



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 9 • AUGUST 28 – OCTOBER 2, 2026

Games, Concerts Create Hours-Long Bus Detours

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The indignities for Fenway bus riders aren't new. The abysmal short run for the 55 bus route has justifiably received a lot of attention. But every event at Fenway Park triggers hours-long detours for multiple routes, starting an hour before the game or concert, lasting through the event, and continuing for the hour following.

For example, take Chris Stapleton's two concerts in mid-August. Gates opened at 4:30pm, so, starting at 3:20pm, bus routes 60, 65, 8, and 19 were rerouted to Beacon Street from Brookline Avenue between Kenmore Square and The Fenway, according to Maya Bingaman, communications manager for the MBTA. Officially, Fenway Park concerts must end at 10:45, so the detours lasted until 11:45pm.

The MBTA posts the detours on its "T Alerts" web page and lists the skipped stops, but there are no

substitute stops on Beacon Street.

Outbound riders are likely most affected. For example, observe the typically busy bus shelter at Fullerton Street and Brookline Avenue. According to the T Alert, the closest stops with outbound service are the Kenmore bus station and Brookline Avenue at Pilgrim Road.

For West Fens residents, the inbound to Kenmore bus service has been the T's suggested alternative for the absence of full service on the 55 route. But when the Brookline Avenue routes are detoured throughout the spring, summer, and fall—sometimes for up to eight hours—this alternative means boarding at the stop on The Fenway next to the Emmanuel College campus. This is almost a half-mile walk from Queensberry Street at Jersey Street.

If Fenway Park special events happen during the daytime hours when the 55 bus runs (10am-4pm), Bingaman said drivers omit the two stops on

Ipswich Street and instead travel straight down Boylston Street.

Traffic tie-ups are the apparent rationale for the detours, although the Red Sox actively encourage fans to use public transit. However, congestion seems worse on Boylston Street, not Brookline Avenue. Perhaps the MBTA is being overly cautious?

During the Chris Stapleton concert, it was frustrating to watch Longwood Collective shuttles use Brookline Avenue to travel to commuter parking and Lansdowne Station, while MBTA drivers were rerouted to Beacon Street.

If the T's Better Bus Project and the Bus Network Redesign plans include bus lanes on Brookline Avenue, as mentioned in past presentations, then perhaps these detours will end. The Fenway is classified as a highly walkable transit-friendly part of Boston, but that doesn't match up with walking nearly a half mile to board a bus.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

CIVIC AGENDA VOTE TUE, SEP 1

Boston's Democratic tilt means that whoever wins the Democratic primary typically wins the general election, so Tuesday's primary is the "real" election. If you haven't already voted by mail, don't forget to vote in person on Tue., Sep. 1.

• **STATE SENATE RACE:** The big local contest pits newcomer Daniel Lander against State Sen. Will Brownsberger. See how they answered our questions (page 2).

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

FRANCES HONORS ARTHUR ROSE

PHOTO: DWS NEWS



PHOTO: ROSE FAMILY

At the age of 107, legendary East Fens resident Arthur Rose was honored by the French government for his service as a Navy lieutenant during the 1944 D-Day invasion of France. Rose received the Legion of Honour medal at a ceremony in June (above left), when he returned to Omaha Beach in Normandy for the 82nd anniversary of the pivotal military effort that led to the end of World War II in Europe. At the ceremony, Rose read from a moving letter he sent his family five days after the landing (watch the reading at tinyurl.com/ArthurRoseLetter). At right above, Rose in dress uniform during the war.

New Vehicle for the Link Means a Smoother Ride for Shuttle Users



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Mission Hill's Link bus, the little engine that could, is a quality-of-life game changer for neighborhood trips back and forth from Brigham Circle to Gurney Street, the Alice Taylor Apartments, Roxbury Crossing, the New England Baptist Hospital, and the streets at the top of the hill—Parker Hill and Fisher Avenues and on to Terrace Street and the Orange Line.

Cindy Diggs, advisory board member for the Mission Hill Link, said some people think it's just for seniors, but she stresses that the Link slogan is "A Community Bus for All." Mission Hill's topography can make walking challenging, especially if you're burdened with heavy grocery bags, have to use snowy sidewalks, or get caught in a sudden rainstorm.

Now in its 49th year of operation, the Link receives major contributions from New England Baptist Hospital, the MBTA, and the Back of the Hill Community Development Association (a nonprofit affiliated with the Back of the Hill CDC). Fares for the bus are \$1.75 for adults and \$0.50 for seniors and people with disabilities. Children 12 and under ride for free. Fundraising is a perpetual assignment for the volunteers who serve on the Link committee.

After years of planning, the new fully-accessible vehicle—financed with federal American Rescue Plan Act money from the city of Boston—went into operation on Aug. 3. The Link has tentatively set Sept. 24 for a ribbon-cutting celebration. For confirmation, as well as routes and schedules, check missionhilllink.com.

Repairing the Tracks in Audubon Circle

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



A work crew repaired tracks and ballast along the C Line west of the St. Mary's stop during the MBTA's August 8-16 shutdown of the Green Line. Riders should plan for more delays over the weekend of Sept. 19-20, when the central branch (Copley to North Station) and the E Line will again shut down completely, this time for upgrades of the signal system. The C and D branches will run normally to/from Kenmore. Visit mbta.com/schedules/Green/alerts for information about substitute transit options, including the #39 bus and free shuttle buses.

GOODBYE, R.E.I.

At 8pm on Aug. 13, the doors of REI's Fenway branch closed for the last time. The store opened in 2003 at 401 Park, then known as the Landmark Center. The company blamed the closing on a financial restructuring.

However, in multiple conversations between October 2025 and August, employees asserted that the location was targeted because they had unionized. REI's Manhattan store, also unionized, closed earlier this year.



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

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

FENS VIEWS

55 Bus: First Restore Full Service, Then Debate a New Route

BY MAT THALL

I want to echo what the MBTA heard at a virtual meeting on July 29 and at the appearance by Fenway residents at a public meeting in Medford on July 30. My impression of MBTA staff responses during the virtual meeting was ongoing evasion; what has been reported to me about the Medford meeting made

them sound much more responsive there.

GUEST OPINION

Restoration of full service on the 55 bus must happen as soon as possible. I believe it is absolutely possible to do this by the time the MBTA releases its winter schedule. That would be much sooner than the MBTA staff’s vague commitment to return service “in about a year” or—using a term one staffer coined—“yearish.”

At the virtual meeting, there may have been another evasion, and, unfortunately, the community did not push for answers. Staff’s explanation for the delay in returning full service was presented as exclusively MBTA’s priority to fix service, crowding problems on major routes, and the logistics of moving buses from different garages. What they did not address is whether the delay has been caused by an inability to reach consensus on a new route for the 55 bus.

The issue of restoring full 55 bus schedule must be decoupled from the debate about route redesign. Get us back to service that includes morning and evening rush hours (at least on weekdays) and then engage with the community in a discussion of an improved route.

There has been a lot of handwringing about “empty buses” on the 55 route. Here are reasons why this is a bogus issue:

It has been over six years since full service operated on the 55 bus. In that period, some 500 new units of housing have opened in the Fenway. The Boston Arts

Academy has been completely rebuilt, and now accommodates an expanded enrollment of students from throughout the city; the MGM Music Hall has opened, with concerts and events happening year round. (The Arts Academy and the Music Hall sit within one-third mile of the Green Line’s Hynes Station but far from any Orange Line station.) The demographics driving use of the 55 bus were astonishingly different in 2020 than they are in 2026

The 55 runs on one of the shortest routes in the bus system. It serves only one residential neighborhood (the West Fens and a small piece of the East Fens, using the quarter-mile/five-minute-walk standard), so route redesign is indeed important. The previously proposed redesign didn’t meet the needs of many residents

currently served by the 55. Again, is the delay in restoring service anchored to the dilemma of what to do about the route? Again, give us back the full service and then work with the community to come up with a better route. (Personally, I can see a route that could serve all three medical areas in Boston, but that’s a different discussion)

The assertion by MBTA staff that there is still rush-hour bus service within a quarter mile of the the West Fens is questionable. MBTA staff were likely referring to the Fullerton Street/Brookline Avenue bus stop. Perhaps as the crow flies the entire West Fens lies within a quarter mile of the stop, but walking to that stop requires much more than a five-minute-walk, and in extreme winter or summer weather it is unbearable. Elderly and disabled residents of the West Fens are trapped in the neighborhood before 10am and after 4pm

I am hoping the MBTA will move the 55 bus up on its priority list and that our elected officials will coax the T in that direction.

Mat Thall lives in the East Fens.



On July 30, 55 bus advocates from the Fenway rode to Medford to attend an MBTA community meeting held at City Hall.

SOX BOX

MON, 8/31 @ 6:45PM
TUE, 9/1 @ 6:45PM
WED, 9/2 @ 4:10PM
MON, 9/7 @ 1:35PM
TUE, 9/8 @ 6:45PM
WED, 9/9 @ 6:45PM
FRI, 9/11 @ 7:10PM
SAT, 9/12 @ 4:10PM
SUN, 9/13 @ 1:35PM
TUE, 9/22 @ 6:45PM
WED, 9/23 @ 7:10PM
THU, 9/24 @ 6:45PM
FRI, 9/25 @ 7:10PM
SAT, 9/26 @ 7:15PM
SUN, 9/27 @ 3:05PM

DASHBOARD

TRASH/RECYCLING PICK-UP

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

STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning (and towing) takes place April 1–November 30. Fenway residents should check both City and DCR schedules to see when street cleaning takes place.

- For the City schdule, visit tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8.
- For the DCR schedule, visit tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3.

DANIEL LANDER

for STATE SENATE

IN THE STATE SENATE, DANIEL WILL:

Tackle our housing crisis by investing in affordable housing, fixing out-of-date regulations, and protecting renters.

Transform the MBTA with 24-hour buses, restored service on the 55 bus, expanded Bluebikes, and make regional rail a reality.

Stand up to Trump by getting ICE out of our schools, protecting our universities, and invest in our workers and knowledge economy.

DANIEL HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY:



MICHELLE WU
MAYOR OF BOSTON

ELIZABETH WARREN
UNITED STATES SENATOR

And community leaders across the Fenway:

District 8 City Councilor Sharon Durkan
Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee

Kathy Adams
Arlene Ash
Mary Ann Brogan
Conrad Cizek
Brian Clague
Jonathan Cohn
Kathleen Donahue
Pauline Dowell
John J. Dubois
Steve Gallanter
Lisa Graf

Tracey Hunt
Ryan Hatcher
Carol Lasky
Anne Liu
Joanne McKenna
Richard Pendleton
Dan Stevens
John Storrow
Mat Thall
Margaret Witham
Grant Young

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

The U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts charged the owner of Cappy’s Pizza with eight counts of tax fraud after a sting revealed that he hid more than \$520,000 in unpaid back taxes for 2018-2023. Demetrios Pseudoikonomou allegedly routed receipts and rent payments from tenants in the apartments above the Westland Ave. pizzeria to secret bank accounts, aided by the fact that his college-student tenants often paid rent with Zelle and Venmo. ICYMI was startled to find that the Department of Justice has pursued cases that don’t involve harassing opponents of the Trump regime.

ICYMI The Community Music Center of Boston, which long leased space in the South End, has nearly completed renovation of a new home at 2164 Washington Street in Nubian Square.

B.U. capped tuition, housing, and food costs for undergrads from households earning less than \$200,000 annually. The school said the “BU Promise” would also look at assets other than income but aims to simplify financial aid and keep total costs for low- and middle-income students below \$20,000 per year.

The first of BU’s three Warren Tower dorms has reopened after renovation in time for the 2026-27 academic year. According to a *Globe* report, newly reopened Tower A holds 600 students, and its sibling towers will open in phases by 2029.

Real estate deal #1: WHOOP signed a lease for 107,000 square feet of extra office space, nearly doubling its footprint in Kenmore Square. (The new WHOOP sign led to the much discussed relocation of the CITGO sign, which has undergone restoration in preparation for its move eastward and reinstallation this fall).

Real estate deal #2: The Red Sox signed a lease for 100,000 square feet of office space in the Van Ness complex on Boylston Street (the one with Target). *Boston Business Journal* described the lease as a stopgap measure until completion of the “Fenway Corners” project.



• Chef Tiffani Faison announced that she will close her two West Fens locations, Sweet Cheeks Q, an award-winning BBQ restaurant, and Fool’s Errand, an “adult snack bar” in November. Faison told Boston.com that she considered Sweet Cheeks’ 15-year run a success, and called the decision to close

“heartbreaking.” Rising costs for food and fuel, plus tariffs, have made it impossible to keep the restaurants afloat, she said.

• After closing its Van Ness Street location in July, Saloniki has reopened in the old Pizzeria Regina’s storefront on Boylston Street.

• Crews have been working all summer to convert the old Marshall’s space on Brookline Ave. into a Pressed Cafe.

NEWSLINES

Stormy Month at Symphony Hall Ends With New Union Contract

The war between management and musicians threatened to upend the BSO’s 2026-27 season when the musicians authorized a strike on Aug. 22 in case contract negotiations fell apart. Shortly before the contract expired on the 23rd, both sides agreed to a 48-hour extension while talks continued. In announcing the strike vote, the union made clear that the March removal of Andris Nelsons—announced without consultation with or warning to the musicians—had badly damaged its members’ trust in the front office. The tense negotiations came on top of earlier revelations by Thomas Dinsmore, an accountant and trained violinist with a Substack, who refuted management’s claim that the orchestra was hemorrhaging money (and therefore had to cut Nelsons loose). Diving into federal tax filings, Dinsmore found that the BSO reported a \$26 million surplus for 2025 and had run 13 surpluses but only 7 deficits over 20 years. Commenters on *Slipped Disc*, a classical-music news site, urged Attorney General Andrea Campbell to step in and investigate the orchestra, since her office has legal oversight of the governance of charitable groups in Massachusetts. Then, on Aug. 25, the union and management reached a deal on a three-year contract. Notably, given the ongoing distrust over Nelsons’s ouster, the contract would create a new partnership between musicians and management for artistic planning and establish a collaborative process for the search for Nelsons’s successor.

Parking Limits Prepare Mission Hill For Move-In Day, Sept. 1

The city issued temporary parking restrictions in Mission Hill to help the neighborhood deal with the influx of students and new residents expected when leases turn over on Sept. 1. Restrictions cover Alleghany, Burney, Calumet, Carmel, Cherokee, Copenger, and Darling, Eldora, Frawley, Harleston, Hillside, Iroquois, Mission, Oswald, Parker, Pontiac, Sachem, Saint Alphonsus, Sewall, Stockwell, Sunset, and Wait streets, as well as Delle and Parker Hill avenues. The restrictions vary per street. Visit boston.gov/news/traffic-advisory-2026-student-move for more information.

Real Estate Sales Worth Noting

- In June, the Davis Co. sold **77-81 Park Drive** for \$27 million to Plumbrook Park Drive LLC, a real estate investment firm based in New York and New Canaan, Connecticut. This appears to be Plumbrook’s first foray into the Fenway; its other Boston properties are all in the North End. The West Fens buildings include 54 apartments and 23 parking spaces. According to the *New England Real Estate Journal*, Copley Group will continue to manage the properties.
- In August, Carol and Joseph Barry sold their historic house at **34-36 Alleghany St.** for \$2.3 million to Ben Tuck of Natick. His firm, Low Tide Development, manages rental properties at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 Alleghany St. A building permit for interior renovations—including the addition of six bathrooms—has already been issued and another is pending.
- Out-of-state investors Cody Putre and Chris Bulla purchased the brick row house at **884 Huntington Ave.** from the Eight Eighty Four Huntington Realty Trust (Keung family heirs) for \$1.825 million in July. Bulla and Putre (Lions Harbor LLC) were mentioned in the May 2025 *Fenway News* for social media post boasting about their profitable deals for **866 and 868 Huntington**.

Open Newbury Street Sets Three September Dates

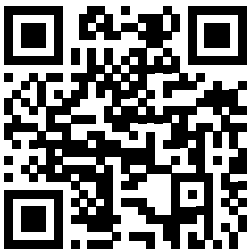
The first three Sundays after Labor Day (Sept. 13, 20, 27) will see the continuation of Open Newbury Street, which shuts the street to motor vehicles from Berkeley Street to Mass. Ave. The closures run 10am–6pm. We’ll get two more dates after than: October 11 and a TBA date in December.



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



TASTE OF THE FENWAY



September 16th | 5:00-7:00pm
Van Ness Street
Try 20+ Fenway restaurants!
tasteofthefenway26.eventbrite.com

Tickets:



People. Housing. Policy.

Helen was a such a legend, indeed a colossus, in the Fenway; it's hard to believe that someone who was so constantly in motion has died. [S]imply listing all of the initiatives and projects that Helen was involved with over the years would've gone on for pages and pages.

KATHY GREENOUGH

One of the greats is gone.

JON BALL

Helen was the greatest of citizens and the strongest of leaders. A moral powerhouse, a gifted tactician, an old-school organizer,

I met Helen almost 30 years ago when she arrived, late, to a meeting. She brought donuts to share, a tremendous presence, and her desire to make the world a better place. Helen's curiosity made everyday activities into memorable adventures, and her refreshingly direct way of speaking was often unintentionally hilarious. Sincere in everything and loyal to friends, Helen inspired those around her to do something to address injustices. I don't remember how or when Helen became a second mother to me, but she was. I love her and will miss her forever.

TRACEY CUSICK

Helen brought the strength of an army of activists within her single being, and did so with grace, humor, and tact—and at times with none of those things when needed. I will miss her, but value everything she taught me.

MIKE ROSS, FORMER CITY COUNCILOR

As we all know, Helen was an original—a one-of-a-kind and relentless force for justice and good. We owe her a lot—and we could use many more Helen Coxes right about now. Sadly, I'm pretty sure they "threw away the mold" after Helen.

CARL NAGY-KOECHLIN, FORMER FENWAY CDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meeting Helen in the late 1980s changed my life. Her magnetic charisma, community devotion, and passion for local media inspired my early activism supporting marginalized communities in Roxbury and beyond. Our bond grew closer when she moved to Church Park. Helen became a beloved staple at our multi-generational rooftop gatherings, becoming well-known and loved by my children, too. Helen taught us to fight for neighbors with love. Her spirit lives on in the community she built.

NASREEN LATIF

We lost a matriarch. Helen's legacy is defined by more than 60 years of unwavering service to the Fenway. Whether through her leadership with *The Fenway News*, her steady and no-nonsense activism with the Ward 5 Dems, or her well-deserved title as "Mayor of the West Fenway," Helen ensured that every resident had a voice. Having the opportunity to recognize her contributions by declaring November 13, 2024, "Helen Cox Day" remains a bright spot for me. We will carry her spirit of civic activism forward.

CITY COUNCILOR SHARON DURKAN

Helen shaped my seven years as a community organizer [with the Fenway CDC] in all the best ways.

She taught me how to organize the Fenway way; what true community power really is; what deep, long-term commitment brings you that nothing else can. And she made me laugh, a lot. She was delightfully quick, whip smart and deeply caring. Not a month has gone by since we left the Fenway in 2003 when I'm not telling a story about Helen, and far more often being reminded of her wisdom as I take on a challenge or help an angry friend, colleague or neighbor address injustice and get strategic about what to do about it. It's common that when an impressive

person dies we hear "they were one of a kind." I can't think of anyone that applies to more than Helen.

JETHRO HEIKO, FORMER FENWAY CDC COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

On Election Day, Helen was always present at the polling place, flyers in hand for those who were still undecided or uncertain—or thought they were! While perhaps she stood a bit close to the entrance door, we all knew it was because of her passion for the democratic process, and her desire that everyone should take voting as an essential responsibility.

CHARLES MARTEL

Conversing with Helen was never dull. Any story or news shared with her was listened to with rapt attention and spurred her curiosity and thirst for knowledge with bullet-fired questions.

BARBARA FAY

In addition to politics and the big issues that impact our neighborhood, Helen was just as interested in the little things, like the Fenway Youth Baseball League. Occasionally, she would show up to watch our scrimmages at Roberto Clemente Field in the early 2000s.

LUIS TORRES

Helen's relentless civic leadership in the Fenway was a tour de force. We called her the Mayor of the Fenway

civic stewardship. A tireless advocate for residents, Helen held our officials' feet to the fire. Her influence went beyond the Fenway, yet she always kept the Fenway as the center of her sphere. Helen was a force for what is good and right in the world. She is woven into the Fenway's fabric—always here and always near.

LAUREN DEWEY PLATT

Helen was the first person I met in the Fenway. She inspired me to be involved with the neighborhood. I followed her advice, joining the Fenway CDC (now Fenway Forward) and writing for *The Fenway News*. She and Brian Mullen treated me for my birthday every year, which I always appreciated.

LISA FAY

Helen was one of the first people I met when I moved to Boston in the late 1980s and joined the Ward 5 Democratic Committee. Helen's strong views on policy and neighborhood issues; her willingness to ask pointed questions of candidates and elected leaders; and her passion for community organizing stood out then and now. Even when we disagreed (not infrequently when I served in the state House of Representatives), I knew our friendship and mutual respect would never suffer. She was a role model, and I am forever grateful to Helen.

MARTY WALZ, FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE

While it's been nearly 30 years since Save Fenway Park! formed, memories of our early advocacy naturally include the role that Helen played. It was Helen who initiated the collaboration between SFP! and Fenway residents to stop the land grab and construction of a mega-stadium to replace the historic ballpark. Both groups had been working in parallel, and it was a critically strategic move when we came together and fought side by side to save historic Fenway Park and the West Fens neighborhood. I truly believe that without Helen's work to secure the neighborhood's support and collaboration, SFP! would never have succeeded.

KIM KONRAD ALVAREZ, FORMER SFP! PRESIDENT AND FENWAY NEIGHBOR

Helen was a remarkable lady well ahead of her time. She was a true

Since meeting her 42 years ago, Helen Cox has been one of the greatest heroes in my life. She was the finest community organizer I ever met, a fearless and tireless advocate for neighbors taking care of each other. Helen seemed to know every voter in the Fenway. She knew how to persuade us to empower ourselves and our neighborhood by going to the polls. Or to a protest, or a press conference. Or to call whomever needed a kick in the butt to do the right thing. I loved her dearly and will never forget her. None of us should. Instead, we should all go and do likewise, with the kindness that Helen showed, unfailingly, to each of us.

BRIAN CLAGUE

for good reason. She became a de facto role model for me when I moved to the Fenway in the 1990s. As the exemplar, Helen made it possible for folks like me to take up the mantle of

and genuine activist championing multiple causes and never faltering. The Fenway would be a vastly different place without her. Helen was a great listener, mentor,

Remembering Mayor of the Fenway

Note: The board of *The Fenway News* issued a call for remembrances of Helen Keene Cox, who died on Aug. 4 a few weeks shy of her 95th birthday. Helen played an outsized role in the Fenway for more than 60 years, including as a member of our board for 50 years.



I'm sitting in a community meeting and from across the room can tell that Helen is pissed off about something—a zoning change or a developer's tone-deaf comment about the Fenway. During public comments she claims the mic. "My name is Helen Cox," she announces, "and I've lived in the Fenway since 1958." She wields this tangential fact like a cudgel; it summons All The Forces Of Good In The World to make clear that no acceptable position on this issue exists other than the one she's about to reveal. To use her phrase, she's going to *lay them out in lavender*—roughly, read some unfortunate BRA employee or developer mouthpiece the riot act. To make the scene completely accurate, she proceeds to blow through the time limit on comments and only sits down when she's had her say. To applause.

Helen had many remarkable qualities, but this memory captures three of them: she was blunt,



A CELEBRATION OF HELEN'S LIFE V AT THE FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER FENWAY NEWS AND ON

and advisor who provided great support and feedback to neighbors and activists over the decades. She will be truly missed and kindly remembered.

CONRAD CISZEK

She was an indomitable force for good in the community. She was passionate, engaging, and always fun to be around. I recall and treasure many pleasant interactions with her as we developed programs at the Fenway Community Health Center (as it was known at the time). She was one of a kind and a community treasure.

DR. KEN MAYER, CO-CHAIR, THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

Helen was an extraordinary individual who had a profound impact on the Fenway and beyond. She was a passionate leader and economic justice advocate, principled but never dogmatic. She was also a kind person who generously shared her beautiful home with her beautiful family. I am myself fortunate to have known and worked with her.

PAUL STATEN

What a fireball! Helen was a community activist and business at the Fenway. She had a bunch of flyers

ing Helen Cox, he Fenway’



determined to be heard, and passionately committed to her community.

Helen’s life touched almost every aspect of the Fenway’s history from the 1960s through the 2020s. She faced down abusive landlords; fought misguided planning initiatives and development proposals; worked tirelessly for candidates who shared her commitment to social justice and equality; and (of course) championed The Fenway News over 50 years as a member of its board.

Privately, just as she loved a good martini, she loved connecting folks who ought to know each other when they lived in the same block or worked on similar causes. Driven by nothing but a love of these connections, she wove a magical web that tied people together and helped make an urban neighborhood feel more like a village where everybody knew your name.

We hope the mosaic of memories here suggests Helen’s outsized impact and conveys the respect and love that so many felt for her. Her death represents a profound loss for the Fenway.

—STEVE WOLF



Clockwise from top left: Helen with then-City Councilor Ayanna Presley and neighbors; at a fundraiser for the Peterborough Senior Center; with Councilor Mike Ross and State Rep. Gloria Fox; receiving an award for her activism; and as a young social worker.



WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 15,
LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE OCTOBER
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

ardinary
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d our city. She
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ver self-righteous.
d and generous
ated warmth
smile. I consider
o have known
her.

DEMAKIS, FORMER
E REPRESENTATIVE

My story is about when I first met Helen: When I saw her coming, I froze. “Oh no! She’s going to make me to **do** something.” And she did. Persistently. iHelen Cox *presente!*

MARGARET WITHAM

I met Helen in 1975 at a gathering of the Fenway Interagency Group of service providers. The concern of the group was the impact of urban renewal on older Fenway residents. From the group emerged a successful application for

block-grant funding of a one-year, door-to-door outreach to our older Fenway neighbors. I was one of the outreach workers, and that experience launched my 50-year career in the field of psychology and aging. I maintained intermittent contact with Helen

In 1972, early in my career as a photographer, I needed a photo of a social worker and client for my picture agency. Helen, by then my friend, came through with a visit to a housing project and a poverty-stricken mother and children for a great picture that sold dozens of times. It was Helen at her best, helping people who needed help with care and compassion—her concerned expression said it all. She loved the picture and I gave her a framed print. “I want this on display at my funeral,” she said (and it was).

SPENCER GRANT

over the years. She was a warm, smart, funny, committed, and loving human being. I saw her a few years ago when she was living at Church Park. By then she was using a walker. “Look at me!” she laughed, pointing to her walker and failing bones. But when we got in her car—crammed with all sorts of papers and books—she flew through the streets of Boston, showing me yet another place, special to her, in her wonderful city.

GREG HINRICHSSEN

We will miss her and appreciate her consistent encouragement throughout the years.

KATE FINNEGAN, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, KAJI ASO STUDIO

When I got to know Helen, I loved her big, big heart that was concerned for so many people, and how she kept 200 names and their info on her ancient mobile phone. When I showed her a photo of me with my four sons she immediately wanted a copy, which surprised me as she didn’t even know them. But she was so happy to have it that she would bring it to lunch and say, “look who’s joining us today.” Her heart was so big and so encompassing; I am so very glad that I was one of those included in her vast network of friends.

PAT MURPHY

I first met Helen in the early ’70s when we both worked at the Roxbury Crossing welfare office. When I started writing for *The Fenway News* in 1983 I got to know her much better, and we always agreed on social issues. 25-plus years ago, she got me working the polls, which I’ve done ever since.

ALISON BARNET

In 1982, two decisions led to my meeting Helen Cox. First, Mel King announced that to concentrate fully on running or mayor that he wouldn’t run again—after 10 years—for his seat in the state House of Representatives. Second, after conferring with community activists, I decided to run for Mel’s seat. I knew a lot about the South End and Lower Roxbury but not about the Fenway, then part of the district, and its issues. Shortly after announcing, I got a call that went something like, “We know who you are, but we don’t think you know who we are.” I immediately said, “Let’s meet,” but the person

replied, “Not me. You need to meet Helen Cox.” And the next day we did meet—on a picket line in front of Mass. Historical Society, which wanted to turn apartments it owned on Hemenway Street into a parking lot. Her first question: “Is Mel supporting you?” He was,

and that began a long and fruitful collaboration with this political powerhouse and community leader.

FORMER STATE REP. BYRON RUSHING

The Fenway has lost a giant. Helen knew everybody—people and pols alike—and everybody respected her. When she asked you for something, you damn well better have delivered, and when you asked something of Helen, she’d go to the ends of both sides of the Fens and City Hall to get it for you.

As an early editor of the paper, I once yelled at her for missing a deadline. I still regret that, but she never let on that she minded. In her last days, as we reminisced, she said when she got better, there was a lot more we needed to do.

BETTE KEVA

Helen saw her neighbors as part of her own family, giving every part of herself to fight for the city they deserved. She spent decades organizing to protect social

Amendment—that benefited our community and beyond. She generously employed her extensive list of contacts to rally co-signers for others’ op-eds (one had 45 co-signers!) and contributors for advertisements. Helen referred to people who did excellent work for the common good as “crackerjacks.” The Fenway is a much better place for having Helen as an OG crackerjack.

LESLIE POND

How I met Helen: Around 1980 the Fenway CDC merged with the West Fens CDC. Many in the FCDC thought this merger took place so we could get Helen Cox on our board of directors, and we did.

GALEN GILBERT

You’re not sending that baby to a ...CHOP SHOP, are you?!” was my introduction to Helen and her memorable turns of phrase. Upon verifying that the Guatemalan child’s cleft palate would be treated at a reputable hospital, Helen contributed generously to help pay for it, and she later sponsored other surgical procedures that transformed lives. Helen’s take on social justice and human decency was admirably simple: one set of standards for everyone. Doña Helen, as she was known by my friends in Guatemala, was beloved and will be dearly missed by all, including that baby, who is now a 22-year old with a beautiful smile.

ELAINE CUSICK

Helen was a passionate fighter for housing justice. She fought for rent control and against condominium conversion for years. She raised money from friends and neighbors to pay for *Fenway News*

In 2022 Helen responded to a message about a recent death and the poem that had been sent with it:

I am sorry to say that I never knew her, I wish I had.....thx so much for sharing... she sounds like she was a real activist.....I know the “raging grannies” hv stood up publicly for a number of good causes.....the poem is very beautiful.....I hope that cld be said of me when I pass.....helen

Here’s the poem, by Helen Steiner Rice:

<i>There is no night without a dawning</i>	<i>For those who leave us for a while</i>
<i>No winter without a spring</i>	<i>Have only gone away</i>
<i>And beyond the dark horizon</i>	<i>Out of a restless, care worn world</i>
<i>Our hearts will once more sing...</i>	<i>Into a brighter day</i>

We did know Helen, the best sort of activist—always acting from the heart. We will miss her so. This poem is for you, dear friend.....

DOLORES BOOGDANIAN

supports for tenants and working families, sharing treasured local stories with *The Fenway News*, and making sure every person around her felt connected to their community. Helen will be deeply missed, and her legacy will inspire generations of Boston residents to come.

MAYOR MICHELLE WU

My enduring memories of Helen center on her kindness and connectedness. When I joined *The Fenway News* board in 2022, Helen called to extend a personal welcome so we could get to know each other. Helen also reliably stepped up to support causes—such as the Fair Share

advertisements for candidates for office with progressive values and platforms.

Not formally trained as such, Helen was the quintessential community organizer. Her voluminous address book was legendary, as were her many phone calls to friends and politicians about an election, a ballot question, a community meeting.

Above all Helen regarded her community as a second family. Always deeply concerned for neighbors facing health, financial, or emotional problems, she was a humanitarian who walked the walk.

MAT THALL

Helen was. The number of people she cajoled into ivism was remarkable. “I was minding my own bus stop when this woman approached me with a” is a story I heard countless times back in the day!

TOM SCANLON, FORMER FCDC COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

TheArts

‘Studio Without Walls’ Returns to The Riverway

BY BETTE ANN LIBBY

The 27th annual Studios Without Walls exhibition features 13 site-specific sculptures by artists who have interpreted the theme “Urban Symphony.” It is installed along Riverway Park near the Longwood MBTA station through Sept. 7.

The integration of sculpture into nature means the art changes daily based on its interactions with weather, movement, sound, and light. Whether one happens upon the exhibition by chance or by design, the sculptures will delight and encourage viewers to pause, breathe, appreciate nature, escape

PHOTOS: BETTE ANN LIBBY



SPIRITS AND SOUNDS OF THE SEA

My works seeks to use existing materials, like old piano keys, and give them new life by making creatures who can invite viewers to think about our relationship to the natural world and all living beings. Adults and children find them playful and engaging.

ARTIST PHOEBE GODFREY



MELODIC RESONANCE INTERVALS

There are many definitions of symphony. MRI films are transformed into moving musical ‘notes’ swaying and twirling around dowels from the trees. Once again, from something that may be perceived as foreboding, MRI films now become mesmerizing, rhythmic and enchanting

ARTIST BETTE ANN LIBBY

normal stress, and see art through a different lens.

“My (pleasant) walk along the Riverway was greatly enhanced by an unexpected encounter with the diverse sculptures of Studio Without Walls,” said Harvey Weiner. “[The] art wonderfully blended with nature!”

Gateway Arts created artists’ images for street banners in Brookline. Sculptor Julie Nussbaum is working with

artists with disabilities from The Cotting Transition Institute to incorporate their ceramic cups into the piece “Tintinnabulation, Ring The Bells.” Once again, Silvina Mizrahi will incorporate artists from Boston Green Academy, who created elements for “Sounds of the Ancients.” Mizrahi is also working with artists from CASH/Community Academy of Science and Health for pieces that are incorporated into the sculpture “Sounds of the Ancients” by Gail Bos and Pam Consalves.

“Being part of Studios Without Walls has been an inspiration and a community builder for me in my art practice,” said artist Janet Kawada. “It has reinforced my commitment to engage with the environment both in material and concept. I love that when I walk through the Riverway and find people looking at the art, I can start a conversation about what it means to live in this area at this time.”

The free exhibition is enhanced through an art “treasure hunt” map with rhyming clues found in onsite information boxes. Each sculpture has signage that includes artists’ statements and QR codes. Studios Without Walls will move to Hancock Village on Independence Drive in Brookline from Sept. 17 to Oct. 16. All information is available at StudioWithoutWalls.org.

Bette Ann Libby is the founder of Studios Without Walls.



CRIMSON CURRENT

The sculpture explores the tension between nature and human-made boundaries. Metal and red zip-tie structures enclose river rocks symbols of nature’s persistence. This contrast reflects on intervention, control, and the limits we humans place on the environment.

ARTIST ANIA GILMORE

ARTSline

Gardner Makes Entry Free On Thursday Nights

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum began offering free entry on the first Thursday of the month during the pandemic. In July it expanded the program to every Thursday night, 5–9pm, throughout the year.

Due to its limited capacity, the museum requires timed-entry tickets, which you can reserve on line starting the Tuesday before the Thursday you want to visit.

The museum says that the first Thursday of the month will continue to offer additional programming, including live music and art-making. For more details, visit tinyurl.com/FreeThursdays.

From Pen to Printing Press: MHS Presents Detailed Look at the Drafting and Dissemination of the Declaration of Independence

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

250 years ago, the founding fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence. First a series of documents hand-written by John Hancock and Thomas Jefferson, beginning July 4, 1776, it became a series of printed declarations.

The Mass. Historical Society exhibition “1776: Declaring Independence” is part of the Declarations Trail, a collaborative effort across Greater Boston marking the 250th anniversary of American independence. The Historical Society joins the Boston Public Library, Harvard, and the Boston Athenaeum to display more than a dozen rare printings of the Declaration o and related materials on public view.

At MHS, a showcase entitled “The Room Where It Happened” exhibits the handwritten copies of the Declaration as well as Thomas Paines’s pamphlet *Common Sense*, which insisted a “wronged people should throw off Royal tyranny.”

The Historical Society is also displaying the first printed version of the Declaration. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to approve the final text, and Adams and Jefferson hurried the document to John Dunlop’s print shop. Working hard on the night of July 4, Dunlap, a Philadelphia newspaper publisher, set the type for a limited run of 25 copies for swift distribution. Throughout

the colonies, many newly minted Americans reprinted the text in their own newspapers and broadside editions.

A broadside published in 1777, on display at the Historical Society, was the first printed copy of the Declaration to list the names of the signers. It omits Delaware’s Thomas McKean, who probably signed the document later. It was also the first copy printed by a woman, Mary Katharine Goddard of Baltimore.

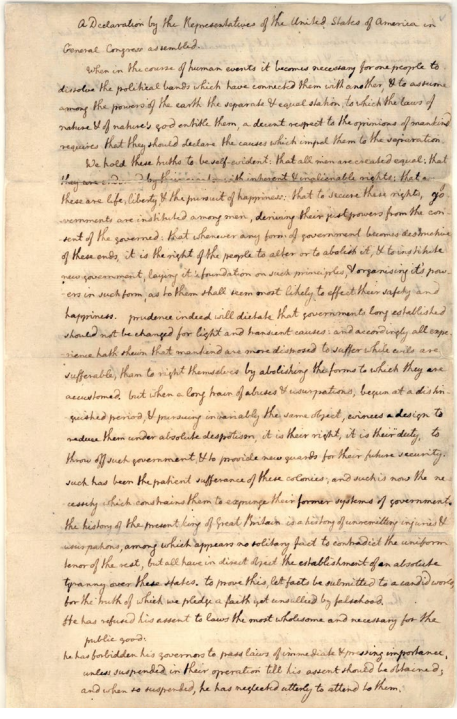


IMAGE: MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

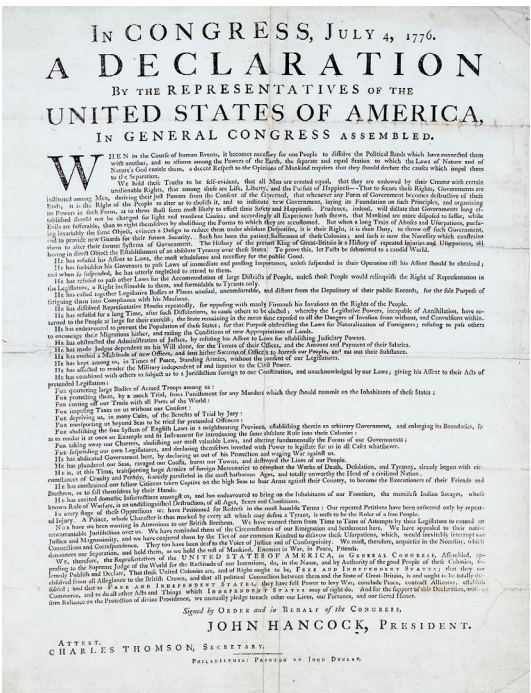


IMAGE: MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On July 4, 1776, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson rushed the final manuscript of the Declaration of Independence to Philadelphia printer John Dunlop, who produced the 25 copies—the first printed version of the document (above)—overnight. Jefferson had drafted the text, and the “Declaring Independence” exhibition at the Massachusetts Historical Society includes his manuscript copy (left).

MHS is also commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with letters—for example, letters to Adams from Jefferson and Patrick Henry. In a letter dated July 21, 1776, Abigail Adams wrote to John, her husband, to describe hearing the Declaration read from the “balcona” of the State House (today the Old State House). MHS, founded in 1791, has the entire collection of John Adams’s papers, plus many of Jefferson’s, and a first-person description of Paul Revere’s ride. For the 250th anniversary, it has assembled a collection of private letters, intimate diaries, and newspaper accounts to reveal how the Declaration grew from draft to founding document.

“1776: Declaring Independence” remains on view at MHS through Dec. 19. For anyone interested in our revolutionary history, this is a great exhibit. And don’t miss the glass bottle of tea leaves collected on Dec. 7, 1773, the morning after the Boston Tea Party.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. MHS admission is free. Hours are 10am–4:45pm on Mon. and Wed.–Fri. On Tue. the Society stays open late (10am–7:45pm). Sat, 10am–3pm.

TheArts



IMAGE COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA MUSEUM OF ART

GARDNER SPOTLIGHTS VIRAL SENSATION OF THE 1600S: BIBLICAL BOOK OF ESTHER

On its final East Coast stop, a new exhibition at the Gardner Museum promises surprises both esthetic and thematic. *The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt* examines how a 2,000-year-old biblical tale reverberated across 17th-century Dutch art for a very non-artistic reason: Its symbolic weight as a reflection of newly-won independence from Spain. (It didn't hurt that the story gave painters an excuse to show their chops at rendering luxury fabrics and jewels.) The show unites loans from major museums in Amsterdam, Ottawa, New York, and elsewhere, including five canvases by Rembrandt himself. It also includes paintings by Rembrandt's peers, etchings, and artifacts. As usual, the museum has commissioned contemporary works inspired by the show. Israeli-American multimedia artist Michal Rovner has created modern interpretations of *megil-lahs*, scrolls recounting the story and read during the festival of Purim. Find details at gardnermuseum.org.



IMAGE COURTESY METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART; H.O. HANENMEIER COLLECTION

Left, Jan Lievens, "The Feast of Esther," 1625. Right, Rembrandt van Rijn, "The Great Jewish Bride [Probably Esther]," 1635.

September

CALENDAR

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 MFA's basement in 1876, 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. **FREE**

Now ➔ Sat, 12/19

In **1776: DECLARING INDEPENDENCE**, the Massachusetts Historical Society lifts the curtain on how the Declaration of Independence was written and, crucially, how it was sent to the 13 colonies. In a world of social media, it's easy to forget that word of independence took days and even weeks to spread to the 13 colonies. **FREE**

Now ➔ Mon, 1/18/27

THE BOOK OF ESTHER IN THE AGE OF REMBRANDT, explores Dutch artists' fascination with the Old Testament story of Esther throughout the 17th century. Rembrandt and his peers returned repeatedly to a story that they saw as a metaphor for their own newly won independence from Spain. Details and tickets at gardnermuseum.org.

Now ➔ Mon, 1/26/27

UNBOUND: PICASSO, MIRÓ, DALÍ: The MFA's current temporary show focuses on *livres d'artiste* (artist books), a curiously named genre that began in France around 1900. Why curiously named? Because

these limited-edition works weren't bound like a book (they generally came loose in highly designed sleeves), and the "artistes" producing them weren't just painters but teams that included poets, typographers, printers, and publishers. Details at mfa.org.

Thu, 9/10

- **EAST FENWAY BLOCK PARTY**. Join neighbors and friends for food, music, children's activities, and line dancing, and (of course) Wally the Green Monster. Event made possible by a grant from Berklee and the support of community sponsors and partners. For more information, visit fenwayblockparty.com. 4:30–7:30pm. Symphony Community Park, 39 Edgerly Rd. **FREE**
- The Massachusetts Historical Society hosts **MY DEAREST FRIEND: THE LOVE, LIVES & LEGACY OF ABIGAIL & JOHN ADAMS**. Learn what made John and Abigail Adams America's original power couple. 6pm to 8pm. Learn more and register at masshist.org/events/my-dearest-friend-09-10-26. **FREE**

Sat, 9/12

MISSION HILL COMMUNITY SWAP. The lot at Boston Building Resources becomes a neighborhood swap and block party. Small furniture, clothes, kitchen items, books, records, games: if it still has some life left, someone here probably wants it. The event also includes a Fix-It Clinic. Boston Building Resources, 100 Terrace St. 11am–2pm. **FREE**

Wed, 9/16

Attend **TASTE OF THE FENWAY**, a vibrant,

"all-you-can eat" tasting festival showcasing Fenway's best restaurants and bars. 5–7pm. Van Ness Street. \$25 to \$50. Buy tickets at eventbrite.com/e/taste-of-the-fenway-2026-tickets-1990876302614.

Thu, 9/17

- In **CALLING ON ESTHER ACROSS THE AGES**, three religious leaders and scholars—Christian, Jewish, and Islamic—examine the "the roles of women in religious texts as archetypes for faith, leadership, and bravery." Spin-off event of the Gardner's *Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt*. Tickets and details at gardnermuseum.org.
- Celebrate the Museum School's 150th at **SMFA 150: LOOKING BACK COMMUNITY RECEPTION & ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY**. Food trucks, music, and pop-up tours of the exhibition. 230 The Fenway. 5–8pm, **FREE**

Sat, 9/19

Thought ballpark concerts were done? Not quite, thanks to Berklee's outdoor concert on Brookline Ave. Billed as a **HOME COMING "BLOCK PARTY,"** headliners include Susan Tedeschi, Tiwa Savage, Fabiola Méndez, and Dreion. Although block parties are typically

COMMUNITY meetings

THU, SEPTEMBER 10 Join your neighbors in **FENWAY FORWARD'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**, a group of residents who advocate together for affordable housing and other neighborhood needs. Dinner provided. 6–7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. Contact lruizsanchez@fenwayforward.org for more information.

modest affairs, hold onto your wallets: Tickets run \$199 and \$399 (VIP section). For details and tickets, visit berklee.edu/homecoming.

Sun, 9/20

The **TWELFTH NIGHT ENSEMBLE** makes it Boston debut in a Gardner Museum concert rescheduled from January because of a blizzard. The baroque trio in for good measure. 1:30–3pm, Gardner Museum, tickets \$63–99 (less for kids and students). Details and tickets at gardnermuseum.org.

Fri, 9/25–Sun 9/27

From fringe festivals to schools, the award-winning **CIRQUE US** retells familiar stories with jugglers, aerialists, contortionists, and clowns. Definitely family-friendly. Tickets \$15-20 (+ fees). Fri 7pm; Sat 10:30am & 2pm; Sun 2pm. Tickets and more info at wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

Sat, 9/26

ZERO WASTE DAY. 400 Frontage Road, 8:30am–12pm. Drop off your hazardous household waste for proper disposal by the city. Learn more at boston.gov/calendar/zero-waste-day-drop-2. **FREE**

Wed, 9/30

Join Massachusetts Historical Society for **THE LIVING DECLARATION**. In conversation, historian and former presidential speechwriter Ted Widmer (*The Living Declaration*) explores the complex lineage of the words and ideas in the Declaration and the dramatic events, many in Massachusetts, that led to the creation of the most consequential state paper in history. 6pm. Hybrid program. Register at masshist.org/events/when-in-the-course. **FREE**

Lunchtime Serenade in the LMA



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

A Tudor-revival arch provided musicians from *Of An Oak Music* with a stage for a performing outside the Shapiro Building at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center on Aug. 6. The musicians appeared through a summertime placemaking program run by the Longwood Collective called "Outside//." The program rotates musical ensembles, playing a variety of genres, among seven Longwood locations every weekday between May and September. Outside// also sponsors weekly food truck gatherings and a monthly "Puppies in the Park" dog-petting session.

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, Sept. 1 at 12pm: Film—**FOOTLOOSE**
 - Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 1pm: **SPANISH BINGO**—Learn Fall Basics
 - Thursday, Sept. 10 at 12pm: **APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**
 - Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 12pm: **CREATE A FALL COLLAGE** with Sam Greene

- Thursday, Sept. 17 at 12pm: **FALL TRIVIA** with Boston Police D-4
- Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 12pm: Film—**WILLOW**
- Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 1pm: **MAKE A DREAM CATCHER**
- Thursday, Sept. 24 at 12pm: **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PRESENTATION** with Maria Tumang
- Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 2pm: **LOW-IMPACT EXERCISES** with Simmons University physical therapy students

Ward Committee Endorsements in Local Races

Have we mentioned elsewhere that we’ve got a primary coming up? Yes, but the fact bears repeating because most voters rarely see primaries as important—and most skip them. Yet, in Boston, Democrats almost always win office, making primaries for local offices more important than the general elections. Because of that Democratic dominance, we’ve compiled the endorsements of the Democratic ward committees that cover the Fenway, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle, and Upper Back Bay. Note: state law allows unenrolled voters to vote in any party’s primary (and then switch back to unenrolled).

OFFICE	WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE	WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE	WARD 10 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
STATE LEGISLATURE (WARD COMMITTEES ENDORSE TWO OR MORE CANDIDATES WHEN A WARD FALLS INTO TWO OR MORE DISTRICTS)			
GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL	> Mara Dolan	> Mara Dolan > Terrence Kennedy	[NO ENDORSEMENT]
STATE SENATE	> Lydia Edwards > Latoya Gayle > Daniel Lander > Liz Miranda	> Will Brownsberger > Lydia Edwards > Latoya Gayle	> Liz Miranda
STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	> Jay Livingstone > Aaron Michlewitz > John Moran > Chynah Tyler	> Jay Livingstone > Aaron Michlewitz > Dan Ryan	> Sam Montano > Chynah Tyler
SUFFOLK COUNTY OFFICES			
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	[NO ENDORSEMENT]	Kevin Hayden	[NO ENDORSEMENT]
REGISTER OF PROBATE	Stephanie L. Everett	Stephanie L. Everett	Stephanie L. Everett

Muddy Water Initiative Bets Pop-Up Park Can Help Improve Water Quality in the River



Workers installed sod in July at a pop-up community space beneath the Bowker Overpass, designed by the Muddy Water Initiative as green infrastructure to help filter and slow stormwater runoff. The park will also function as an inviting community space for the upper Back Bay and the Fenway. The park’s design takes advantage of the overpass to create shade in summer and encourage passersby to relax and connect—particularly once planned programming begins in the coming weeks. A dedication was scheduled for Aug. 27, the day after this issue went to press.



FENWAY FORWARD UNVEILS NEW AFFORDABLE CONDOS

The scissors came out on Thursday, Aug. 26, as Fenway Forward cut the ribbon on six new affordable condos at 43 Hemenway St., which Fenway Forward purchased in 2023. Prices range from \$199,000 for a studio to \$417,000 for a three-bedroom unit. Find out more about the units, which feature energy-saving features, by visiting 43hemenway.com/.

MOVING OUT?

SAME STUFF,
NEW START

BLOCK PARTY 9/12
11AM-2PM

JOIN US AT THE MISSION HILL COMMUNITY SWAP!

Donate your clean, usable household items and come shop for free at the Block Party!

BOSTON BUILDING RESOURCES
100 TERRACE ST.
BOSTON, MA 02120

SCAN TO RSVP:





Northeastern University
City and Community Engagement



Boston Building
Resources

CITY of BOSTON

In Search of Mission Hill Rats



Inspectional Services Department (ISD) staff, residents, Sam Courage of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, and Mission Hill Main Streets Executive Director Courtney Wright recently went hunting for rats on Mission Hill. Starting at 6 Pontiac St., the group moved to Hillside, then Calumet Square looking for burrows and other evidence of rat activity. Participants shared plenty of anecdotes about rat sightings during the walk. ISD offers property owners one-time carbon dioxide treatment for active burrows on their property. Many people prefer this extermination method over poison traps, as it has no secondary impacts on other wildlife. At left, Michael Mackan, ISD's director of environmental services, stands in front of 59 Pontiac.

BEAUTIFICATION + PURIFICATION



The Muddy Water Initiative and the Back Bay Garden Club collaborated with an award-winning team of students from the Colleges of the Fenway's Muddy River Symposium in July to install community-accessible green infrastructure on Ne ISD's wbury Street between Mass. Ave. and Charlesgate East. The pilot project—created by Stephanie Xiao (MassArt), Alexa Pike (Simmons University), and Cash Eck (Wentworth Institute)—focuses on aerating soil in tree pits to restore permeability and installing native plants to encourage natural water filtration. Low-cost and easily replicated, the installations not only help clean stormwater reaching the Muddy River but also improve the streetscape.

Fall FESTIVAL

NEW EDGERLY PLAZA
15 WESTLAND AVE, BOSTON

THURSDAY | 24 | SEPTEMBER
3:30 - 6PM

Rain Date: September 25th, 3:30-6pm

Crafts! Live music!
Games! Snacks!



NEW ENGLAND CONDO EXPO

A SMARTER WAY TO TACKLE CONDO & HOA CHALLENGES

For Condo & HOA Board Members/Trustees, Property Managers & Building Owners

YOUR BUILDING DOESN'T FACE JUST ONE CHALLENGE.

Instead of spending months searching for answers, find them all in one place.

- RESERVES & FINANCIAL HEALTH**
Plan ahead with confidence and protect your assets.
- INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**
Navigate coverage and reduce exposure.
- LEGAL COMPLIANCE & PLANNING**
Stay current and compliant with ever-changing regulations.
- VENDOR MANAGEMENT**
Find trusted partners and get the best value.
- RESIDENT EXPECTATIONS**
Build stronger communities and enhance satisfaction.

ONE DAY WELL SPENT

- 150+ EXHIBITORS**
Explore solutions from leading companies and experts
- EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS**
Attend expert-led seminars on today's most important topics
- PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS**
Strategies and solutions you can implement right away
- CONNECT & LEARN**
Network with peers and professionals who understand your challenges



NEW ENGLAND CONDO EXPO

Register Today!
NE-EXPO.COM

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

HYNES CONVENTION CENTER
BOSTON, MA

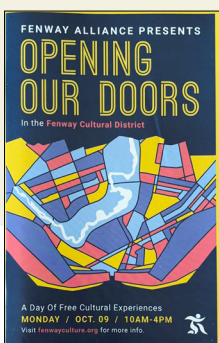
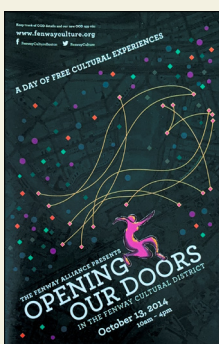
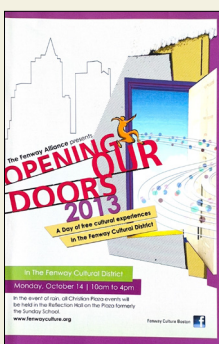
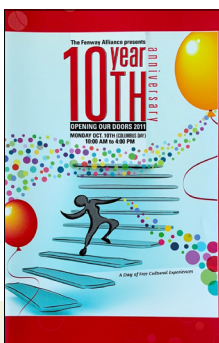
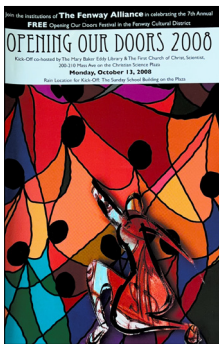
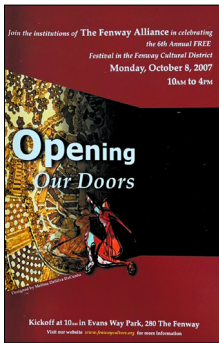
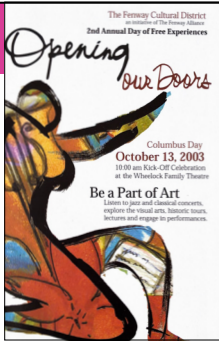


\$12 PARKING *
(at the Hynes Auditorium Garage)



FREE ADMISSION

*\$12 parking available September 30, 2026 at the Hynes Auditorium Garage. Exhibitors and employees of non property management exhibiting companies do not qualify for this offer.



FENWAY ALLIANCE PRESENTS



ALL YOURS, ALL FREE

Monday, October 12, 2026
12 - 5pm



Photo Credit: Annielly Camargo

VISIT THE FENWAY CULTURAL DISTRICT!

Participating Institutions & Locations:

- Berklee College of Music
- Boston Arts Academy
- Boston Symphony Orchestra
- Fenway Studios
- Friends of Fenway Studios
- Handel + Haydn Society
- Huntington Avenue YMCA
- Huntington Theatre Company
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Massachusetts Historical Society
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- New Edgerly Plaza
- New England Conservatory
- Northeastern University
- Simmons University
- SMFA at Tufts University
- The First Church of Christ, Scientist
- The Mary Baker Eddy Library
- The Winsor School

Visit www.fenwayculture.org/ood-2026-schedule for schedule and map of the day!



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