



Esplanade Community Group

ECG Update 9.8.20

Dear Readers,

A touch of fall is in the air and, in normal times, we at the ECG would be planning several in-person get-togethers here at the Esplanade. Well, the ECG won't be stopped by Covid-19 and we continue to think of ways to safely network. Here are a few events planned for the fall thanks to Zoom! For all of these events, everyone on our mailing list will receive an invitation. If you want to join, add a neighbor, or make sure you're included, please reply to this email or contact [Mary Jo](#).

Save the Dates

- On **October 15** we will have a Zoom get-together and we especially want to welcome **Newcomers** to the Esplanade to join us. At this meeting we will greet newcomers and set up groups for folks to chat. We will also mention the elections; acknowledge the Esplanade's 31st Anniversary and let residents know what ECG is doing and planning. Join us—it will be a good time to connect with new and old friends!

- On **October 22** Larry Tye, author and Esplanade resident, will join us for a discussion of his widely acclaimed book, *Demagogue*. See [Larry's answers](#) to *Update's* questions, from our July update.
- On **December 3** we will have our traditional Holiday Pot Luck non-traditionally organized by Zoom.... another way to safely network and connect with new and old friends.

In this issue, we introduce you to our neighbor [Eric von Hippel](#), Professor of Technological Innovation at MIT. You can also get caught up on the latest regarding **Green Line Extension** and the new **Lechmere Station**, and discover the **WOW** at the Charlestown Navy Yard. For a bit of humor check out [Sourdough Surprise](#). Tired of Covid ? We also have a few [tips](#) to deal with it. And there are some inviting reviews from our book clubs including a brief interview with neighbor **Derek Bok** about his new book, [Higher Expectations](#). Start September right with the *Update* --- there is something in it for everyone! We welcome news, suggestions, and feedback. Send to [Mary Jo](#).

The Neighborhood



Wind on Water at the Charlestown Navy Yard

Eight lovely groups of kinetic sculptures along the HarborWalk in Charlestown, starting just past the USS Constitution. Read more at the [WOW website](#)





New Lechmere Station Coming Together

As you no doubt have noticed, work is ongoing on the monumental Green Line Extension project. A new, elevated Lechmere Station is being constructed on the North side of Monsignor O'Brien Highway. Demolition of the old viaduct was completed on June 21st. Work is currently focused on continued construction of a new viaduct from the Gilmore Bridge to the new Lechmere Station (see architect's renderings above).

In this “Dissected” style view, you can see what will become the center island platform with the eastbound track to the right and the westbound on the left.



Parks Update. Triangle Park, across the street is “on track to have revised construction/bid documents completed later this year, likely in the late fall/early winter. Construction could start as early as next year,” per Gary Chan at the Cambridge Parks Department. Read about the [Triangle Park Project here](#).

And about [other Cambridge parks here](#).

Meet Your Esplanade Neighbors

Eric von Hippel



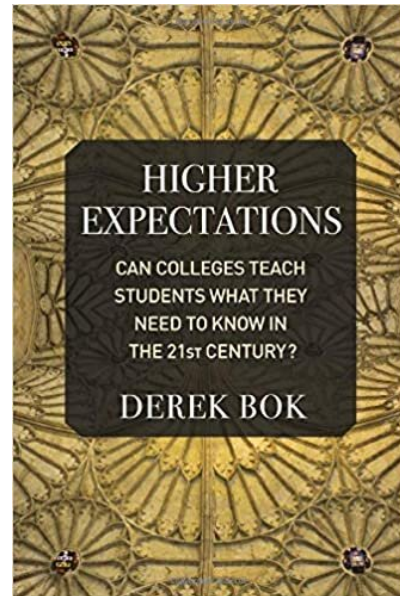
Meet Eric von Hippel, one of our neighbors in the Esplanade. You might see him walking up Cambridge Parkway on his way to MIT where he is the T. Wilson Professor of Technological Innovation in the MIT Sloan School of Management.

He was also the co-founder of the MIT Entrepreneurship Program. Eric and his wife Jessie have lived in the Esplanade since 1990. Prior to moving here, they had lived elsewhere in East Cambridge in order to have a short walking commute to MIT. [Read more](#)

Reading

Higher Expectations, by Derek Bok

Neighbor Derek Bok has a new book arguing that higher education can do a much better job of preparing students for their lives as adult citizens by paying more attention to new research and insights relevant to teaching. Read what Bok told ECG about the book [here](#):



Hilary Mantel's ***Wolf Hall*** Trilogy: An Appreciation

by Bob Kagan

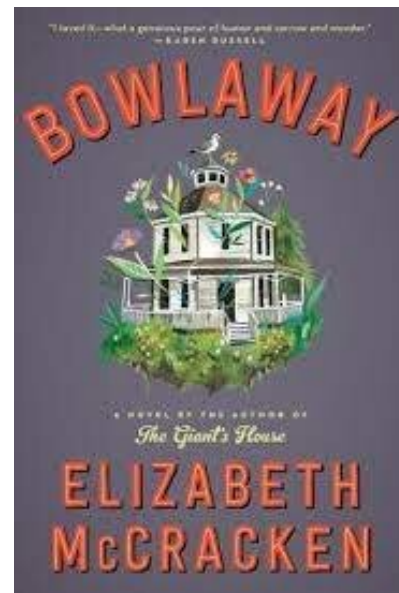
A few years ago, I read Hilary Mantel's Booker Prize-winning novel *Wolf Hall*. I was captivated both by Mantel's superb writing and her complex protagonist: Thomas Cromwell.

This summer I eagerly read *The Mirror and the Light* (henceforth TMTL), the final novel in Mantel's trilogy. TMTL is

much longer than its predecessors (784 pages), but I found it just as compelling and ultimately more moving, perhaps because Mantel's magic had made me a Thomas Cromwell fan, rooting for him in his Machiavellian efforts to guide England toward better governance. [Read the entire appreciation](#)

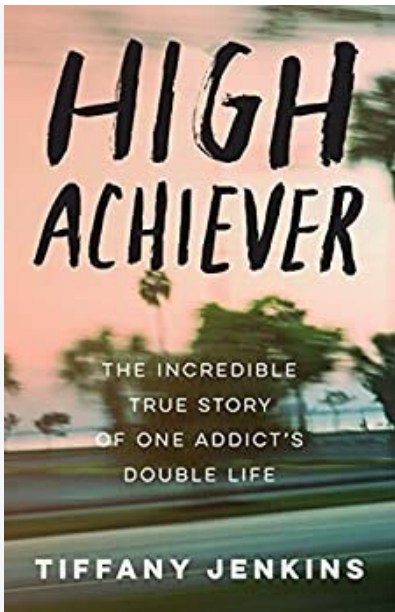
Bowlaway, by Elizabeth McCracken

Bowlaway opens in a small Massachusetts town close to Boston (Somerville, in the author's imagination) at the turn of the twentieth century where Bertha Truitt, our protagonist, is found unconscious in a cemetery with a bowling ball, a candlepin, and fifteen pounds of gold in her possession.



[Read more](#) (reviewed by Nancy Crowley)

High Achiever: The Incredible



True Story of One Addict's Double Life. by Tiffany Jenkins

Notwithstanding its hyperbolic title, this book could be dismissed as a run-of-the-mill autobiography of a recovered drug addict. Tiffany Jenkins recounts in vivid detail her descent into the underworld of drugs and drug dealers. But.... [Read more](#) (reviewed by Linda Felter)

Letters to the Editor

Dear ECG Update:

The newsletter is such a good idea. We have been sheltering at our home on the Cape but just came back for a couple days. We especially appreciated the list of restaurants with takeout and the assessments of them.

Thanks.

Fran Garfield

Dear ECG Update:

Just congratulating you on another terrific job. Really gives me a feel for what is going on around us. And, what some of our

neighbors are doing. Good virus jokes too!

Ash and Janis

A Strange Summer

FIVE TIPS FOR DEALING WITH THIS PANDEMIC

1. Listen to one piece of music, read one poem, focus on one painting or return to a craft you have neglected. Art of all forms does wonders for the soul. Put on that Mozart or Dylan piece you love and let it take you away for a bit.

2. Take ten deep breaths and focus only on them. Meditation has long shown benefits and positive changes in our brains. If meditating is not for you, simply stopping and paying attention to your breath occasionally can help lower anxiety and stress.

Read more and access useful links [here](#) (by Jane Hilburt Davis)





Scrabble in the Park:

Neighbor Fran Antupit and friend Eva Adler

SOUR DOUGH SURPRISE

What the Pandemic Hath Wrought

by Susan Barron

I am a frustrated bread baker. I typically bake our scrumptious breakfast bread (whole wheat raisin nut bread) at least once a week. Why am I frustrated? Thanks to Covid, my supply of yeast is dangerously low! [Read more](#)





General Cormorant Crossing the Charles

VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)

Have tickets you can't use? Need a dog sitter? Something to sell? Let us know and we'll list your items in the new **Beg, Borrow, Barter or Buy** column.

Have ideas for these newsletters and updates? Send them to [Jessie](#), [Mary Jo](#) or [Jane](#).

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