



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 8 • JULY 31–AUGUST 28, 2026

Cyclist's Death Refocuses Attention on City's Stalled Mission Hill Transportation Plan



A ghost bike and flowers mark the spot where cyclist Louisa Gag died on July 9.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The horrific death on July 9 of City transportation planner and cyclist Louisa Gag on Tremont Street near Parker shocked but did not necessarily surprise Mission Hill residents.

Details from the investigation have still not been shared, except that an 18-wheeler truck swerved into the bike lane to bypass a vehicle waiting to turn left onto Parker. Police stopped the truck driver a few blocks away at the intersection of Tremont and Melena Cass Boulevard.

Mourners and activists installed a white-painted “ghost bike” on July 19. Memorial flowers and signs went up

almost immediately after the news of Gag's death emerged. Jack Vaughan, a resident of nearby Delle Avenue, said the tragedy will forever mark this corner.

The Massachusetts Vision Zero Coalition held a vigil for Gag at Boston City Hall on July 16.

The eastbound blocks of Tremont from Burney to Terrace present a wide range of hazards. Constant friction comes from the steady traffic, and drivers execute complicated maneuvers daily because of hazardous access from side streets, parked cars, the block lines of sight, the 66 bus, cyclists heading to the Southwest Corridor bike path, and emergency vehicles headed to Longwood hospitals.

The City added narrow bike lanes on Tremont, separated from traffic only by striping, in 2023. Calling them unprotected is an understatement. Between the flow of crosstown traffic and the drivers pulling in and out of the on-street parking, cycling often feels uncomfortable here.

Gag's City colleague William Moose managed the stalled Mission Hill Transportation Project on Terrace and Parker streets; the study area excluded Tremont, despite its proximity. At public meetings on the project, however, residents described *The Mission Hill Transportation Project* focused on Parker and Terrace streets. The red circle marks the area where Louisa Gag was killed.

jaywalking back and forth between the route 66 stop at the bridge above the railroad tracks and the Orange Line station at Roxbury Crossing. They asked for improved and safer pedestrian access between the station and the bus.

A public meeting on the project, scheduled for last year by District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan, got canceled. Residents have received no updates on the project since 2023.

Two concurrent planning efforts from the MBTA have also stalled, specifically the plan for a center-running bus lane on Columbus Avenue and the MBTA's Bus Network Redesign process that promised three or four new routes using Tremont Street for commutes to the Longwood Area—a controversial plan among Mission Hill residents. The Columbus bus-lane project wasn't universally popular, and now that the City has changed plans for Roxbury's Parcel 3, a new public process will likely take place.

On July 24, Mayor Michelle Wu released in a six-page street-safety letter in which she said that, “we developed a pipeline of more planned, designed projects than the City budget currently has the capacity to deliver or maintain.” So true!

To learn more about Louisa Gag's life and impact visit the memorial page at livablestreets.info/louisa_gag.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

FRI, 7/31
SAT, 8/1

PHISH
6:30–10:30PM

SUN, 8/2
ZAC BROWN BAND
7:00–10:30PM

FRI, 8/14
SAT, 8/15
CHRIS STAPLETON
5:00–10:30PM

REPORT NOISE OR MISBEHAVIOR

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

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

PRIMARY ELECTION: TUE, 9/1

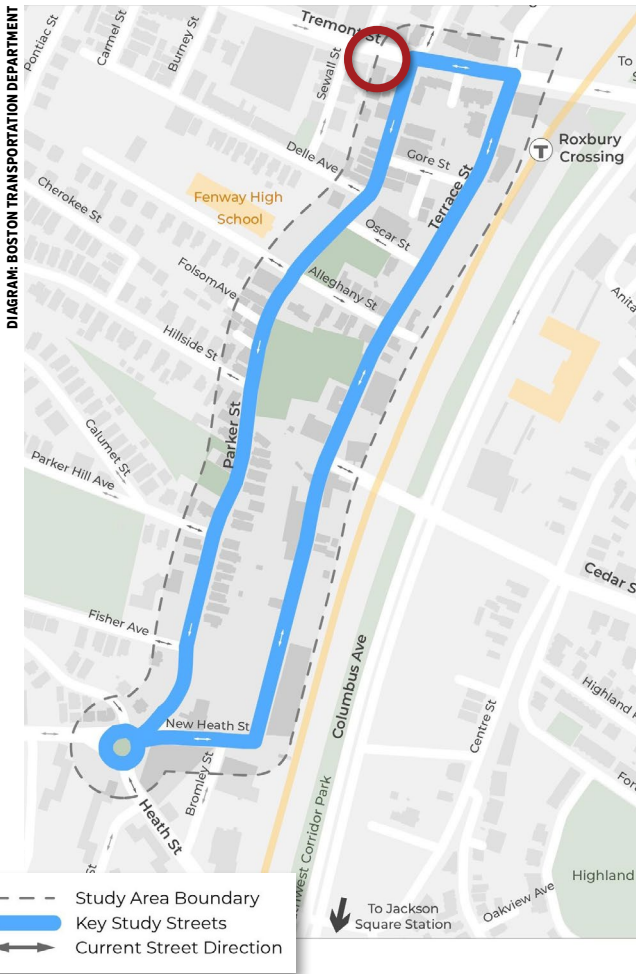
Boston's Democratic tilt means that party primaries often have more impact than general elections, so *don't forget to vote by mail or in person on Tuesday, Sep. 1*. Early voting begins Saturday, August 22. The big contest in our coverage area pits newcomer Daniel Lander against State Sen. Will Brownsberger. What you need to know:

