

READERS' PICKS

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Best place to people-watch

There were some other contenders, but *Phoenix* readers have spoken: given its people-to-space ratio, **NEWBURY STREET** offers the most bang for the buck. Come watch the fashionistas mingle with the tattooed and the pierced. Stroll past Armani Café and take in the Europhiles and their shiny cars on your way to Condom World to buy edible panties. Readers agree that visually, at least, you'll leave sated.

We see you, pretending to read a copy of *British GQ* at Out Of Town News while peeping outside to catch a glimpse of the woman in the red scarf running to the T. North of the Charles, would you really expect any other place to rank higher than **HARVARD SQUARE** as the best place to ogle the locals? With real street performers mingling with unintentional sidewalk theatrics, the Square always offers something to catch the eye.

Best local nonprofit

What could be as good as supporting a valuable social cause and getting a massage at the same time? **PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS**'s mission is to provide equal access to holistic care for people from all income levels. Pathways has a "share the care" policy in which full-priced treat-

ments help to offset the cost of a low- or no-cost treatment for someone in need. Those with incomes that fall below \$45,000 per year are eligible for the sliding-scale fees. And even those who don't qualify for the reduced rates can still get a deal — cheaper rates are offered in the intern clinics where students perform treatments under the supervision of licensed technicians. Good karma.

Pathways to Wellness | 142 Berkeley Street, 2nd floor, Boston | 617.859.3036

Best local politician

Hailing from a family he describes as "Roosevelt Democrats," state senator, chair of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and state district-attorney candidate **JARRETT BARRIOS** fights for everyday women and men in the Bay State. From supporting anti-bullying initiatives to filing a bill that would require companies to inform consumers about security breaches involving their financial information, Barrios gives his constituents the cozy feeling that a watchdog is looking out for their best interests.

www.barrios.org

Best place to steal Wi-Fi

ANY APARTMENT IN THE CITY was your overwhelming response. Something



MATT TEUTEN

PATHWAYS TO WELLNESS Do you want a sliding scale with that massage?



KELLY DAVIDSON

PICK UP a latte or a girlfriend at Diesel Café.

free in one of the most expensive cities in America!? That's right. Sitting in your apartment, flipping open your laptop, and noticing five different networks to connect to (all for the price of nada) is kind of liberating. But if pirating your neighbors' Wi-Fi isn't your thing, a couple of businesses seem to have a vibe excess, including Lorem Ipsum, Harvard, and MIT. And if you get the urge to have some ice cream while stealing Wi-Fi, you're in luck. Word on the street is that **EMACK & BOLIO**'s in JP is a hot spot.

Best health club

The ladies have spoken, and the women-only **HEALTHWORKS** pummeled the competition. It has more than 500 weekly exercise classes, strength-training and cardio equipment, plus all the fun, random balls and bands that women use to work out. It has spas and cafés that sell healthy food, and cookies and brownies. It has a very friendly staff and endless motivational programs to help members reach their goals. What doesn't it have? Meatheads. In fact, they have a very firm "no boys allowed" policy, which

means that the days of inexplicably being ogled by boys while you work up a smell are over.

Healthworks | multiple locations | www.healthworksfitness.com

Best parking lot

THE BOSTON COMMON garage has a few things going for it — the biggest being that you can't even see it. Tucked away under the Common, it's centrally located — near the Theater District and The Alley, close to Beacon Hill, and across from the Four Seasons (should you be rich or lucky enough to hit the lottery). People tend to forget that it's there, so your chances of getting a space are better than usual. And rates are \$25 for 24 hours. Beats the deadly orange love notes we've all gotten.

Boston Common Garage | Charles Street, directly across from the Public Garden | 617.954.2098

Best pick-up spot

Also voted the "Best-kept secret" in the city, the **TRIBE THEATER** clearly has something that you want to be a part of.

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