



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 6 • MAY 29-JULY 3, 2026

## Renovation Will Shutter 85-Year-Old Symphony Station Through 2029

RENDERING COURTESY OF THE MBTA



BY MARY ANN BROGAN

On May 18, the MBTA held an informational forum at Symphony Towers West to prepare residents for the Symphony Station accessibility project.

The T has secured \$66.6 million from the Federal Transit Administration for improvements to the 85-year-old Green Line station.

The work begins on June 6—coincidentally, one day after the end of a week-long suspension of service for track work—and will take three years. During that time, major disruptions will be visible at street level and the station itself will be closed. Mass. Ave. in front of Symphony Hall may be reduced to one lane on both sides during work hours.

Completion is slated for summer 2029, at which point the station will boast four new elevators, raised platforms to facilitate boarding, improved lighting, safety features, and accessible bathrooms.

During the project, riders of the Green Line's E branch will have to use either the Prudential or Northeastern University stops, both roughly 0.3 miles away. Other transit options include the Mass. Ave. Orange Line station, 0.1 miles from Symphony and the 39 bus, which runs along Huntington Avenue parallel to the E Branch.

Utility relocations have already taken place, and excavations in four locations were completed to make space for the new elevators and stairways.

Many attendees at the meeting live at Symphony Plaza, housing for residents 62 years and older and people with disabilities. Other area residents, as well as District 7 City Councilor Miniard Culpepper, also attended.

Officials reassured the meeting that they have been in regular contact with all neighborhood stakeholders, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra. T officials said they will update neighbors about any changes in a timely manner.

Kim Kerrigan and Steve Wells, spokespersons for the Symphony Plaza Residents Association, voiced concerns about the congestion in walkways, parking for construction workers, and where portable toilets will be placed.

Another resident voiced concerns about rodent control and asked the City to place more traps in the area and monitor them regularly. The challenge of the extra distance to recommended alternative stations was also a concern, especially for an elderly person carrying groceries.

Fenway resident Robert Wright

Renderings show new headhouses and elevators for (left) the inbound E Line on the west side of Mass. Ave., looking across Huntington, and of the outbound line on the east side of Mass. Ave. outside Horticulture Hall.

asked if instead of using the underpass at Mass. Ave., could the 39 inbound bus add a stop at the Huntington Avenue and Mass. Ave. intersection. This would be contingent on when the construction for the 34-story Lyra tower is completed, expected this August. Alison Pultinas [Fenway News contributor] then asked why no one from the bus division was attending the meeting to answer bus-related questions.

For more information on the reconstruction, visit [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) and search for Symphony Station Accessibility Improvements. MBTA riders are also encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts at [alerts.mbta.com](http://alerts.mbta.com). For urgent issues related to the rehabilitation, call the T's construction hotline at 844-948-1070. Watch the meeting at [youtube.com/watch?v=g5GYo3VVc9A](http://youtube.com/watch?v=g5GYo3VVc9A).

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

## CIVIC AGENDA

Tue, June 9  
State Senate Forum

An in-person candidate debate will feature contenders for the Democratic nomination in the two State Senate districts that include much of our coverage area. *Globe* politics reporter Samantha Gross will moderate, with an hour devoted to each district. 6:30–8:30pm, at Berklee's 160 Mass. Ave. building. Register at [MASenateForum.eventbrite.com](http://MASenateForum.eventbrite.com).

## CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

MON, 6/22

MUMFORD & SONS  
6:00–10:30PM

TUE, 6/23

RUFUS DU SOL  
7:00–10:30PM

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CITY LICENSING BOARD ☎ 617-635-4170

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CITY PROBLEM LINE ☎ 311

## E LINE CLOSED THROUGH 6/5

From May 30 to June 5, the MBTA will suspend service on the E Line between Government Center and Heath Street. Instead of providing shuttle buses, the T asks passengers to use the 39 bus and transfer to/from the Orange Line at Back Bay Station.

## Community Center Celebrates Ten Years

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER



On May 21, the Fenway Community Center hosted "Love The Fenway: Ten Together" to mark its 10th anniversary. The fundraiser, held on the Eastern Standard terrace, featured food, drinks, a silent auction, and plenty of humorous pokes at honoree John Tobin. The former city councilor has served as Northeastern's vice president of city and community relations even longer than the Community Center has been in existence. In the photo, former and current councilors flank Tobin (holding a custom Red Sox jersey). From left, they include Josh Zakim, Mike Ross, longtime civic leader Dr. Ted Landsmark, District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan, Community Center Director Mallory Rohrig, Tobin, At-Large Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and Boston Housing Authority chief Kenzie Bok. Zakim, Ross, and Bok previously represented District 8 on the council.

## URNS OUT THEY'RE NOT FINISHED ON PETERBOROUGH

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



Last summer West Fens residents endured torn-up paving, street closures, and diesel fumes as D'Alessandro Corp. replaced decades-old sewer pipes along Peterborough and Jersey streets for the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. Many residents assumed the work had finished in the fall, but work crews returned last month and began digging up the intersection of Peterborough and Kilmarnock streets. According to the "Projects" page of BWSC's website ([bwsc.org/projects/project-lookup](http://bwsc.org/projects/project-lookup)), the work along Peterborough has reached 91 percent completion, but the Jersey Street work only stands at five percent.

Elsewhere in our coverage area, work has reached five percent completion on Mission Hill's Parker Street (Ruggles to Prentiss). In Kenmore Square, work on Beacon Street (Charlesgate West to Raleigh) and Comm. Ave. inbound (Kenmore Street to Deerfield) has reached 91 percent completion; work on Comm. Ave. outbound (Charlesgate to Beacon) has reached 60 percent. According to the website, the contractor will repave affected streets within 90 days of work completion. The Fenway News submitted questions about the work to BWSC, but the response came too late to include in this issue.

# FENSVIEWS

## An Abundance of Questions Coming to the November Ballot

BY JONATHAN COHN

With the onset of spring weather in May came a biennial Massachusetts tradition: signature collectors outside the grocery store and at local events.

That's because as soon as signature collection wrapped up for candidates running for office this year, it started up again for ballot questions. And we have a lot of them.

Last fall was only Round One for these questions. A record-breaking 11 ballot questions reached the necessary 74,574 certified signatures needed to advance. They began the new year as bills filed with the Legislature.

A special committee in the Legislature held hearings on all 11 of those questions,

question's constitutionality, and the SJC sided with them. The question's backers are planning to regroup and try again next year.

So what are the remaining 10 questions you might see on clipboards in the coming weeks?

