. More workshops take place March 4 (1-3pm) and March 26 (5-7pm). Sign up at bostonbuildingresources.com/workshops.

SENIORS PARTAY AT FENWAY

PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAS



Members of the Peterborough Senior Center enjoyed a Valentine's Day Dance Party at Fenway Park.

KAJI ASO STUDIO INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS



Flying together celebrating 52 years

Group Exhibition: *'Existence'* ART • MUSIC • POETRY

Reception with the artists:
Saturday, March 7 | 7 pm

Concert: Sumie Kaneko, koto & shamisen

Sunday, March 22 | 3 pm
online options: @kajiasostudio

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

THANKS TO
OUR FUNDERS



Mission Hill Fenway
Neighborhood Trust

March

CALENDAR

Now ☞ Sun, 3/8

Boston Playwrights' Theatre presents the world premiere of **ZABEL IN EXILE**. Awaiting execution in a Soviet prison in 1937, feminist writer/activist Zabel Yessaya reviews her life, from a childhood in Constantinople through the Armenian genocide and beyond. B.U.'s Snodgrass Stage, 949 Comm. Ave. Thu 7pm; Fri-Sat 8pm; Sat-Sun 2pm. Tickets \$40 (adults), \$25 (BU staff/seniors/veterans), \$15 (students). Details and tickets at bostonplaywrights.org.

Now ☞ Sun, 5/10

You might think the Gardner Museum has wandered far afield in a new exhibition that focuses on how people have used the camera to present themselves in the ways they want to be seen. Don't worry about mission creep, though: Gardner herself rigorously policed her own image, so **PERSONA: PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE RE-IMAGINED SELF** makes a logical show for the museum after all. Sat-Sun 10am-5pm; Mon, Wed, Fri 11am-5pm; Thu 11am-9pm. Find details and tickets at isgm.org.

Sun, 3/1

Vivo Performing Arts brings the **CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** to town for the first time in 25 years. A crowd-pleasing program—Beethoven's *Symphony #7* and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*—will showcase wunderkind conductor Klaus

Mäkelä, who takes over the CSO in 2027. Tickets \$72-219. Details and tickets at vivoperformingarts.org.

Sat, 3/7

- Opening in-person reception for the **KAJI ASO STUDIO EXHIBIT "EXISTENCE."** 7pm. Music and Poetry will be presented at 7:45pm. 40 St. Stephen St. The exhibit runs through April 22. FREE
- The Longwood Symphony Orchestra presents **"MENDELSSOHN'S JOYFUL BLUE SKIES,"** a four-part program built around Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 4, "Italian."* The LSO unites Longwood Area health care professionals who are also talented musicians, and each concert benefits a nonprofit working in healthcare or medicine—in this case, hospice provider Care Dimensions. Jordan Hall, 8pm; tickets \$15-32-49 (general), \$12-27-42 (senior), or \$10 for students. Details and tickets at tinyurl.com/mt22pw9t.

Sun, 3/8

If you missed **HAMNET**—the awards-magnet film about Shakespeare's family, featuring a remarkable performance by Jessie Buckley as the Bard's wife—catch it at the MFA. Remis Auditorium, 2pm, \$15/12, general/members. The museum shows another multi-Oscar-nominated film, *Marty Supreme*, on Thu, March 5, at 7pm. mfa.org/programs/film.

Thu, 3/12

Berklee Signature Series presents Grammy-nominated vocalist, songwriter, and producer **GRETCHEN PARLATO** leading the Gretchen Parlato Berklee Ensemble. Parlato has performed at venues such as the Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl 7pm. Red Room at Cafe 939, 939 Boylston St. Buy tickets at etix.com/ticket/p/37579388 (\$19.50 public, \$16.50 students).

Fri, 3/13 & Fri 3/27

The BSO presents **TWO COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERTS** this month with small groups of BSO musicians. First up, a program of music by Nielsen and Beethoven. Two weeks later, with different players, hear Bach, Walker, and Dvořák. Both concerts take place at 1:30pm inside Northeastern's Fenway Center (formerly St. Ann's Church) at St. Stephen and St. Germain streets). Visit bso.org/community/community-performances for details and to reserve tickets. **FREE**

Sat, 3/14

CONCERT IN SOLIDARITY WITH AFGHAN MUSICIANS brings together New England Conservatory students and renowned Afghan musicians driven from the country by the far-reaching Taliban campaign to silence music and execute musicians. Jordan Hall, 8pm. Tickets and much more info at tinyurl.com/4zsebh3b **FREE**

Thu, 3/19

Kick up your heels for **NAWRUZ**, a 3,000-year-old spring festival celebrated from the Balkans through the Mideast and into Central Asia. Dance, music, gallery tours, art making (decorate wooden eggs!). Part of the museum's Third Thursdays series, so admission is only \$5. 5pm-10pm. Visit tinyurl.com/35cadbu for details.