• **CANDIDATE WEBSITES:**
> votebrownsberger.com

> daniellander.com

• **FIND OUT WHERE YOU VOTE:** If you plan to vote in person but aren't sure where to do it, visit wheredoivotema.com

The Fenway News plans to send both candidates a questionnaire and will publish their answers in our September issue, which comes out Aug. 28, four days before the primary. Be sure to pick it up—and to vote!



WILDFIRES BRING DYSTOPIAN SKIES



On July 14 and 15, smoke from wildfires in Ontario turned skies across the City—including above Clemente Field in the Fenway—a sickly yellow and sent air-quality readings into unhealthy territory.

Nurses' Walkout at Brigham & Women's Sets A Record



4,000 registered nurses at Brigham and Women's Hospital staged a one-day strike on July 8, with picketers crowding the sidewalks along Francis Street, across from the hospital campus. The nurses voted for the strike to protest stalled contract negotiations, which media reports said have foundered on the issue of salaries. The striking nurses didn't return to work the next day, however, because management at Mass General Brigham locked them out, ostensibly because the staffing agency that supplied 1,300 temporary replacement nurses mandated five-day contracts. The work action represented the largest nurses' strike—and worker lockout—in state history.

NEWSLINES

Fens Pathways Project Finally Has Contractor

The Boston Parks Department awarded a contract last month for work on a long-awaited capital project, improvement of the Back Bay Fens pathways. C. Naughton Corp. of Bridgewater will undertake the project, originally set for completion this year. It includes renovations to improve accessibility at the War Memorial and the John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial and repaving of paths throughout the Fens. The request for bids set an \$8 million ceiling; Naughton bid \$7.079 million. Three other companies also bid. The construction schedule has not yet been shared. Replacement of the Evans Way bridge will move forward as a separate, future project.

Green Line Will Shut Down Twice in August

As if five ballpark concerts in two weeks weren't enough of a headache for Fenway residents, the MBTA has piled on another one. It will shut the Green Line for signal and safety work over two periods in August that correspond almost exactly with the dates of

the Fenway concerts—meaning even worse traffic jams than usual. Mission Hill residents will lose all service on the E Line.

- **AUGUST 1-2:** No Green Line service between North Station and Kenmore. The T wants riders to use the Orange Line between downtown and Back Bay Station, then switch to a free shuttle (inbound trips will reverse that). Cleveland Circle/C and Riverside/D service will run normally beyond Kenmore. Boston College/B service will run normally beyond Babcock Street. Heath Street/E service will stop completely, but the 39 bus will be free.
- **AUGUST 8-16:** This closure repeats the first shutdown, except that it will add shuttles beyond Kenmore for Cleveland Circle/C, but those shuttles will skip St. Mary's Street and two other stops.
- **FREE SUBSTITUTES: COMMUTER RAIL** to/from Lansdowne, Back Bay, and South Station. The **39 BUS** along the E branch. The **57 BUS** along the C branch between Kenmore and Packard's Corner (where it veers off toward Watertown Square). For more details, visit mbta.com/schedules/Green/alerts.

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES WITH CONSERVANCY'S 'TUESDAYS' PROGRAM



Want to ease your way into gardening without jumping feet first into a Victory Gardens plot? The Emerald Necklace Conservancy has an idea. Join other volunteers every other Tuesday through Sept. 29 at the James P. Kelleher Rose Garden in the Back Bay Fens to try your hand at deadheading and pruning, weeding beds, and providing essential seasonal care. The 1,500-plant garden brings together more than 200 rose varieties. Since “Tuesdays With Roses” began in 2005, more than 2,000 volunteers have taken part. Landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff, who worked with Frederick Law Olmsted, designed the garden, which opened in 1930 and were expanded in 1933. Visit emeralnecklace.org to register.

THE Fenway News

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Serving the Fenway, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle, Kenmore Square, upper Back Bay and lower Roxbury

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EDITOR | Kelsey Bruun

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CONTRIBUTORS (REPORTING, PHOTOGRAPHY,

QUESTION) | Ahmed M. Abdelfa

o, Alison Barnet, Mary Ann B
ll Brewschberger, Steve Cha

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SUBMISSIONS | We welcome articles, letters (please aim for 250 or fewer words), opinion pieces, and photography from people who live or work in our coverage area. Publication of submissions is at our discretion and does not represent endorsement by the paper, its board, or its volunteers.

Contact the paper with submissions or announcements at

fenwaynews@gmail.com or

The Fenway News
P.O. Box 230277, Astor Station
Boston, MA 02123

DEADLINES & ADVERTISING

NEXT ISSUE APPEARS

Friday, August 28

ISSUE DEADLINE

Send letters, news items, and ads by
Friday, August 21

SUBSCRIPTIONS \$30/YEAR
[LIMITED INCOME, \$20]

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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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SYMPHONY MARKET'S TEMPORARY CLOSURE MYSTIFIES CUSTOMERS



On July 22, a fully-lit Symphony Market displayed a “temporarily closed” sign. Multiple passersby attempted to open the door before noticing the sign. On July 27, the store appeared to be open to the public.

New Trees at Charlesgate Park



The Charlesgate Alliance announced that it has contracted with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy to water 29 trees the Alliance has planted over the past few years.

Jordan Hall Clears Key City Landmark Hurdle



BY ALISON PULTINAS

Jordan Hall, the New England Conservatory’s main building at 290 Huntington Avenue, looks set to become a designated city landmark. On July 14, the Boston Landmark Commission voted unanimously to approve the designation, which still requires the mayor’s signature and a City Council vote.

It took 15 years to win the designation, not an unusual time frame for citizen petitions to the BLC. Unless a building faces a threat, petitioners can wait for years for their formal hearing because of an application backlog and the research required to document a proposed landmark’s history.

Symphony Road resident Calvin Arey submitted the petition in 2011, one of several he filed that year. All involved significant buildings recommended for designation in the BLC’s 1984 *Fenway Preservation Study*. Other Fenway properties Arey succeeded in winning designation for include Horticultural Hall and the Massachusetts Historical Society building. The BLC lists other petitions—for Symphony Hall, Harvard Medical School, and the MFA—as pending or under study.

In a phone interview, Arey cited the seeming lack of follow-through on the consultant’s 1984 survey as his motivation. A failed collective effort to designate the Huntington Avenue YMCA pushed him to pay attention to preservation advocacy.

Arey’s efforts might seem unnecessary,

but adding the landmark designation represents an obvious step for properties like Jordan Hall—listed on the National Register in 1980 and then in 1994 as a National Historic Landmark—that have national significance.

The July 14 hearing went smoothly, although Vineet Gupta, the newest BLC commissioner, asked why the designation didn’t include the hall’s interior, which Arey’s original petition requested. Staff historian Jennifer Gaugler explained that the BLC staff discussed that possibility but decided that a preservation easement held by the state historical commission already assures oversight of interior changes. Also, the hall’s delicate acoustics require specialized knowledge, generally considered beyond the expertise of the commissioners.

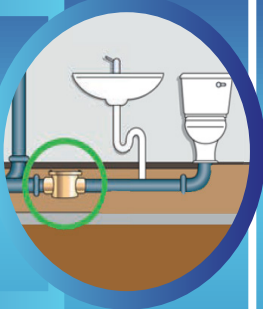
Arey was glad to learn about the vote from this writer; he hadn’t heard about the hearing. An activist for people incarcerated in the U.S. prison system, Arey volunteers with Quincy’s Prison Book Program and his own affiliated project, the Albert Woodfox Memorial Mini-Freedom Libraries. The Mini-Freedom Libraries honor Woodfox, who spent 44 years in solitary confinement. Arey is also the only surviving lead plaintiff in a landmark prisoners’ rights case, *Landman v. Royster*, which desegregated Virginia’s prisons, established basic due-process rights for incarcerated people, and ended bread-and-water diets for prisoners in solitary confinement.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

SEWAGE BACKUPS ARE PREVENTABLE

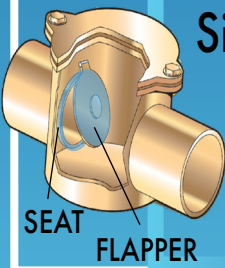
No Valve = No Protection

If your home has plumbing fixtures in the basement, like a toilet or sink, a backwater valve will prevent sewage from flowing into your home during heavy rains or sewer backups.



Maintenance Matters!

Without a properly installed and maintained valve your basement is vulnerable to costly and hazardous sewage backups.



Simple Maintenance Requirements:

- Inspect regularly, especially before storms.
- Wear protective gloves and eyewear.
- Remove debris from valve seat and flapper with water and gentle scrubbing.



Boston Water and Sewer Commission

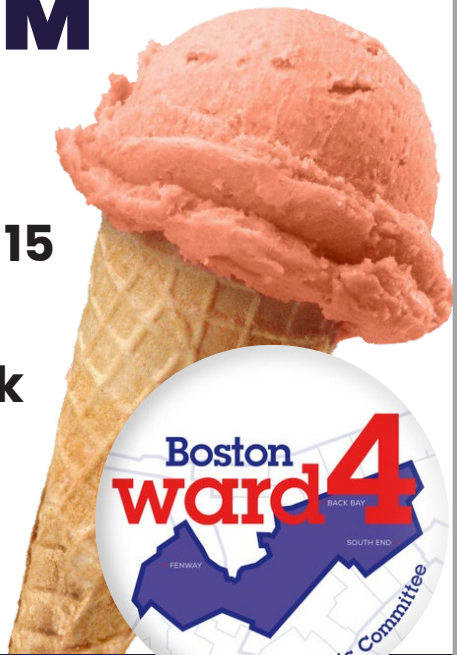
Note: PSA for informational purposes. Backwater valve must be installed by a licensed plumber. BWSC does not install valves.

JOIN FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, & LOCAL DEMS

15TH ANNUAL WARD 4 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, August 15
2 to 4 PM

Titus Sparrow Park
75 W. Rutland Square



Co-Hosted by
Mayor Michelle Wu

For more information, visit:

mobilize.us/s/pm1tFF
bostonward4dems.org



BPDA Okays Conversion of Former Nurses Dorm Despite Neighbors’ Objections

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARD COW VINTAGE



A historic postcard from the 1930s shows Haskell House in use as the nurses dorm at New England Baptist Hospital. The BPDA board swept aside neighbors’ concerns in July to approve the building’s conversion to apartment units.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

On July 16 the BPDA Board approved a residential conversion and addition for the former New England Baptist Hospital (NEBH) nurses dormitory. It will become 103 apartments and gain a new address, 85 Parker Hill Ave. The previous occupant, an assisted-living facility, closed in 2022. Developer Savage Properties, working with the Atlas Group, purchased the site in 2025 at a foreclosure auction.

A location near the crest of Parker Hill Ave. and its “Jacobethan” style give the historic property distinction. The somewhat isolated site, separated from the Back of the Hill Condominiums by a small NEBH parking lot, overlooks the Back of the Hill Urban Wild.

Although the building has a large surface lot that could accommodate additional development, NEBH holds a long-term lease for parking there. The developer’s attorney, John Pulgini, has stated that the parcel will be subdivided, but the plans presented at the July hearing showed one large property.

The Planning Department’s first public meeting in March raised immediate concerns, with residents asking why the developer failed to propose larger, family-sized units rather than echoing the original dorm’s small units. The plans showed just 10 parking spaces for 114 apartments (later trimmed to 103) and double-tiered bike parking on the ground level.

The contradiction between the site’s steep topography and the developer’s description of the project as transit-friendly also bothered participants. Parker Hill Avenue—even for the fit and energetic—makes for a difficult climb, as participants in the annual Mission Hill Road Race can testify. Biking didn’t seem practical either. Street safety at the intersection of Fisher Avenue, Sachem Street, and Parker Hill Avenue remains an ongoing concern.

Before the second public meeting on June 29, State Rep. Liz Miranda and multiple city councilors helped obtain one significant change: the inclusion of eight three-bedroom apartments, all income-restricted. According to architect Patrick Mixdorf, reducing the number of units did not reduce the massing.

The existing building surrounds a large, grassy courtyard that in the late 1950s held an in-ground swimming pool. NEBH removed it years later when maintenance became difficult.

The plan adds three floors with 24 new apartments, inserting them into the courtyard. At the June meeting, residents raised questions

about access to light and air for those units. A developer’s rendering shows a paved patio that will offer their only outdoor view. A new roof deck will add gathering space.

Between the March and June meetings, Jack Gilman replaced Stephen Harvey as the Planning Department’s project manager. In that period, two different files of submitted public comments appeared on the department’s Web page, but several residents noticed that their letters—including a petition from a nearby abutter—were missing from the files.

Although the BPDA board doesn’t allow public comment at Article 80 small project review hearings, the controversies about the development didn’t end in July. Four city councilors or their representatives spoke—unusual for small project review.

District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan testified in person, adopting a position of non-opposition, despite her awareness of the community’s concerns. Durkan praised the proponent for promising a \$20,000 contribution to the Mission Hill Link bus. Representatives for at-large Councilors Erin Murphy and Henry Santana both spoke to oppose approval. District 6 Councilor Ben Weber testified virtually, focusing on the need for housing and taking a position of non-opposition. The parcel actually sits in his district, not Durkan’s.

Classifying the 83,000-square-foot development as a small project under Article 80 sparked another controversy. Several City staff members stepped to the microphone to defend the decision not to use the large-project process, typically required for projects larger than 50,000 square feet.

Planner Ted Swartzberg said that the only zoning code violation was parking. He claimed that converting the building to multifamily use didn’t represent a change from the previous use, congregate living. Another unusual aspect of applicable zoning, the NEBH institutional overlay, was not discussed.

Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, the Community Alliance of Mission Hill, and the Back of the Hill Condominium board of trustees all opposed the project. They cited concerns about potential use as undergraduate housing, traffic from delivery and ride-share vehicles, and design concerns.

The Boston Parks Department also wrote to describe its concerns about impacts near the property line that divides the development from the City-owned urban wild.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

The BPL dedicated its Roxbury branch in Nubian Square to Sarah Ann Shaw, a Roxbury native who made history in 1969 as the first Black woman hired as a reporter for TV news in Boston. Over three decades Shaw became a fixture on WBZ-TV; following her retirement, she vigorously supported the branch. ➡ **A grand jury handed up a first-degree murder indictment for the man who drove onto the Comm. Ave. Mall last January and killed Back Bay resident John Axelrod and his dog. Even as**

William Haney Jr. undergoes psychiatric observation at Bridgewater State Hospital, prosecutors pushed the indictment forward, arguing that despite a history of mental illness, Haney acted “methodically and deliberately” in targeting Axelrod. ➡ **ICYMI** thinks fans of artificial intelligence have way oversold its usefulness, but in medicine, at least, it does appear to offer real benefits. Publishing in a peer-reviewed journal,

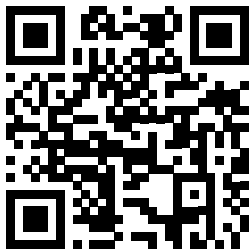
researchers from Dana-Farber and Mass. General reported that an AI model they developed can scan a patient’s medical records to predict the risks of nearly 350 different diseases. The model outperformed Web-based tools in predicting the likelihood of breast cancer and cardiovascular disease. ➡ **BU will increase its payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) 19 percent by 2030. Cash payments will rise from \$6.7 million annually to \$8 million in fiscal 2030, and the value of “community benefits,” like scholarships for BPS students, will increase to \$14 million annually. According to a *Globe* story, payments into the voluntary program for large, tax-exempt institutions haven’t changed since 2016.** ➡ The co-owner of Phinista Cafe posted a heartfelt video to social media describing the emotional toll of running a small business that keeps him away from his wife and young daughter. The video went viral, gaining 2.4 million views on Instagram and TikTok, according to the *Globe*. Phi Pham lives in West Roxbury, but his wife and daughter relocated to Washington, D.C. for family reasons. Pham and his partner own and operate six restaurants in metro Boston. ➡ **From ICYMI’s “Nice Work If You Can Get It” Department, Northeastern’s Joseph Aoun ranked as the highest-paid university president in Massachusetts for fiscal 2025, earning \$3 million, per the *Boston Business Journal*. Stripping out roughly 40 percent of his haul that came from deferred compensation and bonuses left him virtually tied with MIT’s Sally Kornbluth, the next best-paid president. The presidents of other area institutions didn’t fare too shabbily: Melissa Gilliam of BU earned \$1.7 million; Mark Thompson of Wentworth Institute pulled down \$825,000, and Lynn Perry Wooten of Simmons took home \$657,000.** ➡



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



DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UPS

BACK BAY	FENWAY	MISSION HILL
Monday and Thursday	Tuesday and Friday	Tuesday and Friday

STREET CLEANING

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

Kenmore Service Disappears in T's Overhaul of #65 Bus Route

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The MBTA has announced another decision with a disappointing community process. Beginning in September, bus route 65 [Kenmore to Brighton Center] will swap Kenmore for a new terminus at Ruggles Station. It will no longer serve six stops

on Brookline Avenue between Longwood Ave. and Kenmore Square. The change takes effect Sept. 8. In addition to Brighton and Brookline passengers, the change affects people who use stops at Fullerton Street near Atrius Health and Short Street near the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center east campus and reduces bus service for Fenway residents. The revised route, both inbound and outbound, will use route 85 stops on Longwood and Huntington avenues and Ruggles Street. The route will add service, including on Sundays.

The MBTA first proposed the change in 2023 as a Bus Network Redesign option, but it announced no recent public meeting to discuss the plan. The change affects Fenway riders who rely on bus service on Brookline Avenue instead of the limited 55 service or crowded Green line trains. The T's announcement (tinyurl.com/New65BusRoute) suggests buses 8, 19, and 60 as alternatives, but those aren't high-frequency routes.

Now, traveling to Brighton Center from Fullerton Street would involve transferring from the 60 to the outbound 65 at a Brookline Avenue stop south of Longwood.

Traffic slowdowns on Longwood Avenue, especially at its intersection with Avenue Louis Pasteur, are common. Lots of buses, including Longwood Collective shuttles, and pedestrian activity can make that section slow-going.

Feedback on the proposed route change has been limited. Some commenters on Reddit suggest the new route will help riders connecting to Huntington Avenue transit or commuter rail at Ruggles, although whether LMA commuters will benefit remains an open question.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

BURNS AND FRIEND SET FASHION TREND?



PHOTO: CATHY MC LAURY

Scottish soccer fans—aka the Tartan Army—or American imitators topped the Robert Burns statue in the Back Bay Fens with traffic cones. The tradition started with a statue in Glasgow and spread to Boston during the World Cup festivities.

LONG WAIT BEGINS FOR NEW SYMPHONY STATION



PHOTO: KESEY BRUUN

The \$170 million reconstruction of Symphony Station has gotten underway, with shops at the northeast corner of Huntington and Mass. Ave. (above) boarded up to accommodate the work. (Yelp reports that Kung Fu Tea at 334 Huntington Ave. will remain closed through January 2027.) The work will bring the dingy, 85-year-old station into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and address multiple other deficiencies by adding elevators, new lighting and signage, accessible bathrooms, and raised boarding platforms. If the work proceeds as scheduled, the T plans to reopen the station in mid-2029. During construction, E Line trains will bypass the stop; the T recommends using the Prudential or Northeastern stop or using the 39 bus, which runs parallel to much of the route.



Northeastern University
City and Community Engagement

@nuengaged

COMMUNITY COWORKING AT NORTHEASTERN CROSSING

Northeastern Crossing is the university's public community space that is free to the public and available for community-based organizations and groups.

Organizations and individuals are invited to utilize NU Crossing as a workspace during specific hours throughout the week. Sign up on Eventbrite to use this free space with wi-fi, snacks, coffee, printers, and collaboration!



Northeastern Crossing is regularly open from 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday, and work spaces are available when other groups have not already booked the space.



This is a shared space, if you need to take meetings, please bring headphones or speak with the staff on site about available private spaces.



Hours are subject to change each week based on space availability.

Questions? Contact Community Relations & Programs Manager, Monée Vance at:



mo.vance@northeastern.edu



617.992.0407



Register on Eventbrite!

The Arts

Fenway Forward and Community Center Put the Up in Upcycling

The Fenway Community Center and Fenway Forward's July Free Market featured an art-making workshop for creating patches to embroider onto upcycled clothing.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

KLEZMER JAZZES UP NEW EDGERLY PLAZA



PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



On July 5, the Klezmer Street Party took over New Edgerly Plaza. Clarinetist Itay Dayan and a live band (pictured above) filled the plaza with the jazz-inflected sounds of Eastern European Jewish folk music. Dances were led by instructor Rachel Linsky, director of Zachor Dance Projects.

Mystery Artist(s) Paint Mission Hill Purple



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Purple paint appeared this summer on street poles, mailboxes and random exteriors on Huntington Avenue and nearby locations. Covering graffiti or a new team-tagging game? The strokes multiply overnight.

MISSION MAIN TENANTS CELEBRATE



PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS

The Mission Main Tenants Task Force hosted its 16th annual Family Fun Day in Adline Stallings Park on July 25. The event featured a DJ, food, costumes, balloons, a dunk bucket, and arts and crafts.

Ring In Summer With Tanabata



PHOTOS: COURTNEY ALLENDER

On July 8, Kajo Aso Studio hosted the Tanabata Festival at Symphony Community Park. The Japanese summer celebration features a tradition of writing wishes on colored paper and tying them to bamboo branches. The event featured tables for writing and hanging wishes as well as cultural performances that included poetry reading, a flower-arranging demonstration, a tea ceremony, traditional koto music, and a Japanese calligraphy demonstration. Supporters of the event included the Berklee Fenway Neighborhood Improvement Grant, Friends of Symphony Park, and the Boston Parks & Recreation Department.



August

CALENDAR

@ THE CENTER

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

- **Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6–7pm: Author Reading—*THE GREAT WALL OF BALLYGALL***
- **Saturday, Aug. 15, 10:30am–2:30pm: WE ARE FENWAY at New Edgerly Plaza**
- **Monday, Aug. 17, 6–7:30PM: FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER ANNUAL MEETING**
- **Wednesday, Aug. 19, 5–5:45PM: EXERCISES FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

Now ➡ Sat, 8/22

30TH BOSTON FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL, with 13 contemporary comedies, dramas, crime stories, and animation touching on themes of art, cultural memory, and belonging. MFA, Fri–Sun; tickets \$15 members/\$18 nonmembers. Details and tickets at mfa.org/programs/film

Now ➡ Sun, 11/8

Tufts University Art Galleries/Boston presents a retrospective of the 150-year **HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**. The school began in the MEA’s basement in 1876 (40 years before it moved to the Fenway), and the exhibit combines “archives, first-person narratives, and a collage of fragmented memories to create an authentic portrait of a properly messy and wonderfully creative institution.” Tue–Sun, 11am–5pm. 230 The Fenway. **FREE**

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.

Sat, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22 & 8/29

- SUMMER MOVIES AT THE PRUDENTIAL**, 6:30pm in the South Courtyard. This month you can see:
- **How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days** (8/1)
 - **Lilo & Stitch (Live Action)** (8/8)
 - **Crazy Rich Asians** (8/15)
 - **Camp Rock** (8/22)
 - **Mamma Mia!** (8/29)

Details at prudentialcenter.com/experiences/events/summer-flicks/ **FREE**

Sat, 8/1, 8/15 & 8/29

The **MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL** presents both established and new artists, and a wide variety of styles. Founded in 2021 by arts curator Luisa Harris and pianist, composer, and educator Kevin Harris, the Festival offers artists the opportunity to perform after months of being on the sidelines, and audiences to gather and reconnect. 5pm. 1481 Tremont St. Learn more and purchase tickets (\$10 to \$40) at mhartsfest.org.

Mon, 8/3

Mayor Michelle Wu hosts the **MAYOR’S FENWAY COFFEE HOUR**. Join the mayor, neighbors, and City departments at Symphony Community Park, 10:30–11:30am for a morning of conversation. 39 Edgerly Rd. **FREE**

Tue, 8/4

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, visitors to the Boston Public Library are invited to handwrite the Declaration and the US Constitution in the Courtyard of the Central Library in Copley Square. The program aims to create time and a

quiet space to reflect and deepen one’s understanding of the historic documents. All supplies will be provided. Participants will first stop by the supply table to pick up writing supplies and copies of the Constitution and/or Declaration of Independence. Reproductions of John Adams’s personal copy of the Constitution held by Special Collections will also be available to transcribe. This program is self-paced. Patrons may stay for the whole session or as long as they like. Central Library, 700 Boylston Street. 10–11:30am. **FREE**

Wed, 8/5

The MassArt Art Museum hosts its **MAAM OUTDOORS SERIES**, which transforms the surrounding neighborhood into an open-air studio. The series offers weekly artful experiences, workshops, and social gatherings designed to engage participants in creative exploration. Tonight, join **FORAGING WITH FRIENDS**, a workshop, where you’ll learn about sustainable foraging in public parks and gather natural materials along the way. Then head back to MAAM to create a reusable eco-print tote of your own. 6:30–8:30pm. Meet at MAAM, 621 Huntington Ave. Learn more and register at maam.massart.edu/events. **FREE**

Wed, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19 & 8/26

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

Thu, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20 & 8/27

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

Thu, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20 & 8/27

The MFA’s **CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD** return with artists from a dizzying array of global music traditions. This month hear:

- **FABIOLA MÉNDEZ**, Puerto Rican cuatrista, singer, and educator (8/6)
- Blues rock artist **AMANI BURNHAM** (8/13)
- **THE GOLDEN HOURS**, a new band based in Charlottesville (8/20)
- **PATTY LARKIN**, a “visionary of sound and wonder” (8/27)

Doors open at 6pm, with performances at 7:30; the museum recommends bringing a blanket or low chair (no taller than 3 feet when open). Meals, snacks, wine and

beer available for purchase. Tickets \$28 member/\$35 nonmember. Details and tickets at mfa.org/programs/music.

Sun, 8/9

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy renews its partnership with the **FREDERICK LAW OLNSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** through an ongoing residency at the Shattuck Visitor Center. Based at Fairsted—Olmsted’s home and architectural offices in Brookline—FLONHS is the authority on all things related to the Emerald Necklace designer. FLONHS guides will join the Conservancy at the Visitor Center from 11am–2pm. Rain date Sunday, 8/16. **FREE**

Wed, 8/12

The MassArt Art Museum hosts its **MAAM OUTDOORS SERIES** of weekly artful experiences, workshops, and social gatherings designed to engage participants in creative exploration. Tonight, come for **NEIGHBORHOOD FLAVORS**. Experience the richness of the local landscape during an evening of hands-on art and sensory exploration, sample curated flavors and hear a soundscape of local ambient sounds. 6:30–8:30pm. Meet at the MAAM at 621 Huntington Ave. Learn more and register at maam.massart.edu/events. **FREE**

SAT, 8/15

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee, in partnership with Mayor Michelle Wu, welcomes neighbors to the **15TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**. Join them for friendship, fun and delicious ice cream at Titus Sparrow Park (75 W. Rutland Square in the South End), 2pm to 4pm. **FREE**

TUE, 8/18

The Boston Public Library hosts **SIGN LANGUAGE FOR HUMAN SERVICES, RETAIL, AND RESTAURANT STAFF**. This basic class covers industry-specific signs customized for those who interact with customers and coworkers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Practical signs covered in the class include *Help, Please, Thank You, Work, Bathroom, Lunch, Break Time, Done for the Day, Ship(ping), Close, Open*, and more. Participants will receive a certificate at the end of the program. 9:30am–12:30pm. Exchange Classroom, Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center, 700 Boylston Street. Register at bpl.libcal.com/event/16827013. **FREE**

Sun, 8/23

OPEN HOUSE AT SYMPHONY ROAD GARDEN. Stroll through 40-plus plots as the gardeners open their gates. Meet gardeners, learn about urban growing, and enjoy the

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, August 4 at 12pm: Film—BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY**
- **Wednesday, August 5 and 26 at 12pm: WATERCOLORS**
- **Wednesday, August 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 12:30pm: TECH CAFE with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly**
- **Thursday, August 6 at 12pm: HANDS-ONLY CPR, FIRE SAFETY, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS with the American Red Cross**
- **Tuesday, August 11 & 25 at 12pm: TRIVIA & BINGO**
- **Wednesday, August 12 at 1:45pm: SPANISH BINGO with Angela Ayala**
- **Thursday, August 13 at 12pm: Conversation with CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE JULIA MEJIA**
- **Tuesday, August 18 at 12pm: Film—GOONIES**
- **Wednesday, August 19 at 1:45pm: Craft Hour—MAKE YOUR OWN INFUSED WATER WITH FRESH FRUITS**
- **Thursday, August 20 at 12pm: SCAM TRIVIA with Boston Police D-4**
- **Thursday, August 27 at 12pm: END OF THE SUMMER BBQ**

tranquil outdoor space. Symphony Road Community Garden, 56-72 Symphony Rd.. 11am–2pm. **FREE**

Thu, 8/27

Join the Boston Public Library and Wunderus for a screening of Spike Lee’s **DO THE RIGHT THING**. In the film, racial tensions grow in a Brooklyn neighborhood on the hottest day of the summer while everyone tries to cope with the heat. Spike Lee received an Oscar nomination for his screenplay. A brief informal discussion follows the film for anyone who wants to join. Wunderus is a Boston-based film and television production company. 5:00pm; screening begins at 5:30pm. There will be a gift raffle for all screening attendees. Rabb Hall in the Central Library, 700 Boylston Street. Register at partiful.com/e/zgnF5WzII73dcWGntH88? **FREE**

ARTSline

Berklee Alums Rake In Emmy Nominations

Berklee reports that 27 graduates have snagged Emmy nominations from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, which announced the 2026 nominations in early July. Nominations covered voice work, mixing, editing, and composition. Pablo Munguía, a program director at Berklee Valencia, received nominations for his mixing work on this year’s Academy Awards and Super Bowl Halftime Show. Other nominees include production mixer Thomas Holmes, also named for the Super Bowl Halftime Show; Jim Murray, a production mixer recognized for his work on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*; Trey Parker, recognized in three categories for Comedy Central’s long-running series *South Park*; and Earl Martin, who received two nominations for his mixing work on Apple TV’s *Shrinking* and HBO Max’s *Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man!*

COMMUNITY meetings

WED, AUGUST 5 Boston University Charles River Campus Task Force Meeting to discuss the proposed **INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN EXTENSION FOR BOSTON UNIVERSITY**. The meeting will address the overall IMP and the potential impacts and will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the Task Force and the public. Register at bosplans.org/BUTFpub. Contact Tyler Ross at tyler.c.ross@boston.gov with any questions. 6pm.

THU, AUGUST 13 Join your neighbors for the August meeting of **FENWAY**

FORWARD’S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, a group of residents interested in advocating together for affordable housing and other neighborhood needs. Dinner will be provided. Contact lruizsanchez@fenwayforward.org for more information. 6pm to 7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St.

TUE, AUGUST 25 The Boston Ward 5 Republican Committee hosts its **AUGUST MEETING TO ENDORSE 2026 STATEWIDE CANDIDATES**. Hilton Boston Park Plaza, 50 Park Plaza. 6–8pm.

SOX BOX			
TUE, 8/4 7:10PM	WED, 8/5 7:10PM	THU, 8/6 7:10PM	FRI, 8/7 7:10PM
SAT, 8/8 4:10PM	SUN, 8/9 1:35PM	MON, 8/17 7:10PM	TUE, 8/18 7:10PM
WED, 8/19 4:10PM	FRI, 8/21 7:10PM	SAT, 8/22 7:15PM	SUN, 8/23 3:10PM

RE-ELECT STATE SENATOR WILL BROWNSBERGER



**Will is a great partner to us in service to Boston.
We need Will in the Senate.**

—Representatives Jay Livingstone, Chynah Tyler, Dan Ryan

“Senator Brownsberger is empathetic, kind, extremely smart, courageous, rational and always willing to help. In my experience, he has resolved issues in a proactive, insightful and expedient manner. He is always seeking input from his constituents and reflects those in positions he takes, to the benefit of his constituents. I resolutely endorse Will Brownsberger to be my Senator.” —Sandeep Karnik



A True Public Servant

He **listens** and **responds** to you
He **works hard** and **delivers results**
He serves with **independence** and **integrity**

Will Gets Results

- Financial transparency
- Standing up to ICE, helping immigrants
- Protecting women, LGBTQ+ rights
- Reduced incarceration
- Police accountability
- Housing production
- Climate resiliency
- Improving MBTA service
- Improving roads, paths, and parks



Reach Will any time at 617-771-8274 (cell phone)
or will@votebrownsberger.com



Votebrownsberger.com for more information
or to donate or volunteer.

DEMOCRAT — SUFFOLK AND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
Fenway, Allston, Brighton, Watertown, Belmont, West Cambridge