- **Rent stabilization**, i.e., limiting how much rent can increase each year to five percent or inflation (whichever is lower), with tailored exemptions for small landlords and new construction.
- **Limiting minimum lot sizes** in order to eliminate zoning obstacles to the construction of starter homes in the suburbs.
- **Expanding the public records law to include the Governor and Legislature** (We're the only state where the Governor and Legislature claim full exemption from an open records law).
- **Election Day registration**, i.e., enabling eligible voters to register to vote or update their registration at the polls (as New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut already allow). Our early September primaries put the need in stark relief.
- **Replacing party primaries with all-party runoff elections** like in California, a system Californians are thinking twice about amidst their chaotic gubernatorial election.
- **Reducing the state income tax** from five percent to four percent, which would lead to a \$5 billion cut to the state budget on top of looming cuts to health care and food assistance and disproportionately benefit the top one percent of income earners.
- **Tightening the revenue cap** created by a 1986 ballot question, changing the method the state uses to calculate the state tax revenue limit.
- **Enabling public defenders** at the

Committee for Public Counsel Service to form a union.

- **Recriminalizing recreational marijuana.**
- **Dedicating funds from the state sales tax on sporting goods** to a fund for protecting and conserving water and nature.

Sound like a lot of ballot questions to keep track of? That's not all of them.

One question already guaranteed to be on the ballot is a referendum on the guns safety omnibus bill passed overwhelmingly by the Legislature in 2024. The bill modernized Massachusetts's existing firearms laws to address issues such as untraceable "ghost guns," strengthened the state's "red flag law," protected safety in public spaces, and increased violence-prevention programming. The Gun Owners Action League collected signatures to try to repeal it. With ballot questions, always remember to pay attention to what the "yes" means and what the "no" means. For this question, it's yes to keep the law and no to repeal it.

The Legislature can take action until June 30 (the date signatures are due to the Secretary of the State) on any of the 10 other questions. With a question like Election Day registration, which the State Senate has passed multiple times over the years, doing so seems like a no-brainer.

But barring a quicker Legislature or a lot of illegible signatures, we are destined to face a historically long ballot this November. Make sure to do your homework before heading into the polls: you won't want to be taken by surprise by a never-ending list of questions when there is already a long list of offices on the ballot.

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

## GUEST OPINION

listening to proponents, opponents, nonpartisan experts, and members of the public. They decided not to take action on any of them. That means that the campaigns need to collect another 12,429 signatures between early May and mid-June, a much tighter window than Round One, but a lower threshold.

Unfortunately, one of the original 11 is no longer moving forward: the ballot initiative taking on the legislature's hierarchical pay structure. Currently, legislators can more than double their pay through stipends attached to various leadership posts. Critics rightly deride these stipends as "loyalty pay," given how they make their recipients indebted to the House and Senate leaders who dole them out. The State Senate, a bitter foe of the question, sought an advisory opinion from the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on the

## Fenway News

Published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., run by community members and dedicated to local journalism. Serving the Fenway, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle, Kenmore Square, upper Back Bay and lower Roxbury

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Contact the paper with submissions or announcements at

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NEXT ISSUE APPEARS

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FENWAY NEWS ASSOCIATION  
**Annual Meeting**

Fenway  
Community  
Center

July 9  
6:30pm

### ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (AS OF MAY 27, 2026):

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Join us for our annual meeting at the Fenway Community Center! We'll announce our speaker in our next issue, but fear not! We've nailed down the most important element of any Fenway community meeting—food. Any resident of the Fenway, Mission Hill, or Audubon Circle can join the Association, but to vote on board members you must join at least 14 days beforehand, which you can do by sending an email asking to join to [fenwaynews@gmail.com](mailto:fenwaynews@gmail.com). The current list of members appears at right.

## JOSLIN PARK TREES FIND NEW HOME ALONG MUDDY RIVER

Several trees from Joslin Park were replanted this month in the Back Bay Fens, filling in the "moonscape" at the southeast corner of Brookline Avenue and The Fenway (in photo) and Evans Way Park following careful soil preparation. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess paid for the transplanting. Joslin Park, now closed, will undergo a redesign as part of the plan for the new cancer hospital being built by DFCI and Beth Israel. Boston Parks & Recreation has promised to pay special attention to the red maples, American lindens, and katsuras to get them successfully established.



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

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# Revision of Bus-Network Plan May Offer New Shot at Restoring 55 Bus

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The MBTA will soon announce draft revisions to its 2023 Bus Network Redesign (BNRD) plan. The public comment period this summer offers an opportunity to advocate once again for the 55 bus and for practical Longwood Medical Area routes that make sense for Fenway and Mission Hill communities.

More than a year ago the MBTA outsourced a *Longwood Medical Area Bus Circulation Study* to consultants Nelson\Nygaard. The next steps for the study were to draft recommendations for four options for routes, potentially suggesting changes to local streets then scheduling a second public forum this summer. The MBTA initially presented concepts in a November 2025 meeting at the Fenway Community Center. [FN, Dec. 2025].

Improving bus reliability, speed, and frequency is the stated priority of the redesign effort. In general, the BNRD pushed for greater high-frequency service, one-seat rides for commuters to the LMA, and adding more trips during the day, not just at rush hour. Many obstacles could undermine full implementation, starting with cost.

The 2023 plan retained the 55's West Fens-to-Copley route, but the timeline for extending the hours of service is undetermined, supposedly because of future work at the Cabot Garage where the buses are stored.

Although many Fenway residents participated in the yearlong review of the initial draft of the BNRD, their advocacy for restoring the service's full previous route (West Fens to Park Street) didn't yield results.

According to survey responses received by Jamie Culbertson of Fenway Forward, resident priorities for the 55 are longer service hours and a return to the pre-COVID route. The 43 bus that travels on Tremont Street from Ruggles to Park—sharing some stops with the 55 in the past—covers a comparable distance and runs every 30 to 45 minutes. The 43 bus makes 28 trips in each direction on weekdays compared 9 inbound trips and 8 outbound for the 55 route.

Conrad Cizek, active with Fenway Forward's 55 Bus Coalition and mastermind of a new letter-writing campaign to the Governor, shared that recently State Sen. Will Brownsberger offered to use his influence to persuade the T to make the 55 a free bus route, potentially offering funds through the state budget. However, in a communication shared with Cizek and Tracey Hunt of the Peterborough Senior Center, Brownsberger said, "I'm getting push-back from the MBTA on the fare-free-55 concept. They don't want to do it even if we give them money. I think it is about the precedent. They are trying to wind down free fares in favor of low-income discounts."

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.*

## COMMUNITY meetings

**WED, JUNE 3** The Boston Planning Department hosts a public meeting on the proposed **INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN FOR EMMANUEL COLLEGE**. The meeting will discuss the IMP and its potential impacts. It will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public. Register at [bosplans.org/Emmanuelpub](https://bosplans.org/Emmanuelpub). 6pm. Email [tyler.c.ross@boston.gov](mailto:tyler.c.ross@boston.gov) with questions.

**THU, JUNE 4** The Boston Parks & Recreation Department holds a virtual public hearing on a request to remove four **PUBLIC SHADE TREES AT 41 & 77 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR**. 10:30am. Learn more or join the meeting at [boston.gov/public-notice/16584701](https://boston.gov/public-notice/16584701).

**TUE, JUNE 9** Join the Wards 4 and 5 Democratic Committees for a **STATE SENATE FORUM**, a double-header

conversation with the candidates for the First Suffolk and the Suffolk & Middlesex district seats. Confirmed candidates: Sen. Nick Collins, Latoya Gayle, Sen. Will Brownsberger, and Daniel Lander. *Boston Globe* politics reporter Samantha Gross will moderate the forum at Berklee College of Music, 160 Mass. Ave. 6:30–8:30pm. Register at [MASenateForum.eventbrite.com](https://MASenateForum.eventbrite.com).

**SUN, JUNE 14** The Roxbury Tenants of Harvard host their **annual meeting**. 1pm in the RTH Gymnasium.

**THU, JUNE 25** Join Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services for their **ANNUAL MEETING**, featuring food, music, awards, and a business meeting. 5–8pm. Kevin Fitzgerald Park, 145-157 St Alphonsus St.

# FCA ANNUAL MEETING SEASONS BUSINESS WITH A DASH OF HISTORY



*Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai addresses the meeting under the steady gaze of Rev. Charles Lowell, an influential abolitionist in 19th-century Boston.*

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

The Fenway Civic Association (FCA) held its 65th annual meeting on May 12 at the Massachusetts Historical Society. The well-attended event drew State Sen. Will Brownsberger, State Reps. Jay Livingstone and Dan Ryan, and City Councilors Sharon Durkan and Miniard Culpepper. Durkan and Culpepper presented a resolution from the Council in celebration of FCA's 65 years.

Following refreshments, social time, and a welcome by president Tim Horn, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, chief historian of the Historical Society (MHS), spoke about the organization's history. Wongsrichanalai said that the MHS, founded in 1791, was the first historical society in the United States. It has 14 million manuscripts, including all of the Adams family's personal papers, Thomas Jefferson's personal papers,

and Paul Revere's own account of his midnight ride.

Next, Tim Horn reviewed highlights of 2025. These included repairs to the broken masonry on the Johnson Gates, concerts at Symphony Park and Ramler Park, two tree-planting events, Fenway Cares food distribution, and activities at New Ederly Plaza. FCA has continued to advocate for shadow protection and Muddy River restoration.

Kathy McBride, FCA vice president, said she continues to work to increase the tree canopy. "Our future will always be open space," she said.

Following the meeting, attendees were invited upstairs to the galleries to visit an exhibition focused on the American Revolution. Two of the highlights were a letter from Abigail Adams to her husband John and one of the 25 original copies of the Declaration of Independence.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.*

## Award winning taste.

**Boston Water and Sewer Commission has won the 2025 New England Water Works Association AWWA/NE Chapter Tap Water Taste Contest!**



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## 'JOYWALK' SHOWCASES LOCAL ARTS SCENE



*The cool and rainy spring smiled on the Fenway Alliance May 7, giving it a beautiful day for its JoyWalk. The late-afternoon gallery crawl let visitors and residents explore 12 arts and cultural institutions for free, and this year the event added a new feature—an art market on New Ederly Plaza in the East Fens, across from Whole Foods. Most visitors perused booths set up by about a dozen dealers selling inexpensive artwork, crafts, and vintage clothes, while others took in the live music.*

# Objections, Auctions Dog Projects on Mission Hill's Terrace Street

BY ALISON PULTINAS

At the end of April, the two surface parking lots used since 2012 by Winn Residential's Oliver Loft residents at 166 Terrace St. were chained off. The current owner, Joey Frederico, claims that he does not have the wherewithal to insure or secure the lots. The tenants asked elected officials to step in as neutral arbiters. So far, their request has failed.

The dispute rests on a written commitment, made in the Article 80 filings for 154 Terrace St., that parking would be allowed up until the time the proposed plan receives building permits. Appeals filed by the 166 Terrace St. residents, abutters to the planned 65-apartment project, have delayed the permits.

In March, the residents filed an Open Meeting Complaint about the Zoning Board of Appeal's (ZBA) February 24 hearing that approved the revised 154 Terrace Street project. The residents argue that no oral

comments were allowed, as the ZBA does not take live public testimony on agenda items identified as "board final arbiter" cases [see *Project Proposals*, March 2026 FN].

The Feb. 24 Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) hearing was already controversial because of errors with the Planning Department's recommendation. Their evaluation was based on the previous homeownership project for the site, not Frederico's current rental plan. The Department's review, filed under the Bostonplans ZBA Reports link, copied documents from 2022, not the more recent February 2026 BPDA Board memo.

In an April 7 response to the abutters' complaint, Attorney Caroline Burkhard argued that the City's process allows the public to view zoning hearings as attendees and therefore meets Open Meeting Law criteria. However, the link provided to the public for virtual hearings doesn't allow for comments on the so-called "fast-track agenda"—requests for extensions and board

final arbiter items that the Zoning Board votes on before its regular agenda.

166 Terrace resident David Mynott subsequently filed the same complaint with the Attorney General's Division of Open Government. He has not yet received a decision.

Another public review related to the 154 Terrace St. plan took place May 7. At a hearing with Parks Department staff, the developer asked to remove four street trees in front of the site, as the Disabilities Commission had asked for a standard four-foot-wide path of travel on the sidewalk, and the existing trees stand in the way of providing that. Frederico's build-out of the parcel doesn't leave room for new trees, either on his property or on the sidewalk.

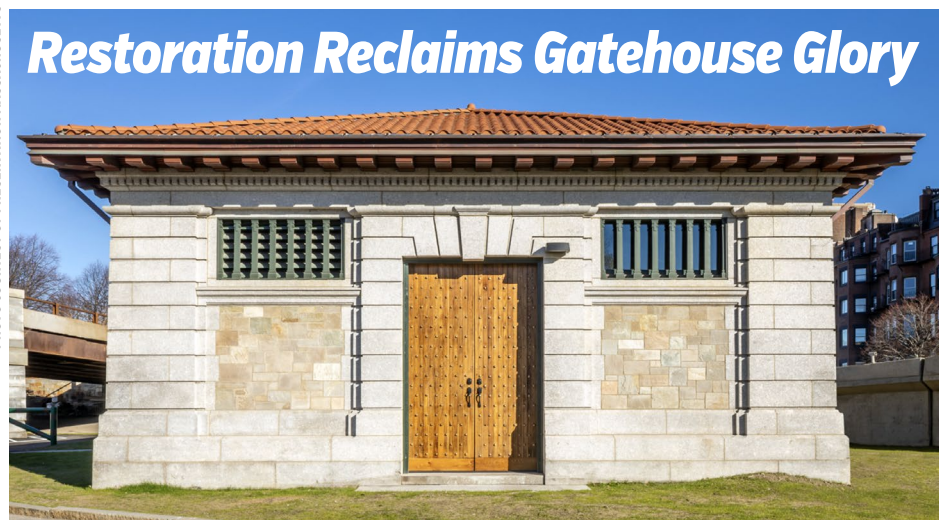
In different Terrace Street news, the

five-story apartment project proposed for 111 Terrace received another extension from the ZBA in April. The granted variances will now expire on April 26, 2027. The BPDA Board approved the project in 2018. Attorney Michael Ross explained that the owners are trying to sell the site with the approved variances. Denenberg Realty Advisors currently lists the property for sale at \$4.2 million.

And a possible fire sale: JJManning Auctioneers will conduct an onsite auction for Matthew O'Hara's Bellerose LLC properties at 1 and 4 Terrace Place on June 9 at 2pm. A \$100,000 deposit is required. A previously announced June 2 auction for 110-118, 120, 124, 126, and 128 Terrace St. has been cancelled for the third time.

*Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESERVATION MASSACHUSETTS



**Restoration Reclaims Gatehouse Glory**

Preservation Massachusetts will hold its annual awards ceremony at Fenway Park's 521 Overlook on June 11, and projects honored will include a key feature of the Emerald Necklace—the Fens Gatehouse, located between the Bowker Overpass and Storrow Drive East. The state's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance hired Alexander Finegold Architects to restore the 1909-1910 structure, built to house machinery controlling the flow of water from the Stony Brook into the Charles. Alexander Finegold's website ([faainc.com/project/fens-gatehouse](http://faainc.com/project/fens-gatehouse)) notes that the renovated building will house offices, a workshop, and other facilities for the DCR's Flood Control Operations group, and that a bike path will eventually cross the parcel.

## SOX BOX

<b>TUE, 6/2</b> 6:45PM	<b>WED, 6/3</b> 6:45PM	<b>THU, 6/4</b> 1:35PM	<b>FRI, 6/12</b> 7:10PM
<b>SAT, 6/13</b> 4:10PM	<b>SUN, 6/14</b> 7:20PM	<b>TUE, 6/16</b> 6:45PM	<b>WED, 6/17</b> 6:45PM
<b>THU, 6/18</b> 1:35PM	<b>THU, 6/25</b> 7:10PM	<b>FRI, 6/26</b> 7:10PM	<b>SAT, 6/27</b> 1:10PM
<b>SUN, 6/28</b> 7:20PM	<b>MON, 6/29</b> 7:10PM	<b>TUE, 6/30</b> 7:10PM	<b>WED, 7/1</b> 1:35PM

## DASHBOARD

### TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UPS

<b>BACK BAY</b> Monday and Thursday	<b>FENWAY</b> Tuesday and Friday	<b>MISSION HILL</b> Tuesday and Friday
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### STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning (and towing) resumed on April 1. In the Fenway, you need to check both City and DCR schedules to see when street cleaning takes place. Find City info at [tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8](http://tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8). See the DCR schedule at [tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3](http://tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3).



City of Boston  
Planning  
Department

## GRANTS WILL ENLIVEN NEW EDGERLY PLAZA

With funding from the City, Fenway Civic Association has announced four recipients of "Imagining the Plaza" activation grants for 2026:

- Fenway Community Center will run art and storytelling programs for all ages exploring themes of community through residents' stories.
- Fenway Forward will host a Fenway Fall Festival, featuring music, art, and

- a seasonal crafts activity.
- Ilana Katz will bring the interactive Harmony in Motion to the plaza. It will offer musical performances, self-guided art making, participatory percussion, and movement/dance.
- Itay Dayan will present a Klezmer/Balkan street party, complete with danceable folk music and dance instruction.



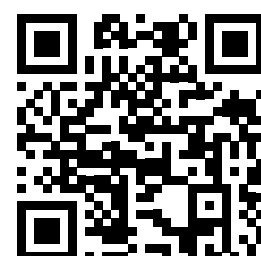
**State Backs Two Homeownership Projects**

At a May 22 press event on the back of Beacon Hill, Gov. Maura Healey announced a State investment of \$24.5 million in four developments that will yield 123 homes at prices first-time buyers can actually afford. Two of the projects have strong area connections. Mission Hill will get a 44-unit condo building, Mission Hill Pathway, on vacant land donated by the City. Households earning 100% of the area median income will qualify for half the units, with the other half affordable to households at 80% of the median. Fenway Forward will renovate a vacant rooming house at 27-29 Hancock St., site of the announcement. Its 15 units will have a similar affordability profile. Both developments will incorporate aggressive energy-efficiency features, and the City will also kick in funds for each—\$4 million in Mission Hill and \$3.5 million on Beacon Hill. Fenway Forward Deputy Director Suneeth P. John praised the State, City, and neighborhood partners for helping "create permanently affordable homeownership opportunities in one of Boston's most historically exclusive and high-cost neighborhoods."

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](http://bosplans.org/GetInvolved)



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

From our Who Knew? Department: MassArt conferred an honorary degree on rock star Peter Wolf, who, prior to his career with J. Geils, studied painting in Boston. The honor—a bit curious given that he attended the Museum School—highlights Wolf’s lifelong support of the visual arts.