Fri, 3/20 ☞ Fri, Apr 3

The MFA co-presents the **BOSTON TURKISH FILM FESTIVAL**, the 25th year of this collaboration. The museum will post the entire program on its website on March 10, but at least one film is already set: *Amrum*,

from Turkish-German director Fatih Akin, "a tender coming-of-age tale about the loss of innocence," set in an isolated fishing village in the last weeks of World War II. Visit mfa.org/programs/film for details, tickets, and the full schedule.

Fri, 3/27

VISITING ARTIST TALK: MICHELLE LOPEZ. Join School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts MFA Program for an artist lecture with Michelle Lopez, spring 2026 exhibiting artist. Lopez creates strikingly precarious and vulnerable forms that speak to the instability of supposedly fixed societal structures. Reinvesting in the political power of sculpture, Lopez similarly wrestles with the medium's legacy, recasting minimalist and post-minimalist forms into critiques of capitalism, chauvinism, and other narratives of hegemony. 12-1:30pm. Anderson Auditorium, SMFA at Tufts, 230 The Fenway. **FREE**

Fri, 3/27 ☞ Sun, 3/29

The Huntington presents **"MY FIRST EX-HUSBAND"** by Joy Behar, best known as a co-host of "The View" but also a comedian and a playwright. In eight sharply funny monologues, Behar explores love, sex, and relationships. Fri-Sat 7pm; Sat. 2pm; Sun 1pm and 4pm. Tickets \$35-150. At Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont St. in the South End. Detail and tickets at huntingtontheatre.org.

@ THE CENTER

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

- Friday, March 6 and 20, 3:30-5:30pm: **CREATIVITY CORNER WITH SEMA**
- Tuesdays, 10am-12pm: **OPEN PLAY WITH VIKING SPORTS!** [preschool ages; waiver required]
- March 25, 6pm to 6:30pm: **30-MINUTE HIT CLASS WITH BEANTOWN BOXING!**

SENIOR EVENTS

The Perterborough Senior Center is a drop-in center open to the public. Stop by for a program or two and bring your friends! The Center is open Tuesday-Thursday, 12pm to 3:30pm. For more information, call Tracey or Ariana at 617-536-7154.

- Wednesdays at 12pm: **TECH CAFE** with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Wednesday at 1:15pm: **INTERGENERATIONAL CITYSITES** with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Thursday, March 5 at 12pm: **SAINT**

PATRICK'S DAY TRIVIA with Boston Police D-4 community officers

- Tuesday, March at 12pm: **MOVIE SCREENING—"THE MONEY PIT"**
- Thursday, March 12 at 12pm: **FRIENDSHIPWORKS PRESENTATION**
- Thursday, March 19 at 12pm: **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY** with New England Conservatory of Music
- Thursday, March 26 at 12pm: **PRESENTATION BY THE SAMARITANS**

COMMUNITY meetings

WED, MARCH 4 The City of Boston Planning Department hosts a public meeting on the proposal for **85 PARKER HILL AVE.** The meeting will discuss a Small Project Review Application for the site and its potential impacts. Register at bosplans.org/85ParkerHillAvenue-0304. 6pm. Contact Stephen Harvey at stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov or (617) 918-4418 with questions.

THU, MARCH 12 Join your neighbors for the March meeting of **FENWAY FORWARD'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**, residents who work together to advocate for affordable

housing and other neighborhood needs. Dinner provided. Contact lruizsanchez@fenwayforward.org for more information. 6-7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. (Enter from Jersey Street.)

SAT, MARCH 14 The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee host the **2026 WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAUCUS** to elect delegates and alternates for the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention on Saturday, May 30, at the DCU Center in Worcester. The caucus will take place at Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., in Copley Square. Doors open at 9am. This event is

open to the public. However, only people who reside in Ward 5 and have previously registered to vote as Democrats—or are 16 years of age by Feb. 19, 2026, and have pre-registered to vote as Democrats—will be eligible to sign in and vote and/or be elected as delegates, or alternates, during the Caucus. Ward 5 includes Beacon Hill, Back Bay, Bay Village, the Fenway and parts of Chinatown and the South End. You can check your voter registration status (and whether you live in Ward 5) at sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx.

WED, MARCH 18 The City of Boston Planning Department hosts a public meeting for the proposed **LONGWOOD PLACE PHASE ONE PROJECT**. The meeting will include a presentation on the shadow studies included in the project proponent's Supplemental Information filing. The presentation will precede a Q&A from the members of the public. 6pm. Register in advance: bosplans.org/LongwoodPlace-031826. Contact Sarah Peck at sarah.peck@boston.gov with any questions.

Measure Twice, Cast Once

Earlier this winter, workers at Northeastern University's Mathews Arena took impressions of the historic archway to cast a recreation after its removal. The university plans to begin demolition of the historic arena to make way for a new athletic facility. In its day, the arena hosted pro hockey and basketball teams; politicians (both presidents Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy); miscellaneous celebrities (Amelia Earhart); and concerts by everyone from Chubby Checker to Bob Dylan to Phish.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS