



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 11 • OCTOBER 30–DECEMBER 4, 2026

As Institutions Seek More IMP Amendments, Extensions, Public Has Fewer Chances for Input

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The Fenway, Mission Hill and the Longwood Area recently faced a flurry of Institutional Master Plan (IMP) filings with the Boston Planning Department. Most represent requests for two-year extensions of previous IMPs and a waiver of further review. Others involve amendments. For example, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences is adding 225 beds for a new dorm on floors four to eight of its Fennell building in space formerly leased to the Channing Laboratory.

The BPDA board approved an extension for Boston University’s Charles River Campus master plan at its September meeting. The only written comment received came from District 8 Councilor Sharon Durkan. Similarly, the Brigham and Women’s Hospital’s five-year extension for its master plan, initially filed in 2010, quietly received approval in August.

Typically, plan filings trigger a 30-day window for public comments. For example,

New England Conservatory filed its plan on Oct. 1, with a deadline for responding on Oct. 30. This is the third extension of the previous master plan, which anticipates no major changes in enrollment numbers or the physical campus. The 12-page filing does describe an increase in part-time instructors and states that NEC now shares its student residences with other schools.

On Oct. 22, Emmanuel College submitted a new 10-year master plan for 2026 to 2036. The deadline for comments is Dec. 21. The Planning Department has not yet announced a public meeting.

The Boston Zoning Code Article 80 modernization process carried an expectation that the 10-year standard for institutions’ master plans needed tweaking. For multiple institutions, the process has become a series of amendments. As well, hiring the consultants who write the documents is expensive for smaller schools.

Relying on amendments and extensions,

however, has a downside in the form of reduced opportunities for public dialogue between residents and nearby institutions. Residents might, for example, want more information about employment, enrollment numbers, community benefits, physical changes in campus buildings, or the public realm. Learning about leased properties helps establish a broader context for understanding institutional needs.

Now it’s harder to learn about the latest submissions from hospitals or facilities of higher education and the related window for public comments. The home page for the Planning Department has no link for institutional master plan filings. Instead, you have to use the table of contents in the menu, search under Development, then scroll through a list, a three-step process that’s not efficient for the user, and certainly not intuitive.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

VOTE ON NOV 3

Tue, 11/3 @ 7am–8pm
Election Day

Vote on statewide offices, legislators, and 9 ballot initiatives—a number that ties the record for ballot questions across more than a century.

- The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts has produced a detailed, nonpartisan, and informative overview of all 9 questions. View it at tinyurl.com/BallotQuestionOverview.
- The Boston WardWorks Alliance hosted a virtual “Ballot Question Rally” on Oct. 8 with speakers representing the MassDems-endorsed views on all 9 questions. Watch it at tinyurl.com/WardWorks-InitiativeQuestions
- Confirm where to vote in person at tinyurl.com/FindWhereToVote2026.

Boosted by Two Grants, Fenway Forward Aims to Establish ‘Resilience Hub’ in the West Fens

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



BY STEVE WOLF

Two grants will help Fenway Forward, the neighborhood-based nonprofit housing developer, increase energy security and create a “resilience hub” under a plan developed with help from residents of its 110 Peterborough building in the West Fens.

The bulk of the money, \$500,000, comes from the state’s Department of Energy Resources and will cover the cost of a battery backup system for the building, home to

75 low-income residents who are either elderly or live with disabilities. The battery will have the capacity to run elevators, lights, heating/cooling, and refrigeration for the building during power outages or extreme weather.

Simultaneously, the organization plans to install a rooftop photovoltaic array, replacing an older, non-power-producing system that provides some of the building’s hot water. The state’s grant doesn’t cover the cost of the solar array, but Fenway Forward intends to install one to power the building’s common areas and help keep the battery array topped off.

A second grant of \$50,000 from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council dovetails with the battery. It will support an audit and resident-engagement program for developing a plan to make the building a “resilience hub” for residents—a place for riding out extreme weather in safety and without loss of access to electricity and other essential services, thanks to the battery. The grant comes from MAPC’s Accelerating Climate Resilience program and would make 110 one of the first resilience hubs in Greater Boston.

Suneeth John, deputy director and head of real estate, said that the two projects symbolize Fenway Forward’s commitment “to preserving affordable housing while making our properties more sustainable, resilient, and responsive to the needs of our residents.”

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

BALLPARK ALERT

SAT • 11/21

**3:30PM
HARVARD/YALE**

TUE • 11/24

**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
@ 5:00PM & 8:00PM**

WED • 11/25

**HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
@ 4:30PM & 7:00PM**

REPORT NOISE OR MISBEHAVIOR

Call ALL THREE of these numbers:

CITY LICENSING BOARD ☎ 617-635-4170

SOX COMPLAINT LINE ☎ 617-226-6424

CITY PROBLEM LINE ☎ 311

CIVIC AGENDA

Sat-Sun, 11/7–11/8
**Fenway Studios’
Annual Open Studios**

Tour America’s oldest purpose-built live/work space for artists, 11am–5pm. See page 7 for more details.

Now to Sat, 11/14
Winter Clothing Drive

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) are collecting coats, sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves, warm bedding, blankets, and baby and toddler clothes for needy Bostonians. Donate at:

- ENC’s Shattuck Visitors Center, 125 The Fenway, M-F 9am–5pm
- Fenway Studios & Fenway Gallery, 30 Ipswich Street
- City Feed & Supply, 672 Centre St., Jamaica Plain, Mon-Sat 7am–8am; Sun 8am–8pm

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/ENC-ClothingDrive.

AFTER CYCLIST’S DEATH, CITY RETHINKS TREMONT/PARKER INTERSECTION

Three months after cyclist Louisa Gag died on Tremont Street in Mission Hill, the City of Boston re-striped the street, creating protected bike lanes for the single block of Tremont between Parker and Terrace streets near the Orange Line’s Roxbury Crossing Station. Cars still park on both sides, but the new striping puts them between cyclists and the motorized traffic. The tan paint further defines the pedestrian zone in an attempt to increase safety. The orange traffic cones certainly help. The City will introduce a prohibition on left turns from Tremont onto Parker, a topic that will undoubtedly come up at a 6pm meeting to be held Nov. 9 at the Tobin Community Center, 1481 Tremont St.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Work to Do on Better Bus Project
TO THE EDITOR

I read in the *Boston Sun* that #55 bus hours will finally be extended. Hurray! But, WOW, a frequency of 45 to 50 minutes. That’s a long wait! Is this really part of the Better Bus Project?

As a frequent bus rider, I know what it’s like to have to wait, especially in the cold and rain. I also know that wait times result in packed buses—if they’re not packed already. Everybody has a right to ride the bus but sometimes all those wheelchairs, women with shopping carts blocking the aisle, students with backpacks, sleepers, and people yelling on cellphones is why I’d prefer to see a Comfortable Bus Project. Yes, the #1 is now running two or three buses at the same time but they usually don’t stop and relieve the packing. So what’s the point? All of this is why I call it the “Minus 1.”

I also think there should be a Better Name Project. The Minus 1 going up Mass. Ave. in the Fenway makes strange announcements: *St. BOfolph* and *Quistian Science*. If it’s *St. BOfolph*, shouldn’t it also be *SymphOnly*?

The Better Bus Project has a lot of work ahead of it.

ALISON BARNET

Reflecting on Helen Cox and the
History of the Fenway
TO THE EDITOR

In one of her two interviews for the Fenway Memory Project’s oral history of the neighborhood, Helen Cox told the story of *The Fenway News* meetings on Symphony Road and her successful effort to turn the editorial focus of the paper from global affairs to those of the neighborhood. The community paper was, after all, she said, called *The Fenway News*.

Helen also described living on Symphony Road in the 1950s and hearing piano music and arias floating out windows up and down the block. A couple of decades later, the music had been overcome by the sirens of fire trucks in what eventually was proven by citizen activists to be arson for profit. Landlords, through shell companies, were selling buildings back and forth to increase their paper value then torch them and collect insurance. One official, who later was indicted in connection with the arson ring, told residents there was no such thing as arson. The fires, he insisted, had been started by the elderly who could not operate their stoves properly and by teenage delinquents.

Who was Jesse Oliver?
Jesse Oliver was a 4-year-old boy killed at 70 Symphony Road in a fire that left more than 120 residents homeless. The manner of his death was recorded by the medical examiner as “Conflagration, Presumably Accident.” His uncle could only identify his nephew’s body by its size and the bedroom in which it was found.

In observance of the 50th anniversary of Jesse’s death on Sept. 12, 1976, a group of gardeners gathered for a candle vigil and remembrance on the site of his death, now the Symphony Road Community Garden.

The tragedy of the fire that took Jesse’s life was nothing new for residents on Symphony Road at the time. Previous fires had burned up and down the block and on surrounding Fenway streets. Few Fenway residents today know or can imagine such a history. The reports were all there in *The Fenway News* and eventually the fires and the indictments against 33 individuals were covered by the national press.

We can thank Helen and other neighborhood activists for that. Next time you are out for a walk, go by the Symphony Road Community Garden and remember Jesse.

TIM NEY

FINALLY! LONG-PLANNED RECONSTRUCTION OF FENS PATHWAYS BEGINS



If you thought you'd never live to see the start of the Back Bay Fens Pathways project, you thought wrong. Not quite three years after the final community meeting on the plan, replacement of the park's rutted pathways began Oct. 12 and will commence with the Victory Gardens in order to avoid construction during prime growing season.

In both diagrams, paths shown in red will get new asphalt paving and, for the most part, follow existing routes. Eagle-eyed readers will spot the addition of some short spurs inside the Victory Gardens and a new switchback at the park's north end near the Boylston Street Bridge. Two “desire lines” where people have worn paths to Park Drive will also get paved. More finished-looking concrete will mark the entrances at Boylston and Peterborough streets. Announcing

the start of work, Project Manager Lauren Bryant noted that the contractors will use the basketball courts across from Jersey Street for staging and that the work will take place in phases to make sure that some parts of the park remain open at all times.

—STEVE WOLF



CPA FUNDING BOOSTS REPAIR OF
AUDUBON CIRCLE LANDMARK

Scaffolding and safety nets have swallowed the steeple of Ruggles Baptist Church in Audubon Circle as contractors repair water-driven structural damage at the top. The church reports that more than 20 years' worth of water infiltration has undermined both the structure and interior finishes to the point that the congregation can no longer use the steeple's lower levels. Funding for the work comes partly from a 2025 Community Preservation Act grant; awarded yearly, the grants support housing creation, parks expansion, and historic preservation. The work under way includes masonry repair, waterproofing, and replacing roofing and flashing, all of which the contractors expect to finish by January. If the CPA selection panel approves a new application, the church plans to continue repairs down to the ground next year. Other funding has come from the Henderson Foundation and a BPDA neighborhood grant. “We’ve been so grateful for the support of our neighbors in this,” Pastor Josh Cahan said by email, “especially the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association and Councilor Sharon Durkan.” Readers may recall that the “Urban Detective” wrote about the church’s history and architecture for our Feb. 2026 issue. Completed in 1914, the building’s colonial revival style represented an unusual choice for architect Ralph Adams Cram, nationally known in the early 20th century for designing Gothic revival churches and campuses.

—ALISON PULTINAS & STEVE WOLF



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

THE Fenway News

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NEXT ISSUE APPEARS
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ISSUE DEADLINE
Send letters, news items, and ads by
Friday, November 27

SUBSCRIPTIONS \$30/YEAR
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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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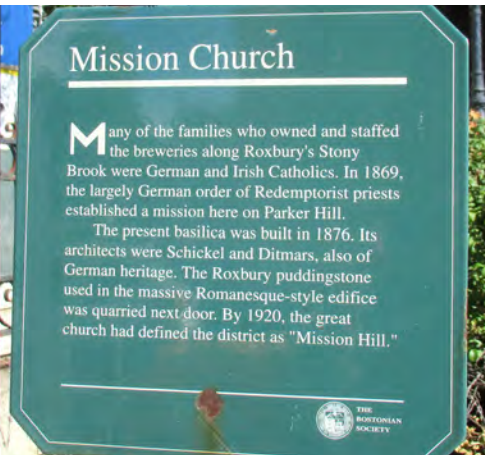
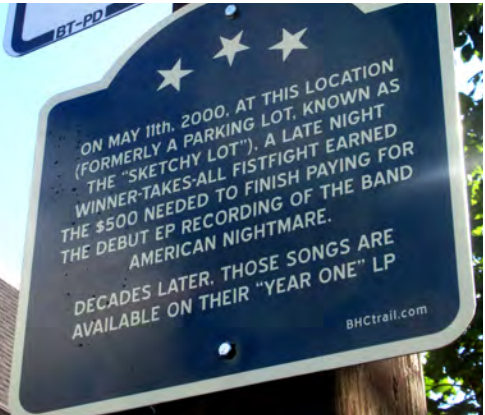
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250th Celebration Uncorks a Flood of Local Plaques, Markers

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



BY ALISON PULTINAS

A plethora of plaques are now appearing in Boston's neighborhoods. Several different programs celebrating the country's 250th anniversary have seized the opportunity to commemorate less well-known sites and historic personages.

There are physical markers and digital trails. Bloomberg Philanthropies contributed major funding. Using the Bloomberg Connects app is the recommendation from the city's Office of Historic Preservation, and users can access it at boston.gov/tour250. There's also a link to Tour 250 Physical Markers at guides.bloombergconnects.org/en-US/guide/boston250. Use the map icon at the top to find sites in the Fenway (at least 8), Mission Hill/LMA (7), and Kenmore Square, the upper Back Bay, and Nubian Square.

Embrace Boston is leading a campaign called everyone250 (everyone250.org/historical-markers). Its list is long, and marker installations are ongoing. It has recognized Fenway Health, the Islamic Society Mosque on Malcolm X Blvd., the Donna Summer House at 16 Parker Hill Ave., the North American Indian Center at 107 South Huntington Ave., and many others.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, EmbraceBoston's president Dr. Imari K. Paris Jeffries joined Rabbis Elaine Zecher and Dan Slipakoff at an installation of a plaque on the Longwood Ave. side of Temple Israel.

Historic markers of another kind come from Chris Wrenn, author of *Fenway Punk*, marking his Boston hardcore trail, with sites in Mission Hill and the Fenway.

In an email, Evan Berry, communications director for the city's Environment, Energy & Open Space Cabinet, said, "we are considering developing a component of our program that allows for members of the public to easily submit information or pictures of markers that they come across that hasn't yet been documented in our inventory. We hope that all of these action items will enable us to fill gaps in our information and build a more complete picture of the City's historic marker landscape."

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Clockwise from top left: the Bostonian Society plaque at Mission Church; a Boston 250 plaque at 31 Symphony Rd.; the newly installed historic marker at Temple Israel; Boston Hardcore Trail sign on Pontiac Street in Mission Hill.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

[Note: ICYMI took a break in September, so this edition casts a look back at two months, rather than its usual one.]

A September report excoriated Boston Public Schools for high rates of students absenteeism. Lost in the details: of 31 non-exam high schools in the BPS system, Fenway High had the lowest rate of chronic absenteeism [27%]. Still, that figure surpasses the statewide average of 18%. After 94% of BSO musicians voted to approve a new contract, double-bass player Todd Seeber wrote a fiery opinion piece for the *Globe* cautioning readers not to confuse a contract agreement with an endorsement of the decision to fire music director Andris Nelsons when his contract ends next August. Seeber minced no words in calling out the symphony board and manager, describing, for example, "leadership impervious to self-reflection or to any suggestion of misguided decision-making or wrongdoing." Northeastern lost an eight-year battle with the town of Nahant at the state's Supreme Judicial Court in September. The SJC ruled that the town acted properly when it used eminent domain to take 12.5 acres of land on East Point to create an ecological preserve—a move that essentially blocks Northeastern's plan to build a 55,000-square-foot addition to its Marine Research Center. A spokesperson expressed the university's deep disappointment, warning that the taking would increase Nahant's tax burden (despite the legal term "taking," the town will have to pay for the land) and restrict the center's ability to do "cutting-edge research" that would benefit all coastal communities. Dana-Farber and Beth Israel Deaconess broke ground for their new 300-bed cancer hospital on a parcel that formerly held the Joslin Clinic building in the LMA. The ceremony marked a tangible milestone in the cancer institute's breakup with longtime clinical partner Brigham & Women's. Speaking of BIDMC, its parent, Beth Israel Lahey, tapped COO Peter Shorett to take over as CEO when longtime head Kevin Tabb steps down in January. Shorett masterminded the Dana-Farber merger and, in 2019, guided the merger of BIDMC and Lahey Health to create a stronger competitor for Mass General Brigham. You may recall the shocking death in January of Back Bay resident John Axelrod, hit by a car that drove onto the Comm. Ave. mall while he walked his dog (which also died). A medical evaluation determined that the suspect, William Haney, Jr., who didn't know Axelrod, is mentally competent to stand trial. According to *Globe* reporting of court documents, Haney at the time had begun taking new medications for mental health issues that turned out to be ineffective. The Boston Public Library announced the winner of the 25th Druker Award for design and architecture, Canada's KPMB Architecture. If the name doesn't ring a bell, a building it designed for BU should—the Computing & Data Sciences center on Comm. Ave., the one that looks like a 19-story stack of books about to topple over (or, says Wikipedia, a game of Jenga). The largest carbon-neutral building in Boston, it opened in 2023. Two KPMB partners will accept the award Nov. 7 in a ceremony at the Central Branch in Copley Square. Why, yes, you did see the Fenway Alliance's Kelly Brilliant featured in the Sunday *Globe*'s "VIP Lounge," a travel-section profile usually reserved for athletes and entertainers.

ICYMI

SALERNO RECEIVES AWARD FOR HOUSING ADVOCACY



On Oct. 27 West Fens resident Rosaria Salerno received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Metro Housing Boston, a nonprofit that helps people move from homelessness to stable housing. Flanking Salerno (wearing yellow) are, from left, Amy Stitely, executive director of Metro Housing; Steve Farrell, executive director of Fenway Forward, on whose board Salerno sits; and former Fenwickian Chris Norris, who recently stepped down as executive director at Metro Housing.

PHOTO: METRO HOUSING BOSTON

NEWSLINES

School Committee Seeks Candidates for Two Vacancies

A nominating panel has begun accepting applications for two openings on the Boston School Committee. Two current members' terms will expire in January, and their replacements would serve four-year terms. Chair Jeri Robinson, a BPS graduate and retired vice president at the Boston Children's Museum, will step down from the committee after 12 years of service. Quoc Tran, parent of four BPS graduates, a former BPS teacher, and retired deputy director of the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights in the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, has served two terms on the committee. Potentially, Tran could apply for another term, although he hasn't announced plans to do so. The 13-member nominating panel comprises BPS parents, educators, school leaders, higher-education professionals, and representatives of the business community. Visit bostonpublicschools.org/school-committee/about for a link to the application. Completed applications are due by 11:59pm on Friday, Nov. 13. Email applications to sc-nominatingpanel@boston.gov. The nominating panel plans to conduct remote interviews with potential candidates over three days, Dec. 1 to 3, between 3:30pm and 6:30pm.

New Preschool Sets Opening in Mission Hill



PHOTO: LILIAN PREP EARLY EDUCATION ACADEMY

Lilian Prep Early Education Academy, a nonprofit preschool, will open at 80 Terrace St. in Mission Hill and is currently scheduling tours for prospective families. According to its website (lilianprep.org) the school "is an inclusive, play-based pre-school focused on supporting children's social-emotional development, language readiness, and early learning." Founder Sara Alaoeasheg is a Northeastern graduate and Fenway resident.

On Mission Hill, an Auction, Construction Starts, and a Suit Over Historic Landmark Status

BY ALISON PULTINAS

> 110-128 Terrace Street

A small group of potential bidders and onlookers attended an Oct. 13 foreclosure auction for the properties at 110-128 Terrace St. owned by Matthew O’Hara of South Boston. The properties include D & M Auto Body at the corner of New Cedar and Terrace and three occupied residential buildings on Terrace.

Auctioneer Paul Saperstein started the bidding at \$5 million but got no takers at that price. Attorney Anthony McGuinness ultimately submitted the winning bid of \$3 million. As Terrace Street Note Holder LLC, he was the most recent assignee for a previous mortgage. A parking lot for the tenant-at-will business—D & M Auto Body, owned by Danilo Ulloa—takes up most of the site.

Joey Frederico, the investor-developer of a project at 154 Terrace St., attended but did not submit a bid. Excavation recently started for his

planned six-story rental building. After first objecting, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department allowed removal of four City-owned locust trees in front of 154. Once the building went up, the sidewalk would not have met current accessibility standards if the trees had remained. As compensation, the city’s tree warden has promised new street trees on New Heath Street.

> 77 Terrace Street

Further down the street there is significant site work for ODJ Dev LLC’s Parker Terrace Street project for 48 income-restricted condominiums. The project will include a future park and community garden. A public groundbreaking ceremony with Mayor Michelle Wu was scheduled for Oct. 29 at 77 Terrace St.

> Historic Preservation

In historic preservation news, Folsom House, the 1847 double house at 3-4 Folsom Ave., received City Landmark designation in August after a unanimous July 28 vote by the



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Work at 77 Terrace St., eventually home to ODJ Dev LLC’s Parker Terrace Street project with 48 income-restricted condominiums.

Landmarks Commission. Mayor Wu signed the designation on Aug. 14 and the City Council approved it on Aug. 26. The House was the first Boston home of photographer Augustine Folsom.

The property owner, Ridges Beta LLC, represented by attorney Richard Lynds, filed a 63-page appeal on Aug. 25 in Suffolk Superior Court seeking to void the designation. In that filing the plaintiffs claim that “the Commission’s July 28 designation independently fails... three statutory standards: it exceeds the Commission’s statutory authority; it is unwarranted by the evidence; and it damages Plaintiff unreasonably in comparison to any benefit conferred on the public.” The case [2684CV0542] is listed for a 12-month resolution, although no judge is assigned and no responses are yet posted. Simultaneously, Ridges Beta has pursued its original plan to demolish the house and build a six-unit rental property on the site. The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services held an abutters meeting on Sept. 21 with attorney Ryan Spitz representing owners Ashwani Kaul and Anupam Koul.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

SENIOR EVENTS

Drop into the Peterborough 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.

- Tue, Nov. 10 at 12pm: **THANKSGIVING TRIVIA & BINGO**
- Tue, Nov. 10 at 2pm: **MUSIC4WELLNESS** with Berklee College of Music
- Thu, Nov. 12 at 11:30am: **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**
- Thu, Nov. 12 at 12pm: **FRIENDSGIVING LUNCHEON** with New England

Conservatory

- Tue, Nov. 17 at 12pm: **BOTTLE PAINTING WITH LIGHTS**
- Tue, Nov. 17 at 2pm: **MUSIC4WELLNESS** with Berklee College of Music
- Wed, Nov. 18 at 12pm: **WATERCOLORS**
- Wed, Nov. 18 at 12:45pm: **TECH CAFE** with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Wed, Nov. 18 at 2pm: **LOW IMPACT EXERCISES** with Simmons Physical Therapy
- Thu, Nov. 19 at 11:30am: **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

- Tue, Dec. 1 at 12pm: **TRIVIA & BINGO**
- Tue, Dec. 1 at 2pm: **MUSIC4WELLNESS** with Berklee College of Music
- Wed, Dec. 2 at 12:45pm: **TECH CAFE** with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Wed, Dec. 2 at 2pm: **AI WORKSHOP** with Dia Sulagna
- Thu, Dec. 3 at 11:30am: **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**
- Thu, Dec. 3 at 12pm: **ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH PRESENTATION** with Boston University



2026 Ballot Endorsements

Question 1: Expanding the Public Records Law

Vote YES on 1 for a more transparent state government.

Question 2: Public Defenders’ Right to Unionize

Vote YES on 2 to grant public defenders the same right to unionize as other state employees.

Question 3: All-Party State Primary Elections

Vote NO on 3 to protect grassroots candidates from being crowded out of primaries by corporate-funded or wealthy, self-funded candidates

Question 4: Election Day Voter Registration

Vote YES on 4 to increase voter access on Election Day.

Question 5: State Revenue Limit & Rebate to Taxpayers

Vote NO on 5 to stabilize the state budget for public services and investments in our communities such as schools, health care and transportation.

Question 6: Natural Resource Conservation Fund

Vote YES on 6 to encourage increased funding for conservation and environmental justice.

Question 7: Single-Family Homes on Small Lots

Vote YES on 7 to make it easier to build starter homes and address our housing shortage.

Question 8: End Recreational Marijuana Sale

Vote NO on 8 for continued safe and legal access to recreational marijuana and to prevent the continuation of the historical harms of the war on drugs in communities of color.

Question 9: Keep Tighter Gun Regulation

Vote YES on 9 to keep gun-violence rates lower by maintaining existing safety regulations that ban assault rifles and restrict gun sales.



<https://tinyurl.com/ffvoterguide>



PHOTOS: BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

New Post-Dredging Signage Explains Muddy River Ecology



Earlier this year, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) installed new signage along the Muddy River. Designed by Terraink, the signs convey the transformational changes brought about by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Muddy River Restoration Project and highlight the ongoing challenges of stewarding the Muddy's complex ecosystems. According to Tom Timmons, special projects manager for Boston Parks, "BPRD has installed signage to help shed some light on all the different aspects of the natural landscape that runs the length of the Muddy River."

CORRECTION

Because of a production error, our October issue listed the photo credit for the East Fens neighborhood block party as "to come." In fact, the photo was taken by Annielly Camargo. We regret the error.

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

The Vegan Menus Hiding in Plain Sight

BY RYAN VOLPI

There is just one vegan restaurant in Fenway: the only storefront for FoMu, which makes ice cream out of coconuts, cashews, and fruit. But FoMu's reach goes well past that one shop: its ice cream is sold at around 40 other stores and restaurants, many of which serve meat.

That's where most vegan food lives now. Not in vegan restaurants, which are hard to convince your family to visit, but on the menus of ordinary restaurants. The trouble is finding these dishes.

Imagine going to a restaurant and trying to order a meal with no animal products. That means no meat, but also no milk, butter, eggs, or honey. That may sound impossible, but for vegans this is the experience every time they eat in a restaurant. And plenty of dishes that look safe actually are not.

At a Mexican restaurant, the beans are often cooked with lard. At a Thai restaurant, a curry with no meat may still include fish sauce. Most vegans have a story about going out to dinner and finding that the only thing they could order was a side salad.

I've spent the past few months reading thousands of menus and speaking with restaurants to identify vegan dishes in Boston. Along the way, I've found some strange things. There was a snack sold as "vegan" whose own label lists milk, and a restaurant that

closed years ago but still has a menu online. But mostly, I've found good food in places I never would have thought to look. Here are the places worth knowing in the Fenway, Kenmore, Mission Hill, and Audubon Circle.

MISSION HILL

TREMONT HOUSE OF PIZZA, 1590 TREMONT ST.

This is the one that most surprised me. It looks like any neighborhood pizza shop. But inside it has a full vegan menu that includes a vegan chicken or meatball parm sub, vegan nuggets, a 16-inch vegan pizza, and the vegan "Fenway Sausage" sub (spicy vegan sausage with mustard, onions, and peppers). There's even a combo with a vegan pizza, two vegan subs, and fries.

LAUGHING MONK CAFE, 737 HUNTINGTON AVE.

This is a great place for Thai food and sushi. The sure things are the rolls: the No Meat Roll (tofu, kampo, cucumber, avocado, pickled radish) and the Shiitake Roll. They also have tofu soup.

POKE MONDAY, 1562 TREMONT ST.

The Veggie Poke Bowl (avocado, edamame, corn, cucumber, carrot, pickled radish, sesame) is the most filling vegan meal on this stretch. They also make "makirittos," sushi rolls the size of a small burrito. Filled with avocado and cucumber, these are a vegan meal.

WEST FENS

THE EMPANADA'S, 21 KILMARNOCK ST.

They have three vegan empanadas: vegan "ham" and cheese, vegan seitan "beef," and vegan tofu capri. They're cheap, fast, and easy to eat on the go.

SUFRA, 52 QUEENSBERRY ST.

This restaurant offers Middle Eastern food, with a few options that happen to be vegan. The Vegan Baba Bliss sandwich is smoky baba ghanouj in warm pita. Consider adding hummus, falafel, tabbouleh, or fattoush to make it a more filling meal.

HONEYGROW, 1282 BOYLSTON ST.

One of the best chains for vegans. The Red Coconut Curry is vegan, and you can build your own stir-fry with tofu and sesame garlic sauce.

PAVEMENT COFFEEHOUSE, 1096 BOYLSTON ST. AND 44 GAINSBOROUGH ST.

Most coffee shops offer a vegan muffin, at best. But Pavement has a whole vegan breakfast menu which includes the Vegan Sunrise (plant-based egg, house-baked tempeh, vegan cheddar), a vegan BLT, and a spicy tempeh sandwich. For coffee, they offer oat, almond, and soy milk.

EAST FENS

MUMBAI SPICE, 251 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.

There are a lot of vegan options to choose from at this Indian restaurant. Options include chana masala, baingan bharta (smoky

eggplant), tadka daal, gobi manchurian, and masala momos. This is the best place in the neighborhood for a vegan dinner.

ENERGIZE, 265 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.

A few doors up from Mumbai Spice, this is a smoothie-and-bowl café where almost everything is vegan. The exception is honey and bee products, but you can swap these for agave. Beyond the smoothies, there's a tofu and avocado pita pocket, a veggie burger, and avocado toast. It's a good place for breakfast or lunch.

PHO BASIL, 177 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.

A Vietnamese and Thai restaurant with a vegan section on the menu. The draw is Pho Chay. It's a vegetable pho with tofu, which is not something I see often. There's also a tofu curry and Vegetable Delight.

KENMORE AND AUDUBON CIRCLE

INDIA QUALITY, 484 COMMONWEALTH AVE.

A Kenmore institution that labels its own vegan dishes so you don't have to guess. Try the coconut bharta, organic tofu vindaloo, or vegetable biryani. The roti is vegan too.

CAFE LANDWER, 900 BEACON ST.

An Israeli café that marks its vegan dishes. Order the vegan meatball shakshuka, the vegan arayes (stuffed grilled pita, my favorite), or the full vegan breakfast.

Ryan Volpi lives in Newton and runs geffarro.com, a site that tracks vegan dishes at Boston restaurants.

VENERUNT, VIDERUNT, VICERUNT* AS TWO LATIN SCHOOLS MEET IN ANNUAL DUEL



At the annual Latin Derby Senior Night on Oct. 24, varsity soccer teams from Boston Latin School and Boston Latin Academy faced off at Clemente Field. The girls played first, with Latin School winning 2–0. The boys followed, with Latin Academy winning 2–1. At top, an end-of-game round of high fives. At right, the Latin School's pep band, led by Margaret McKenna, performed.

* "Venerunt, viderunt, vicerunt" means "They came, they saw, they conquered" for non-Latin scholars.



PHOTOS: ALISON PUTINAS

The Arts



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

NISHING TOUCH IN COPLEY SQUARE: PUBLIC ART
The next time you visit Copley Square—following its long and controversial reconstruction—look for 15 sunflower sculptures signed by Boston-area artist Tory Fair. The nickel-plated, cast-onze works lie scattered around the park, attached to concrete seating areas. Guided by the One Boston Resilience Project—which in 2018 collected ideas from Boston residents about how to memorialize the 2013 Marathon bombings—the City issued a call for proposals that led to the selection of five artists, including Fair, to create public art for the square. A one-percent-for-art provision in the renovation project’s capital budget covered the costs of the art. A holiday tree-lighting ceremony on Nov. 30 will double as a celebration of the park’s opening.

Visit Fenway Studios Nov. 7–8



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS UNDER CC4.0

The artists of Fenway Studios hold their annual open house and food drive on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7–8, at 30 Ipswich St. Twenty-five studios will be open to visitors, with art on display. The open house doubles as a food drive, and this year’s beneficiary offers an interesting echo of the studios’ unique history. The child-services provider Home for Little Wanderers, traces its roots to 1799, making it the oldest child-welfare group in the U.S. Fenway Studios, a National Historic Landmark, was America’s first purpose-built building with live/work space for artists. Recommended donations for the food drive include Thanksgiving food, like prepared stuffing mixes, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, pudding mixes, and cookies. The open studios take place 11am–5pm both days.

Master of Fine Arts Open Studios



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

On Oct. 24, grad students at area art schools opened their studios to the public. Above, “Maybe this Time,” a work combining cut paper and a light box by Zev Woskoff, a student at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Berklee Throws A Shindig for First Homecoming

Berklee held its first homecoming weekend Sept. 18 and 19, welcoming students, alums, and parents back to Boston for a weekend of music, learning, networking, and artistic collaboration. Following a day of panels, receptions, and artist clinics on Sept. 18, Berklee opened the celebration to the broader community with a block party along Brookline Avenue on Saturday, Sept. 19, featuring performances by alumni and faculty. Near right, Hamilton-Garrett Drumline and Boston Conservatory dancers kick off the show. Far right, alumna Fabiola Méndez performs.



PHOTOS: ADRIANA AREQUIO GUTIERREZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Fenway Geese

BY SAJED KAMAL
If you please,
make way for the Fenway geese!
Also, no honking or hollering—
and no cheering too,
while they cross the street
marching in a row
gently and safely—
as they always do!!

Poet, artist, photographer, renewable-energy educator, and author of multiple books, Sajed Kamal lives in the East Fens and has been a neighbor to the geese for 60 years.



PHOTO: SAJED KAMAL

LAST CALL

Ends Sun, 11/29
Reality and Imagination: Rembrandt and the Jews in the Dutch Republic
The MFA’s Rembrandt show dovetails beautifully with the Gardner’s big exhibit. See review on page 7.
Ends Sun, 12/6
Maverick Kings
Up for a surprisingly short run, this MFA exhibit focuses on three consequential rulers of Egypt’s Golden Age, including Hatshepsut, one of the few female pharaohs.

The Arts

The Gardner Doesn't Have the Only Rembrandt Show in Town

© MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON; HARVEY D. PARKER COLLECTION; HARVEY DRURY PARKER FUND



Rembrandt etched and engraved this 1647 image of his neighbor, “Ephraim Bonus, Physician (Ephraim Bueno),” the only real-life Jewish subject he is known to have portrayed.

master painter and engraver. *Reality and Imagination: Rembrandt and the Jews in the Dutch Republic*

BY STEVE WOLF

Our October issue included a review of *The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt* at the Gardner Museum. The show examines the decades-long popularity of the Book of Esther in the art produced in the 17th-century Dutch Republic. On view through Jan. 17, it explains how multiple forces led a decidedly non-Jewish country to embrace a quintessentially Jewish story. If Rembrandt’s name, among the biggest in the art canon, draws people to the Gardner exhibit, the show itself focuses as much on the rambunctious compositions of his peers as on his own restrained work. By happy accident, the MFA also has an exhibit about Rembrandt, but this one focuses more directly on the work of the

examines how Rembrandt interacted with Amsterdam’s Jewish community—and how that in turn shaped the way he imagined biblical figures. The introductory “Reality” section introduces two groups of Jewish immigrants who arrived in Amsterdam in the years around 1600. Sephardic Jews from Portugal came first. Many had lived for generations in Spain, only to face expulsion in 1492. Resettling in slightly less hostile Portugal, they survived as “crypto-Jews,” practicing Catholicism in public while observing their faith in private. A few decades later the Inquisition set up shop in Portugal—with its spy networks, vicious torture, and public executions—some crypto-Jews fled to the Netherlands. They’d already established themselves there when impoverished Ashkenazic Jews from Eastern

Europe began arriving. Dutch authorities only allowed them to stay after their prospering Sephardic cousins guaranteed that they’d never become burdens on public charity. Both groups settled in Vlooienburg, a newly built neighborhood with a multicultural population that included Rembrandt. The MFA’s show includes his dignified engraving of Ephraim Bueno, a neighbor and the only real-life Jewish subject of a Rembrandt portrait. This section showcases “a remarkable collaboration between a Christian artist and a rabbi,” four etchings of Old Testament stories for a book compiled by Rabbi Manasseh ben Israel—another Vlooienburg neighbor—who set up the first Hebrew printing press in the Netherlands. Working in one of the few professions open to Jews, ben Israel laid the groundwork for Amsterdam’s later rise as the European capital of Hebrew publishing. Rembrandt’s etchings of biblical scenes for the book—delicately conveying light, shadow, and emotional nuance—act as a bridge to

the show’s “Imagination” section. The focus here falls on how Rembrandt portrayed the Hebrews of the Bible, an approach that influenced painters long after his death. In fact, the exhibit includes a work by Washington Allston, painted 150 years after Rembrandt but showing clear influences of his style. Images in the show, like the Bueno etching, suggest that the Sephardi community dressed to assimilate into the Dutch bourgeoisie. So Rembrandt turned his “exotic” Ashkenazic neighbors into unwitting models, lending their beards and hats to the ancient crowds in works such as *Christ Disputing with the Doctors* and *Abraham’s Sacrifice*, both on display here. Rounding out the show, a handful of artifacts illustrate various aspects of 17th-century Dutch Jewish life, from intricate Torah finials commissioned by a congregation in Rotterdam to elaborately illuminated marriage contracts to a simple brass menorah. Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens. “Reality and Imagination” continues through Nov. 29 at the MFA.

MUSEUM SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS LONG RUN



PHOTO: JESSICA KOREN FOR TUFTS UNIVERSITY

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University celebrates its 150th anniversary with a yearlong series of exhibitions and events. On Sept. 17 the school hosted the “SMFA at 150 Community Celebration.” The event brought together alumni, students, faculty, staff, donors, and friends.

At 25, Opening Our Doors Keeps Crowds Cheering for Culture

Blessed by perfect fall weather on October 12, Opening Our Doors’ 25th iteration draw large crowds to performances, a flea market, and art-making at cultural institutions across the Fenway.



ANNIELLY CARMAGO PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FENWAY ALLIANCE

November

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 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 generally came unbound 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.

Sun, 11/1

The MFA hosts a day of art, performances, and family-friendly activities for **DIWALI**.

Enjoy music and dance, art making, tours of the galleries of South Asian art, and more. Festivities included with general admission, which is free if you're under 18. Learn more at mfa.org/event/special-event/diwali?event=108356.

Tue, 11/3

BERKLEE ASIA RISING: CELEBRATING ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN VOICES. This 11-act concert connects all of Asia and the Asian American diaspora, with student originals and new interpretations spanning pop, R&B, jazz, rap, film music, and rock. The Berklee Asia Rising program celebrates Asian and Asian American music, blending performance, recording, and production. 8pm, Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave. Details and tickets (\$19.60 and up, public/ discounts for alumni, faculty, and staff) at etix.com/ticket/p/51877188.

Thu, 11/5

New England Conservatory alums Merryl Goldberg or Hankus Netsky discuss their journey to Soviet Russia, described in Goldberg's new book, **NOTES OF DECEPTION: HOW A QUARTET OF AMERICAN MUSICIANS OUTWITTED THE KGB**. They revisit a risky journey at the intersection of music, secrecy, activism, and Cold War history. Despite KGB harassment and scrutiny, the musicians created a secret musical cipher system to collect valuable information about dissident musicians. 8pm. Brown Hall, 290 Huntington Ave. Learn more at tinyurl.com/NECNotesOfDeception. **FREE**

Thu, 11/12

- Connect with employers and organizations and explore potential career options at **FENWAY FORWARD'S CAREER & RESOURCE FAIR**. Come dressed to impress with copies of your resume to network with employers, including Office of Workforce

Development, Boston Fire Department, Hyatt Regency Boston/Cambridge, BEST Hospitality Training, The Peabody Companies, Partners In Democracy, Asian Women for Health, Vital CxNs, Beth Israel Lahey Health, Union Square Hospitality Group, TD Bank, Santander, and Beacon Bank. 4:30–6:30pm. 316 Huntington Ave. Learn more and register at eventbrite.com/e/career-resource-fair-tickets-2001012591527. **FREE**

- Join the November meeting of **FENWAY FORWARD'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**, residents interested in advocating for affordable housing and other neighborhood needs. Dinner provided. Contact lruiiz-sanchez@fenwayforward.org for more information. 6-7:30pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. **FREE**
- **MILLENNIAL SKIP THE SMALL TALK NIGHT**. Aimed at people ages 30-45, but anyone who'd like to friends in the age group is welcome. Pair up with other nice folks then switch partners every so often (like speed-dating, but without the speed or the dating). Question cards help guide conversation a bit deeper. 7pm, Mighty Squirrel Taproom & Kitchen, 1 David Ortiz Drive. Details and tickets (\$15) at tinyurl.com/SkipTheSmalltalkFenway.

Fri, 11/13

The BSO's **COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERTS** series presents a free concert with BSO musicians at the Shaw-Roxbury branch library in Nubian Square. The program includes music by Schumann and Golijov for strings and clarinet. 1:30pm More info and ticket reservations at tinyurl.com/CommChamberConcerts. **FREE**

Sat, 11/14 ➔ Sun, 12/13

Wheelock Theatre presents the stage adaptation of **FINDING NEMO**, about a timid fish setting out on an undersea journey to rescue his son. Fri 7:30pm (except Friday

@ THE CENTER

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

- Mondays, 12:30–1:30pm: **SLOW FLOW YOGA** with Boston Yoga Collaborative
- Monday, Nov. 16, 6:30–8pm: **MASSDOT BOWKER OVERPASS MEETING**
- Thursday, Nov. 19, 4–6pm: **OFFLINE HOURS**, stamping & Representative Jay Livingstone's Office Hours

after Thanksgiving, 2pm), Sat 10am, Sat-Sun 2pm. Tickets \$26–58. More info and tickets at wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

Wed, 11/18

- Celebrate the extension of #55 bus hours in December at the **55 BUS ROUTE COALITION'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**. Light refreshments provided. Contact jculbertson@fenwayforward.org for more information. 5:30-7pm, Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston St. **FREE**
- **MILLENNIAL SPEED-DATING**. Socializing for folks 30-45, as well as guests a year or two outside the rang. Buy tickets (355) and learn more at tinyurl.com/SkipTheSmalltalkTrident. 7pm. Trident Booksellers & Cafe, 338 Newbury St.

Sat, 11/21

FIXIT CLINICS are free workshops where you can bring broken stuff—from bikes to blenders to blazers—and volunteer coaches share their tools and know-how to help troubleshoot and (hopefully) repair items. These meet-ups build hands-on skills, confidence, community, and a culture of reuse and repair. 11am–2pm. Central Branch of the Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston St. **FREE**

N Northeastern University
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Book our Free Event Space, Northeastern Crossing

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



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