➡ **PathAI announced its acquisition by pharmaceutical multinational Roche. The Fenway-based company, with 200 employees, has developed AI-driven software that digitizes slides from tissue biopsies and analyzes them to detect cancer cells more accurately than most human pathologists. The \$1.05 billion purchase price ranks among the biggest acquisitions of a startup in state history.** ➡ Dana-Farber Cancer Institute got a green light from the State to build a proton therapy center on Binney Street in the LMA. It will become only the third center in the state to offer the precisely targeted radiation treatment that destroys cancer cells without damaging other tissue. ➡ **Lecolion Washington, Jr. will join the Handel and Haydn Society as CEO on Aug. 1. The musician and educator comes to H+H after nine years heading the South End’s**



**Community Music Center, where he tripled endowment and oversaw creation of a new facility in Nubian Square that will open this fall. Responding to a question about becoming the first black leader of an institution long associated with Boston’s Brahmin-ocracy, Washington told the *Globe* that as a black bassoonist, “I have been in predominantly white spaces my entire life,” an experience that gave him “a certain type of cultural fluency.”** ➡ A 110-unit housing development on Malcolm X Boulevard near Nubian Square can move forward now that the City and State have sunk \$10.5 million into it—\$8.4 from the City’s Accelerator Fund and \$2.1 from the State’s Momentum Fund. Both funds, relatively new, aim to boost housing production. ➡ **A front-page story in the *Globe* recounted the long and twisty history of the Fenway Center air rights project. Phase 1—Lansdowne Station and the Bower complex—involved no air rights, but Phase 2 uses *only* air rights. The just-finished deck above the Mass Pike and the Framingham-Worcester commuter rail will support two commercial towers, but they can’t move ahead until the moribund life-**

**sciences market comes back from the dead. The developers need some big leases from major tenants before construction can begin. How bad is the life sciences market right now? Colliers reported that the first-quarter vacancy rate for lab space in metro Boston hit 34.7 percent. The rate in Boston proper, though, looked even grimmer: Colliers said that stood at nearly 43 percent.** ➡

## NEWSLINES

### Tax Would Have Yielded \$3 Million for Affordable Housing

Mayor Michelle Wu’s proposed two-percent transfer tax on real estate sales above \$2 million, a petition approved by the City Council on April 15, now sits adrift in the state legislature without a committee assignment. A 2022 draft sponsored by State Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid never got out of the Joint Committee on Revenue.

This version also assigns the tax to the seller. It exempts the first \$2 million of value as well as convenience transfers and those between family members. In addition, the 2026 petition expands Boston’s senior homeowner property-tax exemption. Funds collected would go to the Neighborhood Housing Trust for affordable housing.

Since July 1 of last year, the start of the City’s fiscal year, real estate sales in Mission Hill have included seven transactions above \$2 million for investor-owned three-family properties as of May 23. Had the transfer tax been in effect, those properties would have generated \$3.023 million for affordable housing:

- 864 Huntington Ave. @ \$2.025 million (July 14, 2025)
- 174 Fisher Ave. @ \$2.22 million (July 31, 2025)
- 158 Calumet St. @ \$2.16 million (Aug. 21, 2025)
- 22 Fisher Ave. @ \$2.79 million (Dec. 23, 2025)
- 97 Hillside St. @ \$3.25 million (Jan. 12, 2026)
- 143 Hillside St. @ \$2.378 million (Jan. 19, 2026)
- 91-93 Calumet St. @ \$2.2 million (April 14, 2026)

—Alison Pultinas

### Plans for Allocating Red Sox Grant Remain Opaque

The recent \$375,000 donation from the Boston Red Sox, approved by the Boston City Council on April 29, will “fund arts programming, community events and parks operations across Boston” according to Mayor Michelle Wu’s original order. At an April 21 hearing held by the Council’s Environment, Resiliency, and Parks Committee, Beata Coloyan, deputy chief of staff for strategic planning in the Mayor’s Office, explained that this is the fourth of eight years covered by the City’s agreement with the Sox. The donation increases by \$25,000 each year.

Councilor Sharon Durkan asked that the Fenway get priority in fund distribution, especially because of the impact of a potential 13th Fenway Park concert this year. A report from the committee chair, Councilor Brian Worrell, notes that “these funds are designated for the Fenway area of Boston with aims to mitigate neighborhood impacts from large events held at Fenway Park and support community initiatives. The Deputy Chief stated that the administration will collaborate with community leaders and the City Council to implement a finalized spending plan.”

Seeking more information on the allocation process, this reporter emailed Coloyan and heard back from Lamis Osman, communications associate in the Mayor’s Office. However, calls were not returned, and a public records request also failed, yielding this response: “Your message does not comply with Massachusetts public records law, as it is an inquiry that does not seek specific public records.”

—Alison Pultinas

### Fenway Names Dot Latest ‘Influential Bostonians’ List

Familiar Fenway faces pepper *Boston Magazine’s* 2026 list of the city’s most influential people. Biggest surprise? No. 67, Father John Unni of St. Cecilia’s, whose live-streamed homilies reach thousands each week according to the magazine. Others include Red Sox president Sam Kennedy (#16); Will Ahmed, CEO of Kenmore Square’s Whoop (#49); BU President Melissa Gilliam (#54); and Samuels & Associates chief Steve Samuels (#66).

# THE BRIDGE INITIATIVE

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**WHEN**  
June 4, 2026  
6:00 - 8:30pm

**WHERE**  
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1175 Tremont St, 02120

## Councilors Want City Workers Back Downtown ‘At Least Four Days a Week’

BY JACOB DOWNEY

After the COVID-19 pandemic, remote work has become common practice for many industries. In 2025, an estimated 32.6 million Americans, or 22 percent of the workforce, worked remotely. With foot traffic downtown and office vacancies up, District 2 City Councilor Ed Flynn has filed a resolution encouraging City employees to return to working in person at least four days out of the week.

“We can’t be afraid whether it’s politically popular or not,” he said. “The city of Boston is struggling economically because our downtown businesses are struggling.”

Flynn said that businesses downtown provide vital income for the City that funds schools, programs for seniors, and first responders. He added that even businesses within City Hall have suffered from the public sector’s shift to a hybrid work model, with the third-floor cafe and eighth-floor restaurant closing their doors.

A joint study by Tufts University and the Boston Policy Institute indicated that

commercial property values have fallen due to remote work policies, potentially costing the City between \$1.7 billion and \$2.1 billion in annual tax revenue. While cities across the country have had similar losses, Boston specifically draws 70 percent of its revenue from property taxes. In certain areas of the city—including the Fenway and Longwood Medical Area—a large portion of the land is owned by hospitals, universities, and other nonprofit entities such as churches. These properties are tax-exempt. In total, more than half of the City’s land is owned by nonprofits or other nontaxable entities.

Additionally, Flynn highlighted that the Zoning Board of Appeals, Licensing Board, and Boston Planning and Development Agency meetings had all moved online, with only the latter embracing true hybrid meetings, limiting access by seniors and “those lacking digital equity.”

At-Large City Councilor Erin Murphy said she has been asked by constituents why these meetings still take place remotely. She also acknowledged that there are many City employees who have not had the

opportunity to work from home. She said these employees have had to take personal days to do things that hybrid employees may have had greater access to due to the luxury of a more flexible schedule.

Flynn acknowledged the decision may prove unpopular with City employees but said the City must lead by example. “We need to be back to work at least four days a week, if not five, but I’ll settle for four,” he said.

The resolution passed nearly unanimously, with a single vote of “present” from City Council President Liz Breadon.

“A lot of our work at City Hall involves being out in the neighborhoods, and a requirement to be at City Hall four days a week is too inflexible,” she said. “While I am open to considering other possibilities, I do not agree with the suggested language regarding hybrid abutters meetings and ZBA meetings based on feedback from constituents.”

Boston-based Fidelity Investments announced last month that it would bring its 8,000 employees back to the office full-time starting in September. This decision

was met with support from Mayor Michelle Wu, who told WBUR’s Tiziana Dearing that the decision will boost foot traffic for small businesses.

“We’re always going a little bit back and forth about employee work-life balance,” she said. “But I think as we’ve been seeing over the last few years, especially, there is real value to people being in spaces physically together.”

Wu added that major employers have the full support of the city in the transition back to in-person work. To ease the blow on workers, the mayor said the city would work to improve public transportation and access to childcare.

“The barriers and the challenges can feel very real, but rather than saying, ‘we’re gonna all retreat and abandon being in person because it’s too hard, there are so many pieces,’ it’s actually we need to solve those pieces as well,” Wu said.

*Jacob Downey is a freelance news writer working with Caught In Media, Boston Spirit Magazine, and the Boston Compass Newspaper.*

## The Arts

### Tasty Burger Returns to Fenway Park, Alongside Lobstah Poutine and More

BY CELINA COLBY

Cheering on the home team got a lot more delicious this season. Fenway Park added dozens of new concessions to the lineup this year and announced that Tasty Burger will return as the official burger of the Boston Red Sox after a six-year hiatus.

Tasty Burger served as the official burger of the Red Sox between 2014 and 2020 before dropping inexplicably off the park’s radar. Now they’re back with a limited menu of classics available at locations around the park, including at a flagship stand on the Big Concourse and via hawkers who will throw burgers to fans during the games.

The Fenway menu includes the

hamburger, the cheeseburger, and the chili cheeseburger. High rollers watching the game from the luxury suites will also have access to the signature Big Tasty burger.

“There’s no better match-up than baseball and burgers,” says Tasty Burger CEO David DuBois. “And no better feeling than catching a burger mid-air from a hawker inside Fenway Park during a Sox game. Bringing our burgers back to Fenway Park is a dream come true for a local Boston company like ours.”

Burgers are just the beginning of the menu upgrades at Fenway.

Mix up another classic baseball snack, the hot dog, by selecting one

of four new specialty flavors including the Boston Dog topped with baked beans, bacon bits, and onion or the Reuben Dog with corned beef, swiss cheese, sauerkraut, and thousand island dressing.

Gluten-free diners can now enjoy chicken and beef empanadas in corn shells (pictured), and Taco Tuesday will be even more vibrant with the addition of an adobo chicken taco and a Korean brisket taco with kimchi and barbecue sauce.

Some of the new menu items feel especially suited to Boston, like the loaded “lobstah” poutine, which includes Cavendish Farms French fries topped with a hearty portion of Luke’s

Lobster, clam chowder and bacon bits. The fact that fans can order a piping hot bowl of clam chowder during the heat of a summer baseball game is very on-brand for New England.

Wash it all down with a new Angry Orchard watermelon slushie or a newly available Monster Energy drink.

The most difficult part about eating at a Red Sox game these days (aside from those marked-up prices) is choosing from the ever-expanding options. Fenway Park is no longer just the land of peanuts and crackerjacks.

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

## OPENINGS, CLOSINGS SHAKE UP LOCAL DINING

Not even halfway through 2026, the local dining scene has experienced unusual churn, highlighted by the closing of two much-loved

neighborhood mainstays.

- The owners of **Woody’s Grill and Tap** announced plans to close the long-time East Fens hangout on May 28. For three

decades Woody’s served a reliable menu of comfort food and excellent pizza, hosting innumerable birthday celebrations and political fundraisers (not a few of which appeared in our pages).

- Across the park, another reliable locally owned spot, **Thaitation**, closed its doors earlier this year—apparently the result of unpaid state taxes. The Jersey Street storefront had previously housed award-winning Brown Sugar. After it closed (it still has a location at 1033 Comm. Ave. near Packards Corner) some staff members regrouped to open Thaitation with an equally tasty menu. The “Only In Boston” Facebook page reports that Thaitation had a 16-year run.
- **Blaze Pizza** shut down with little fanfare in mid-May. While not locally owned, the West Fens pizza shop donated pizzas to neighborhood causes like the Community Center and the Center’s Free Market held the second Tuesday of the month. Blaze has one remaining Massachusetts location on First Street in Cambridge.
- **Viva Burrito**, which took over the El Pelon space in 2024, has closed. Its Franklin Street branch downtown remains open.

Happily, there’s more positive news to report in the form of several arrivals:

- In May we profiled the new **Fenway Grill & Bar**, successor to the much-lamented Thornton’s on Peterborough Street. It serves Turkish/Eastern Mediterranean comfort food and continues to operate a see-and-be-seen streetside patio.
- **Rosa y Marigold** has opened in the Lyrik complex at Mass. Ave. and Boylston featuring Peruvian cuisine and

the influence of the Chinese diaspora on Peruvian food. Owners Maria Rondeau, an architect, and JuanMa Calderón, filmmaker and chef, also operate the acclaimed Celeste in Somerville.

- More at the Lyrik: Purveyor of “refined Greek cuisine,” **Avra Estiatorio** began in New York but now has five out-of-town locations, including this one. The menu leans heavily Greek with a focus on seafood, but it also shows a surprising Japanese influence, with sashimi and nigiri dishes. Avra says it flies in small-boat-caught fish from the Mediterranean throughout the week.
- Speaking of Greek food, local fast-casual star **Saloniki**—brainchild of celebrity chef Jody Adams—plans to relocate from Van Ness Street, where the chain started in 2016. A flyer in the old Regina’s Pizzeria space on Boylston Street announces the impending move, although the company hasn’t announced a firm date; Regina’s closed in March.
- Just up Boylston, Greenwich Village-based **Joe’s Pizza** has applied for a common victualer’s license at 1363 Boylston, formerly Tiger Mama, then Tenderoni’s. Several area websites report that Joe’s plans to open this month.
- Finally, what’s up with **Angelina’s**? The Italian-Asian fusion bakery announced its first site outside metro New York last September, but nine months later, beyond signs showing its aqua logo, nothing about the old Bank of America branch at Boylston and Mass. Ave. suggests an imminent opening. *WhatNow Boston* identified the franchise holder as Koushik Koganti, owner of Don’t Tell Aunty, the nearby Indian bistro.

*Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.*

### 27th Studio Without Walls Opens on the Riverway

The 27th annual Studios Without Walls features 15 site-specific sculptures installed along the Riverway across from the Longwood MBTA stop. They’ll remain on view through Sept. 7. The free exhibition explores the theme “Urban Symphony” and includes an art treasure-hunt with rhyming clues (find maps in the info boxes at the site). Each sculpture has a sign with an artist’s statement and a QR code, and all information is available at [StudiosWithoutWalls.org](http://StudiosWithoutWalls.org). The three works shown here include two undergoing installation.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETTE ANN LIBBY



# The Arts

## Meet Karen Wolff—Neighbor, Artist, and Art Conservator

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

Ever wonder who keeps our local sculptures lookin' good? Karen Wolff is that person.

An artist and West Fens resident, Wolff describes herself as a "Collections Care Specialist in Sculpture and Object Conservation." She is known for fixing damaged art and sculptures, restoring each to its former glory.

Wolff graduated from Massachusetts College of Art and Design with a BFA in studio art and painting. She attributes her first job with a restoration company as inspiration for the work she does now.

Wolff now works primarily as an independent contractor. She loves the challenge of making a damaged piece whole again and points out that "this detail work helps your own artwork." The task of removing dirt, grime, or bird and insect excrement carefully from a sculpture takes patience, persistence, and skill with "no rubbing allowed." She starts with gentle cleaning soap such as Orvus horse shampoo diluted with water, gentle brushes, and careful lifting motions of the hand. If that doesn't work, she moves up to a stronger solution, such as denatured alcohol.

Last summer, Wolff received a grant from the Fenway Civic Association to remove graffiti and repair damage to the bronze lion heads on the Johnson Gates. Also known as Westland Gate, the granite pillars stand at the juncture of Westland Avenue and Hemenway Street in the East Fens. They were designed by architect Guy Lowell, who designed the Museum of Fine Arts main structure on Huntington Avenue and 73 Hemenway St. just next door.

The accompanying photo shows Wolff as she works on a lion's head. As the picture suggests, staying safe while working alongside heavy traffic is one of the challenges she faces while working on some projects. She also completed removal of graffiti on a two-story mural by Kenny Scharf at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem.

Projects Wolff works on regularly include the Cyrus Dallin sculpture "Memory" at the War Monument in Sherborn; the "Tent Bay" sculpture by Taylor McLean in Harry Ellis Dickson Park across from the Whole Foods on Westland Avenue; and the "First Chair" sculpture in Boston's Symphony Community Park on Edgerly Road. This interactive sculpture with seating was created by local artist, Jacob Kulin,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN WOLFF

The upper image shows a damaged lion's head at the Johnson Gates. The lower image shows a restored head. At left Wolff worked on the restorations while traffic sped by just feet away.

acknowledging the musical history of our neighborhood and the first violinist of a symphony orchestra.

Wolff also creates pet portraits on a small scale. For more information, contact [karenwolff12@gmail.com](mailto:karenwolff12@gmail.com).

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

## LAST CALL

Catch these shows before they close.

**ENDING MAY 31**

> **DIVINE COLOR: HINDU PRINTS FROM MODERN BENGAL (MFA)**

The 19th-century introduction of lithography ultimately change India's subsequent cultural history.

> **MIDNIGHT MARCH (MASSART):**

Enter a darkened, starry room filled with vibrantly colored "monsters" in a re-interpretation of an ancient Japanese myth.

> **PRESS & PULL (MASSART):**

The fascinating story of NYC's Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop's, plus a sampling of striking and beautiful prints produced by its artists.

**ENDING JUNE 21**

**PICTURING ISABELLA (GARDNER):**

Isabella Stewart Gardner zealously policed her public image—today we'd say curated—in paintings and photographs, even those by friends. See what she *did* allow.



As Wolff describes it, she worked on Asian exports "mostly from the 19th century, with pieces older than that or more modern from different styles and genres of ceramic stone, wood bronze, porcelain, etcetera."

### Re-signing on Huntington



On May 18, Boston Halal Indian Mediterranean signage comes down, and Desi Quick Bites goes up.

### SMFA'S STUDENT THESIS SHOW



In May the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University held exhibitions of thesis works produced by both graduate and undergraduate students. Undergrad Luz Palou Garcia created "Todos somos todos y tú también!" (above), which translates as "We are all everyone, and you are too!" Palou Garcia used a welded steel structure, chicken wire, 1,000 zip ties, newspaper, papier maché, two beach balls, hot glue, yarn, fabric, and acrylic paint.

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Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust

# June

## CALENDAR

Now → Sun, 6/30

**HARVARD STAFF ART SHOW: LONGWOOD.** Open to the public on weekends (ID required). Sat 10am–4pm, Sun 12–5pm. Countway Library, 695 Huntington Ave.

Now → Sat, 12/19

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY** plundered its holdings for 1776: *Declaring Independence*, which shows how the document developed—including a draft handwritten by Thomas Jefferson—and how from the Revolution through today it has built “a complex legacy as a national beacon for celebration and protest.” Mon, Wed-Fri 9:30am-4:45pm; Tue until 7:45pm; Sat 10am-3pm. 1154 Boylston Street. More info at [masshist.org](http://masshist.org).

Fri, 5/29 & Sun, 5/31

- Led by the BSO's James Burton, the H+H Concert Choir presents “**VOICES CARRY,**” a “concert experience unlike any other in our season,” says H+H, “showcasing the transcendent music of Bach, Brahms, Gesualdo, and more—reminding us that in music, we can rediscover hope.” Jordan Hall at 7:30pm (5/29) and 3:00pm (5/31). Details and tickets (\$15-\$134) at [handelandhaydn.org](http://handelandhaydn.org).
- The **WBUR FESTIVAL** unfolds over two days up and down Comm. Ave. with more than 130 speakers, including chef José Andres, author Celeste Ng, actor David Oyelowo, equal-justice activist Bryan Stevenson, and many national journalists. Events range from a street fair to pop-up food stands and a bookstore. Many more details and tickets (\$29-\$349) at festival. [wbur.org](http://wbur.org).

Fri, 5/29 & 6/26

Head to the Verb Hotel for **FREE, POOLSIDE PERFORMANCES** by artist-in-residence and jazz/funk musician Thaddeus Hogarth on the last Friday of every month. 5–8pm, 1271 Boylston St.

Wed, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24, & 7/1

Join Mission Hill Housing Services for its regular **KNITTING CLUB** on Wednesdays at 4:30pm, 30 Gurney St.

Thu, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25, & 7/2

- CHAIR YOGA** in Symphony Park, 10am. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/parkchairyoga](http://tinyurl.com/parkchairyoga). Edgerly Road and Norway Street. **FREE**

## @ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is open six days a week. Visit [fenwaycommunitycenter.org](http://fenwaycommunitycenter.org) for details.

- Tuesday, June 9, from 2–4:30pm: **FREE MARKET** with Fenway Forward
- Wednesday, June 10, from 6–7:30pm: **BOSTON BAKED BOOKS** with guest speaker Chuck Hogan
- Friday, June 12 & 26, from 5–7pm: **FAMILY FRIDAYS**
- Saturday, June 20, 12–4:30pm: **FENWAY PORCHFEST**
- Wednesday, June 24, 3:30–5:30pm: **DESIGN BASICS WITH GRACE—Design Your Logo**

## SENIOR EVENTS

Drop into the Pererborough Senior Center for a program or two and bring your friends! Open Tue–Thu, 12–3:30pm. For more information call Tracey or Ariana at 617-536-7154.

- Tuesday, June 2 at 12pm: **SUMMER TRIVIA & BINGO**
- Wednesday, June 3 at 12pm: Film—**MADEA WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM**
- Thursday, June 4, 2–3pm: **10-MINUTE CHAIR MASSAGES**
- Tuesday, June 9 at 12pm: **SMOOTHIES & GAMES**
- Wednesday, June 10 at 12pm: **SPANISH BINGO** with Angela Ayala
- Wednesday, June 10 at 12pm: **COMEDY**

- DANCEHALL BOOTCAMP**, a Parks Dept. “fun, high-energy class designed to help you build confidence, strength, and style.” 6:30pm, Mission Hill Playground, 60 Smith St. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/Dancehallbootcamp](http://tinyurl.com/Dancehallbootcamp). **FREE**

Sat, 6/6

**BOSTON PRIDE PARADE** steps off from Copley Square at 11am and winds through the South End, back to Boylston, along the Public Garden and onto the Common for entertainment, speeches, and many booths. **FREE**

Sat, 6/6 & Sun, 6/7

Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents **RISE**, its annual Pride concert, celebrating “resistance, resilience, and radical joy.” Jordan Hall, 8:00pm (6/6), 3:00pm (6/7). Info and tickets (\$39-\$138) at [bgmc.org](http://bgmc.org).

Mon, 6/8

**BPS 2026 ALL-STAR BASEBALL GAME.** Northeastern University's Parsons Field in Brookline, 5pm. **FREE**

Wed, 6/10

**ROSE GARDEN PICNIC.** Fenway Civic Association presents its annual picnic outside the Kelleher Rose Garden (across from 77 Park Drive). Join neighbors and friends for food, music from the Something Brothers, and a stroll the gardens in bloom. Thanks to Samuels & Associates and Star Market for their support! 6p–8pm; rain date June 11. **FREE**

Sat, 6/13

- BOSTON PARKS WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP.** 10am–12pm, Kelleher Rose Garden Back Bay Fens. To register, email [allison.singer2@boston.gov](mailto:allison.singer2@boston.gov). **FREE**

Mon, 6/15

Deadline for submissions to the **BPL'S LIBRARY-CARD DESIGN CONTEST.** The library will choose winners in three categories—adults (18+), one teen (13-17), and one youth (0-12)—and the designs will appear for a year on library cards issues from September. You must have a library card to enter, you can only submit one entry, and the judges will disqualify any AI-generated entries. For more details and the submission form, visit [tinyurl.com/BPLCardDesign](http://tinyurl.com/BPLCardDesign).

Mon, 6/22

Join the Parker Hill branch of the Boston Public Library for a fun and creative celebration of Pride Month! **MAKE PRIDE-THEMED FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS** to show your support, express yourself, and connect with others. All ages and identities welcome; no crafting experience necessary. 4pm, 1497 Tremont St. **FREE**

Thu, 6/25

Facilitated by library staff, **THE BPL'S LIVING ROOM CONVERSATIONS** offer a simple, sociable, and structured way to practice communicating across differences while building understanding and relationships. This session focuses on AI's rapid emergence as a powerful, divisive new technology. 12pm, Central Library, 700 Boylston Street. **FREE**

# Kaji Aso Studio 37th International Haiku Contest

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## Haiku

### FIRST PLACE

between streetlights moonlight

RAVI KIRAN // HYDERABAD, INDIA

### SECOND PLACE

chimney swifts  
daylight spirals  
into dusk

FARAH ALI // BRIGHTON, UK

### THIRD PLACE

cold and clear  
the tide pulls moonlight  
into the mudflats

KRISTEN LINDQUIST // CAMDEN, ME

### HONORABLE MENTION

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME)

perhaps tomorrow . . . swallows on a wire

JOHN BARLOW // LANCASHIRE, UK

field of sunlight  
a rolling pony  
flattens the buttercups

JOHN BARLOW // LANCASHIRE, UK

spring dusk  
the old crossing guard  
limps home

REVA LEVIN // BOSTON, MA

build-up of  
those small despairs  
Old man of the mountain

SIN MANGANOMESIS // HYOGO, JAPAN

lake mist  
lifting  
all spirits

SCOTT MASON // SOMERS, NY

one small step—  
the moon in a puddle  
dissolves

MARA GAJIC // VIENNA, AUSTRIA

despite  
until  
still  
the lily

JULIE SCHWERIN // SUN PRAIRIE, WI

meltwater  
unbraiding  
the creek

JEFF HOAGLAND // HOPEWELL, NJ

oars resting...  
a cabbage white rises  
from the iris

PAULA SEARS // EXETER, NH

out of the sea in the conch forever

RAVI KIRAN // HYDERABAD, INDIA

## Senryu

### SENRYU PRIZE

bucket list —  
going back  
for seconds

KENNETH ELBA CARRIER // WAKEFIELD, MA

### HONORABLE MENTION

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME)

the one-liner falling flat autumn rain

JOHN BARLOW // LANCASHIRE, UK

two years gone  
his ghost still appears  
on Google Earth

WENDY TOTH NOTARNICOLA // LONG VALLEY, NJ

gran's passing  
the energy stored  
in the tick of her watch

LOUIS TALBOT // EPSOM, UK

KAJI ASO STUDIO PROGRAMMING IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL, ADMINISTERED BY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE, AND THE MISSION HILL FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST