

THE BOSTON GUARDIAN

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New Trash Pickup Times Not Working

By Joe Walsh

The city's contentious decision to start trash pickup earlier in the morning took effect three weeks ago, and some downtown residents are already reporting more trash

on sidewalks and widespread neighborhood confusion.

Garbage trucks now start their routes at 6 am instead of 7 am, a move intended to make daily collections more efficient by preventing trucks from stewing

in rush hour traffic. Downtown residents resisted the change, arguing that it pushes neighbors to dump their trash bags on the curb overnight rather than waking up for morning pickup. This

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Is a Rooftop Pool The Tip of the Iceberg?

By Dan Rabb

A rooftop swimming pool or the tip of an iceberg?

A planned pool and entertainment deck on a Newbury Street rooftop is drawing opposition from Back Bay residents. Neighbors say

allowing the proposed amenity space, which violates local zoning codes, would open the floodgates for other property owners to flout strict regulations designed to preserve the aesthetic of Boston's

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Myrtle Will Not End Up as Soup



By Joe Walsh

The debate surrounding Beacon Hill's stately bronze turtle will end with a compromise.

The city plans to move "Myrtle the Turtle" from its current perch at the center of the Myrtle Street Playground to a shady area of the park surrounded by plantings,

a spot some parents say is safer. Neighbors are requesting that the city surround Myrtle with new shrubbery and a low fence, separating it from the rest of the playground.

The move could end weeks of frustration between residents who

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Got a Death Wish?



Photo: Caroline Broderick

Too many reporters go to meetings and write secretarial notes. *The Boston Guardian* reporters like plunging into their stories feet first as Dan Rabb did last Saturday as he rappelled

down 22 stories from the roof of the Hyatt Regency Hotel as part of a fundraiser for the Massachusetts Special Olympics. (See story on page 3.)

Trash

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leaves garbage susceptible to rodents and scavengers.

Three weeks in, community leaders say more locals have already begun tossing their trash onto sidewalks overnight, confirming their fears.

"We predicted that a 6 am start was not going to work," said South End Forum founder Steve Fox. "The jury's still out because it's still early, but thus far the experience has not been positive."

Neighborhood groups have long encouraged residents to place their trash outside in the morning to prevent rodent outbreaks overnight. Fox said the

6 am start has reversed these efforts, resulting in trash bags sitting outside overnight and for much of the morning while trash trucks weave their way through neighborhoods.

This shift has even led some residents to place their trash outside the afternoon before collection day, well before the city's 5 pm cutoff, neighborhood leaders have observed. Beacon Hill Civic Association President Robert Whitney has seen garbage bags on his neighborhood's sidewalks as early as noon.

"People are beginning to think that it's okay to put trash out at any time the day before," Whitney said.

Residents have not reported more rats on the streets, according to Fox and Whitney, but garbage bags have become more accessible to people who scavenge for recyclable

items, leaving messy fields of debris.

In addition to messier streets, early pickups also generate more noise, some residents claim. Whitney says Beacon Hill residents have complained about noisy trucks, though Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay President Martyn Roetter says complaints have been sporadic in his neighborhood.

"It hasn't been dramatic," Roetter said.

Chief of Streets Chris Osgood believes it is too soon to assess the overall impacts of the time change, but he noted that collections are now more efficient. He says the city will monitor downtown neighborhoods and adjust operations as needed and he hopes an upcoming trash bin pilot will reduce rodents and messes.

If the city sticks with a 6 am start time, some residents say officials should reduce confusion

by publishing pickup times for individual streets. This would allow residents who live toward the end of their pickup route to dump trash in the morning. Without this guidance, some residents have put out their trash more than 12 hours before pickup, says Nancy Morrisroe from the Bay Village Neighborhood Association.

"It's a huge inconvenience," Morrisroe said. "And an added stress point for downtown neighbors."

The city is considering publishing this kind of specific pickup data in the future, Osgood says, though residents should put out trash before 6 am in the interim. He says the city is working with local groups on these changes.

"Across the city, operations are starting well," Osgood said. "As we go through the roll-out, I think there is a way we could be a little more granular."

Rooftop Pool

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premier retail district.

"We're concerned about the long term impact and ramifications of this," said Martyn Roetter, chairman of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB), which formally opposes the project. "The zoning code was put in place for a specific purpose: to make Newbury Street a special place."

The nine-story building at 28 Exeter Street currently contains 96 rental units, as well as the Stephanie's on Newbury restaurant at ground level.

Property owner Kensington Investment Company filed plans with the city this spring to build an extensive amenities space on the building's roof. The facility would include an indoor lounge, kitchen and co-working space, with an outdoor pool and patio complete with grills and a fire pit.

The proposed addition exceeds limits on height and floor space written into the area's zoning code, meaning that Kensington will require a so-called "variance" from the city's Zoning Board of Appeals for the project to proceed.

Representatives from Kensington argue the amenity space is barely noticeable from street level, blends

with the building's architecture and was designed in response to feedback from NABB and other area residents. They say such amenities are now expected in high end rentals, and the renovations are necessary to compete with Boston's many new residential buildings.

Yet concern from NABB and other Back Bay residents is less about the specifics of Kensington's proposal than about the consequences of allowing any variances on Newbury Street at all. Roetter says permitting the project at 28 Exeter, no matter how benign it may seem, would set a precedent that would let developers build beyond zoning limitations

all along Newbury Street. He says Kensington has not demonstrated the "hardship" a variance requires.

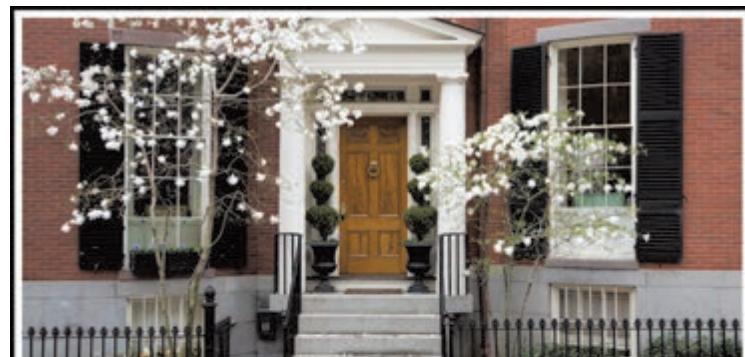
"These amenities are a want, not a need," Roetter told an abutters meeting on the project Monday night. "If this goes through and then we get a series of requests for variances, inevitably the scale of Newbury Street will change and the result of that could well be that Newbury Street becomes a much less special place."

NABB's hard line on zoning is driven in part by concerns about a property just a block away: a parking lot purchased by a developer in early July for a head-turning \$40 million. With development

of the site expected in the near future, residents like State Representative Jay Livingstone worry the high sale price will require the owners to build beyond zoning to turn a profit.

"Precedent is particularly concerning for this location," Livingstone said at Monday's meeting. "We would see this used as precedent almost immediately."

Representatives from Kensington did not respond directly to the zoning issues raised by residents, but said they were not surprised by the concerns and plan to address them in the future. Kensington may now present to the Zoning Board of Appeals, although a hearing date has not been scheduled.



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THE BOSTON GUARDIAN

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Jumping off the Roof For A Good Cause



Photo: Caroline Broderick

By Dan Rabb

If your friends jumped off the roof of a 22 story building, would you?

Despite the classic parental warning, for around 80 volunteers at the downtown Hyatt Regency last Saturday the answer was an enthusiastic yes.

As a fundraiser for the Special Olympics of Massachusetts, dozens of participants donated over \$1,000 each for the privilege of falling off the roof of the high-rise hotel and "rappelling" 220 feet down a rope to the ground below.

Harnessed, helmeted and guided by climbing professionals and the Boston Fire Department tactical team, volunteers ranging from middle schoolers to senior citizens took part in the event appropriately known as "Over the Edge," raising over \$100,000 in the process.

While some of those taking the plunge hopped gleefully off the roof, many more were coaxed, sometimes in tears, to release their death grip on the protective railing of the rooftop and drop backwards into the open air. This act of overcoming fear and discomfort lies at the heart of the event and ties it to the core mission of the Special Olympics, according to Mary Beth McMahon, president and CEO of Special Olympics Massachusetts.

"People with disabilities, our athletes, brave the world not sure what they're going to get, and this event puts people out of their comfort zone and into the world our athletes experience every day," she said. "So if someone can rappel off a building, it gives them potentially a taste of what our athletes get when they go

out in the community hoping that people will be accepting."

Matthew Millett agrees. The 40-year-old Shrewsbury native has participated in Special Olympics programming for almost two decades, from weekly fitness classes and local sports leagues to traveling to South Africa and Abu Dhabi to compete overseas. Without Special Olympics, he says his life would be far more isolated.

"The Special Olympics helped me come out of my shell," he said. "A lot of Special Olympic athletes don't get out, so when they do there's a lot of fear, so just like all these people have to get over their fear to get over the edge, the athletes have to overcome their fear every day to be active."

Millett points to the Special Olympics' motto: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Over the Edge is all about helping the general public understand what it means to be brave in the attempt, he says.

For McMahon, "bucket list" events like Over the Edge help educate the public about the organization's mission. She says most people do not realize the day to day programming the Special Olympics provides.

"A lot of people ask me, 'When is the Special Olympics?' But we're not a one day track meet for children with Down Syndrome," she said. "We're an every day, every community, 24/7, year round program for people ages two to 96. Events like this help us tell that story."

And the fact that Over the Edge raised more than \$1 million for the Special Olympics over nine years? McMahon says that's not so bad either.

No Heir Apparent For Mayor's Liaison

By Dan Rabb

Downtown and Chinatown will be without a neighborhood liaison for the foreseeable future.

Danchen Xu, who since May 2018 served as the mayor's liaison for Downtown, Chinatown and the Leather District, left the position last Friday. The China-born Xu plans to pursue a Master's Degree in International Affairs at Georgetown University, although her departure was at least partially necessitated by the terms of her student visa, city officials confirm.

According to the city's Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS), there is no heir apparent for Xu's role, which could remain unoccupied in the weeks ahead. Officials say the city is in the very early stages of searching for her replacement, reaching out to neighborhood groups and compiling a list of candidates. The city has not appointed an interim liaison. According to an ONS spokesperson, residents with issues for the mayor's office should call 311.

Both city officials and neighborhood leaders highly praised Xu's tenure representing one of the city's most



Danchen Xu

diverse and rapidly changing districts.

"Danchen was absolutely terrific in her job and her departure is a great loss to the neighborhood and to the city," said George Coorssen, co-founder of the Downtown Boston Residents' Association. "She was very effective with resident groups, had a great relationship with the Downtown BID and was very good at representing all parts of Downtown."

Xu came into the job amidst
Continued on Page 8



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Wednesdays-Fridays

Downtown Boston Arts Market. Twelve art vendors with art, prints, jewelry and more. Summer Street Plaza. 11 am-6:30 pm.

Wednesdays, July-August 14

Dorothy Curran Wednesday Night Concerts. Outdoor concerts for all ages. Free. City Hall Plaza. 7 pm.

Thursdays, June-August 29

Boston Calling Block Parties. Enjoy games, music and drinks. Free. Dewey Sq Park. 5-8 pm.

Sundays, May-October

SoWa Open Market. Local art, food, drinks, music. Free. 460 Harrison Ave. 10 am-4 pm.

July 11-July 28

MFA French Film Festival. 23rd annual festival for French produced films. Ticket prices and times vary. 465 Huntington Ave. Contact 617-267-9300 for more information.

Saturdays, July

Fort Point Theatre Channel: Dabble! Family friendly dance demos and lessons, guest artists and musicians. Free. Waterfront Plaza, 290 Congress St. 10 am-12 pm.

Saturdays, July-August

Summer Lawn Games on the West Lawn. Games from cornhole to giant Jenga are open to the public every Saturday this July-August. Free. Christopher Columbus Park, West Lawn.

Wednesdays, June-August

Croquet on the West Lawn. Do you have a competitive drive but don't want to break a sweat? Come hone your croquet skills on the West Lawn. Free. Christopher Columbus Park. 12-4 pm.

Saturdays, July-October

Games Day at The Steps. Oversized Jenga, Connect 4, checkers, music and putting green. Free. Corner of Washington and Franklin Streets. 11 am-3 pm.

Sundays, June-August 11

Trinity Church Art & Architecture Series. Learn about Trinity Church's building and art through six different forums after every 10 am service. Free. Trinity Church, 206 Clarendon Street. 11:30 am.

Daily

Dreamland Wax Museum Free Speech Series. Showcasing ideas and talent from Bostonians with open speaker applications. Free. 1 Washington Mall. Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm. Saturday-Sunday, 10 am-6 pm.



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ON THE TOWN

Friday, July 19

Fenway Movie Night: Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory. Free. Fenway Victory Gardens, 1200 Boylston St. 7:30-9:30 pm.

Saturday, July 20

Tango in the Park. Argentine tango music for beginners and experts. Free. Boston Harbor Hotel, 70 Rowes Wharf. 6:30-9:30 pm.

Magic, Comedy & Drinks With Four

Handed Illusions. Two experienced magicians put on a mystifying show. \$75. Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St. 8-10 pm.

Festival Betances. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of Latino culture. Free. 100 W. Dedham St. 12-8 pm.

Steel Magnolias. A classic, heartwarming play. Tickets are pay-what-you-can. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 7-9 pm.

UNIQLO x MFA Art Making. MFA instructors will lead shoppers in making a Hanakotoba flower printmaking. Free. 341 Newbury St. 1-4 pm.

Sunday, July 21

Christopher Columbus Park Movie: Casablanca. Free. At sunset.

Liverpool FC vs Sevilla FC. Two of Europe's premier soccer teams come to Fenway for an exhibition game. Tickets online. Fenway Park. 6 pm.

Soul & Savasana Yoga. Donation (\$15-20 suggested). Boston Public Garden, Boylston St. 9:30-10:45 am.

SoWa Scooptacular. Free ice cream sandwiches from Cookie Monstah food truck. 460 Harrison Ave. 10 am-4 pm.

Sundays, July 21-August 25

Christopher Columbus Lawn Games. Free. Christopher Columbus Park. 12-4 pm.

Monday, July 22

Let There Be Light. Enjoy meditation with singing bowl sounds in the background. Free. Beacon House, 19 Myrtle Street. 12:30-1 pm.

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Family Cooking Class with Project Bread. Hands-on class for children and parents. \$5. The KITCHEN at the Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street. 6-7 pm.

Tuesday, July 23

Americans With Disabilities Act Celebration Day. Yearly celebration of the signing of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Free. Boston City Hall Plaza. 12-2 pm.

Healthworks Group Zumba. Public Zumba class on the Esplanade. Free. Esplanade Hatch Shell, 47 David G Mugar Way. 6-7 pm.

NEMPAC Jazz in the Park. Scanzonati performs his smooth Italian jazz infused with Mediterranean influence. Free. North End Greenway Park, North St and Cross St. 6-7:30 pm.

The Pilgrim and The Black Seed Writers Group. Writer's meetup group to discuss poetry, protest, memoir and reportage. Free. Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont Street. 9:30-10:30 am.

Wednesday, July 24

Swingin' in Ramler Park. Outdoor jazz concert. Free. Ramler Park, 130 Peterborough St. 6:30 pm.

NABB: A Tour of the Massachusetts Historical Society. One hour tour. Free, RSVP. 1154 Boylston St. 11 am-12 pm.

Thursday, July 25

Police Panel/Public Safety Forum. Sanctuary of the First Church of Boston. 6-7 pm.

New England Revolution Youth Soccer Clinics. Sponsored by Santander Bank. Play soccer with the team, receive help with drills, demonstrations and instructions. Registration is required, space is limited. Boston Common. 2-4 pm.

Fort Point Theatre Channel: *Serf's Up*. Satirical sing along show exploring life's stressors. Free. Waterfront Plaza, 290 Congress St. 5 pm.

Children's Choir of Greater Paris. One of Paris' youth choirs travels to Boston for a free performance at the Cathedral. Free. what cathedral? 1400 Washington St. 7 pm.

BHCA Giving \$20,000 To Community Groups

By Joe Walsh

The Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA) plans to offer a financial boost to neighborhood nonprofits.

The organization will distribute as much as \$20,000 in small grants to community groups this year, part of a new annual initiative that BHCA leaders hope will bolster programs ranging from youth activities to social services.

"The hope is to create a robust community fund that, every year, can give out small grants and do good work in the downtown neighborhoods," says BHCA President Robert Whitney.

Whitney says grants from the Beacon Hill Community Fund could support a wide slate of initiatives, including children's summer programs, services for seniors, park and neighborhood beautification projects and community events. These grants are not necessarily constrained to Beacon Hill, he says, with worthy organizations in the Back Bay, the West End and other downtown neighborhoods.

The BHCA could break the \$20,000 fund into several modest grants to community groups, but the association will also consider larger requests, according to Whitney.

"Personally, I think smaller grants would be interesting," Whitney said. "It depends on the nature of the projects that come in."

The grant money will flow from a decades-old trust fund, established as a community benefit from the construction of the 250 Cambridge Street apartment building. A strong financial market ballooned this trust fund to more than \$500,000, Whitney says. Over the years, the trust occasionally offered ad-hoc grants to various community groups, but Whitney says the BHCA now hopes to support worthy organizations on a recurring basis by managing the trust in-house and formalizing the application process.

For now, the BHCA plans to start relatively small. The fund will limit total annual grants to \$20,000 for the first three years, with the rest of the trust's returns reinvested to grow its principle, though Whitney says these grants could grow in size eventually.

"If the market is doing well, we may want to raise it," Whitney said. "Long-range, we'll have a greater amount of funding to disburse."

The fund is modeled after similar

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No Rain on Their Music

Rain and thunder forced Thursday night's Landmark Orchestra concert from the Hatch Shell to Jordan Hall. The weather did cooperate to permit a Beacon Hill Civic Association pre-party at the Church of the Advent.



Photos: Joe Walsh

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Photo: Donrick Pond/Boston Cyclists Union

New Bike Lanes May Be Unsafe

By Joe Walsh

The new bicycle lanes that run alongside Park Drive and Fenway do not meet modern standards, undercutting their ability to make the road safe for riders, some biking advocates say.

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which maintains the two parkways surrounding the Fens,

painted bike lanes on both streets earlier this month, part of a \$650,000 road resurfacing project. The lanes are not protected by plastic dividers and the Park Drive lane is not separated from traffic by a painted buffer. Boston Cyclists Union Executive Director Becca Wolfson says these design choices leave bikers exposed.

“It’s frustrating when they could do

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By the authors of the highly acclaimed *How to Negotiate Your First Job*
Paul F. Levy and Farzana S. Mohamed

Fenway News Facing Cash Flow Issues

By Zach Carmosino

Helen Cox, a member of the *Fenway News* board of directors, knows her newspaper has a problem.

“We’re broke,” she said.

Cox has been involved in the hyperlocal paper since its founding in 1973. She speaks with pride about the nonprofit’s long commitment to covering the Fenway neighborhood, but makes clear that the *News* is having trouble making ends meet.

“We’ve been trying to do that for a long time,” she said.

The Fenway News Association held its annual meeting on Monday where the paper’s leadership met with readers to discuss the state of the organization. The need for additional funding topped the meeting’s agenda. On paper, the *News* lost \$4,500 last year, but other costs created a debt closer to \$7,000, according to Steve Wolf, the design and production manager.

Wolf said that because ad revenue does not support the cost of producing the paper, the *News* needs additional financial support. He called for the audience to donate money and to assist in fundraising events.

Cox said she thinks the paper lacks ad sales staff to bring in advertising.

The board members, who are all volunteers, are already stretched thin because of their limited number.

“There were only five board members who stood up when we introduced the board, so that means we really have our hands full just running the paper,” Wolf said.

Both Cox and Ruth Khowais, board president of *Fenway News*, are confident in the leadership of Kelsey Bruun and believe she is the right choice to lead their paper.

“I’ve gotten so many compliments on how good the paper looks this year,” said Khowais. “I always say it’s because of her.”

Bruun said that despite the *News*’ shaky finances, the newspaper’s content has improved significantly over the past year. She points to recently launched initiatives aimed at strengthening the paper’s depth of reporting, such as new collaborations with professors and students from the Northeastern University School of Journalism.

“I think that we’ve done a great job of building partnerships and including new voices,” Bruun said.

Khowais thinks the *News* will persist through its current financial challenges and continue to play a critical role in the Fenway, just as it has for nearly half a century.

“We’ve survived for 45 years,” she said. “We seem to always make it. I don’t think the paper is going out. It has always survived through tough times. There’s a lot of motivation to keep the paper going.”



HEY BOSTON, GET YOUR TRASH AND RECYCLING OUT BY 6 A.M.!

Starting **July 1**, we'll be starting collection of residential trash at **6 a.m.** instead of **7 a.m.** This will increase efficiency in the morning and decrease congestion in the afternoon.

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Public Works

WASTE REDUCTION



Photo credit: Zach Carmosino

Left to Right: Fatima Barrie, Osamagbe Woghiren, Carlee Wilkinson, Toya Ora, Sinan Zerbe

Five Students Get Money for College

By Zach Carmosino

Five South End students will head off to college this fall with scholarships for books and other supplies thanks to the Franklin/Blackstone Square Neighborhood Association.

Andrew Parthum started the scholarship fund in 2008 for high school seniors in the South End. Serving as president of Franklin/Blackstone Square Neighborhood Association, he wanted to reward local high school seniors who displayed exemplary service to their communities.

"It's just nice to give back," said Parthum.

He awarded the scholarships to five recipients at the St. Stephen's Youth Programs center on Tuesday evening. The parents, relatives and friends of the awardees gathered as Parthum presented the scholarships in a brief ceremony.

The 2019 application asked the students to consider how the South End has shaped the person they are today, how they intend to serve the community as an adult and how their college education will help them toward their goals.

Parthum created the scholarship in an effort to reduce the costs of textbooks, computers and study supplies that other financial aid packages do not cover.

On Tuesday, South Enders Sinan Zerbe, Fatima Barrie and Toya Ora each received \$3,000 from the Andrew Parthum Scholarship for Outstanding Community Achievement.

Zerbe is a graduate of Boston Latin School and volunteered at the Special

Olympics, a homeless shelter for veterans and as a tennis instructor. He intends to study at Boston University.

Barrie graduated from Boston Latin Academy, served as a tutor and camp counselor and conducted interviews in the community to draw attention to racial tensions and gun violence. She will attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ora is an alumna of Milton Academy. She served at the New England Aquarium and local women's shelter Rosie's Place, as well as a campus peer educator and student ambassador. She will attend Colorado College.

Financial packages of \$2,000 were given to Carlee Wilkinson from Margarita Muñiz Academy and Osamagbe Woghiren from Boston Latin Academy. Wilkinson plans to study animation at Lesley University and Woghiren will study public health at UMass Amherst.

According to David Wilholek, who has been involved for years in fundraising efforts, the scholarship has grown by four times its original size, from \$3,000 awarded in its first year to \$13,000 between five students in 2019.

The awarded money came from a 2015 fundraiser that raised nearly \$44,000 for future scholarships.

"We're still reaping the benefits," said Parthum.

Wilholek says he is proud of the scholarship's growth and hopes it will continue to be an asset for deserving students.

"We want to do something that will impact the South End community," he said.

Big Night for Wu And St. Guillen

By Dan Rabb

The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee will endorse Michelle Wu and Alejandra St. Guillen in the race for at-large City Councilor, along with Kenzie Bok for the District 8 seat.

The endorsements come two months ahead of September primaries that will cull the field for citywide elections in November. Members of the Ward 4 Committee, whose territory encompasses large swaths of the South End and Fenway, voted on the endorsements Tuesday night.

The Ward 4 Committee elected to endorse only a pair of candidates in the 15-way race for the Council's four at-large seats, throwing its support behind incumbent Wu and first-time candidate St. Guillen. While Julia Mejia, David Halbert and incumbent Annissa Essaibi George also received votes, none crossed the 17 vote threshold required for an endorsement.

Wu has quickly become one of the highest profile members of the City Council despite being its youngest member, known for her pragmatic leadership of its more progressive wing. Now in her third term, Wu

made headlines for her efforts to make public transit fare free and to regulate short-term rentals.

St. Guillen, a progressive who shares a campaign office with Wu, is widely considered the front runner in the crowded field of challengers. The long time political organizer from Mission Hill, who until recently served as head of the city's Office For Immigrant Advancement, has run a campaign focused on education and bridging the city's economic and racial divides. Committee members said they were impressed by her deep knowledge of policy and the intricacies of Boston politics.

"She's ready to stand on her own two feet from day one," said Jovita Fontanez, a committee member and the former head of the Boston Election Commission. "She knows where the bodies are buried and she knows where the key to the men's room is."

Ward 4's endorsement of District 8 candidate Bok further cements the Bay Village native as the front runner in what is now a five-way race to replace the departing Josh Zakim. The former

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PHOTOGRAPHY: KIMBERLY HALEN

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NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

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Docket No. SU19C0108CA

In the matter of: **Avian Feliciano-Williams**
Of: **Boston, MA**

To all persons interested in petition described:

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Avian Feliciano

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Liaison

Continued from Page 3

widespread dissatisfaction from many Downtown residents about a perceived lack of effective representation in the mayor's office. Prior to Xu's appointment, there were calls from elected officials for separate liaison positions for Downtown and Chinatown. Yet there are few such calls following Xu's departure, a fact Coorssen attributes to her ability to bridge the gaps between the different communities in the Downtown area.

"She was a glue between the different parts of the neighborhood," Coorssen said. "There are different issues for these different neighborhoods, but they overlap so our interests are best pursued

together. It makes for a better city when we work together, not in silos."

The ONS says Chinatown and Downtown will continue to share a liaison.

"At this time we have no plans to separate the neighborhoods," said ONS spokesperson Sam Chambers. "We recognize that these are two neighborhoods with their own history, but whoever the new liaison is will be someone who will represent both communities."

That's just fine with Coorssen, who says he's confident that whoever the new liaison is, they will pick up where Xu left off.

"What she did was more valuable than having our own area liaison," he said. "I think the mayor's choice of Danchen augers well for his next choice."

BHCA

Continued from Page 5

programs in other city neighborhoods, including the larger Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust, Whitney says. While other Beacon Hill organizations offer grants for specific types of community programs, the BHCA hopes its fund will support a wide range of groups.

The BHCA will announce the fund's

inaugural grant recipients in November, following an application process extending from now until the end of September. The types of initiatives that the fund will support are still unclear, but Whitney says the larger goal is to help organizations of all kinds that enrich life on Beacon Hill.

"The Civic Association is dedicated to preserving Beacon Hill and also representing its residents," Whitney said. "One thing we can do is help people ... put together small programs that are beneficial to the neighborhood."

RED SOX HOME GAMES

Date	Time	Opponent	Date	Time	Opponent
7/25	7:10 pm	Yankees	8/6	7:10 pm	Royals
7/26	7:10 pm	Yankees	8/7	7:10 pm	Royals
7/27	4:05 pm	Yankees	8/8	7:10 pm	Angels
7/28	7:05 pm	Yankees	8/9	7:10 pm	Angels
7/30	7:10 pm	Rays	8/10	4:05 pm	Angels
7/31	7:10 pm	Rays	8/11	1:05 pm	Angels
8/1	7:10 pm	Rays			
8/5	7:10 pm	Royals			

Bike Lanes

Continued from Page 6

something that's better, that's safer, that actually encourages ridership," Wolfson said.

Bike safety is a recurring challenge on Park Drive and Fenway, two busy parkways that have seen numerous bicycle accidents in recent years, including a fatal crash in February. In light of this, Wolfson acknowledges that these new bike lanes are an improvement from the previous arrangement, which forced bikers to share a lane with vehicular traffic.

However, she says flexible plastic posts would have made these bike lanes even safer. These so-called "flexposts" prevent taxis and trucks from pulling into the bike lane and force traffic to slow by making the road feel smaller. While they cannot stop swerving cars, Wolfson says the plastic dividers offer far more protection and visual cues than a strip of white paint.

"Absent that vertical element, cars won't be slowed down at all," Wolfson said. "They'll still feel like they have a much wider open road."

Dozens of protesters from the Boston Cyclists Union flooded the empty buffer zone next to Fenway's new bike

lane last week, standing as symbolic "human flexposts." Wolfson hopes this protest drew attention to the lack of plastic posts throughout the DCR's road network, including on other Boston-area parkways. In contrast, the City of Boston and the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) have increasingly used posts to protect its bike lanes.

The DCR did not explain why the agency omitted flexposts from Park Drive and Fenway, but the agency maintains that the new painted bike lanes are significant improvements, especially since Fenway's replaced a lane of traffic. These upgrades are part of a DCR-wide commitment to improve bike access throughout its parks, according to the agency.

"DCR considers bike infrastructure along parkways, roadways, and within park lands whenever possible," commented an agency spokesperson.

For Wolfson, these changes are sluggish and incomplete. She suggested that MassDOT take over the Park Drive and Fenway projects, arguing that the DCR is not equipped to make its roads biker-friendly.

"These green spaces need to be accessible for bikers and walkers," Wolfson said. "DCR is proving, time and again, that they can't and they won't make them safe and accessible."

Ward 4

Continued from Page 7

city housing official captured Ward 4's support over two fellow Democrats, Kristen Mobilia and Hélène Vincent. Unenrolled Montez Haywood and Republican Jennifer Nassour will also be on the September ballot, which will reduce the field to two candidates.

Support for Bok by the Ward 4 Democrats came as little surprise following key endorsements from the Ward 5 Boston Democratic Committee, City Councilor Wu, State Representative Jay Livingstone and progressive group Right to the City.

While this is Bok's first time on the

ballot, she is no newcomer to local politics. She served as Budget Director for at-large City Councilor Essaibi George and helped lead the 2016 referendum to pass the Community Preservation Act.

Ward 4 also voted to endorse District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn and District 7 Councilor Kim Janey, whose districts overlap with Ward 4 but who are running unopposed.

The nearby Ward 5 Democratic Committee, whose territory primarily encompasses Beacon Hill and the Back Bay, also voted on at-large endorsements Tuesday, formally supporting St. Guillen and incumbents Wu, Michael Flaherty and Essaibi George. Ward 5 voted in May to endorse Bok for District 8.

Hold It and They Will Come

Last Sunday's Open Newbury was held under idyllic weather (unlike this weekend). No cars, just crowds, food and shopping.



Photo: courtesy of the Back Bay Assn

Our Local Real Estate



413-415 Commonwealth Avenue, Unit 2

By Caroline Broderick

Surrounded by the peaceful, green parks of Charlesgate and the Commonwealth Mall, 413-415 Commonwealth Avenue, Unit 2 is a rare countrylike home outside the bustling city.

With excitement and history all around Boston, this home is in a quiet area with attractive balance between fun and relaxation. Located on the sunny side of Commonwealth, these green spaces surround the residence providing tranquil views.

This condominium welcomes owners home through three different ways, a shared entrance, back entrance or the most enticing, your own private direct access entrance. This entrance is an unusual trait, but one that provides more privacy for owners.

Perfect for hosting, the living and dining areas of this condo are open and vast. This spacious feeling is assisted by the nine foot tall ceilings. Stay cozy in the living room with a large gas fireplace. Moldings and wainscoting around the fireplace, walls and ceiling give it that extra sophistication.

Details go a long way in this condo, a library nook is adjacent to the living



space with built in shelving surrounding the perimeter. These built in shelves can be seen in the living room and in the office space. This office also has a built in desk and drawers.

The kitchen explodes with modernism and was recently renovated. Chic Leicht cabinets melt into the walls of the kitchen. The caesarstone countertops extend to a peninsula with room for extra bar seating. A built in espresso

maker can be seen next to a small conventional oven and Italian stainless steel appliances. The kitchen also has an updated pantry with automatic overhead lights.

This home has two bedrooms and three bathrooms. The first bedroom is fitted with two large closets with hanging, shelf and drawer space. The bedroom has an elegant attached full bathroom.

The master has an attached hallway with two large closets and built in shelves, drawers and hanging room as well as a long walk-in closet. The master bath is adorned with Calcutta marble all around. There are double sinks with ample counterspace, a large luxurious soaking bath, separate shower and Waterworks fixtures.

The unique bedroom is rounded with its own private exit to the enclosed back patio with room for tables and chairs to lounge in the sun.

This 1,929 square foot condo has central air, one attached garage parking space, laundry room, additional storage and highway access. It is listed at \$2.898 million and professionally managed. Contact Regina Winslow of William Raveis Real Estate at (617) 429-3041 for more information.



OPEN HOUSES

Price	Address	Type	Pkg	Beds	Baths	SF	Open House	Phone
\$3,499,000	30 Marlborough St #3	C	1	3	2.5	1,920	Sun 12-1	(617) 236-0711
\$2,898,000	413-415 Comm Ave #2	C	0	2	2.5	1,929	Sun 1-2:30	(617) 429-3041
\$2,750,000	36 Joy Ct #36 1/2	C	0	3	3.5	2,418	Sun 2-3:30	(917) 655-4160
\$2,750,000	36 Joy Ct #36 1/8	SF	0	3	3.5	2,418	Sun 2-3:30	(917) 655-4160
\$2,095,000	37 Beaver Pl #0	C	0	2	2	1,435	Sun 1:30-2:30	(617) 796-6084
\$1,999,900	12 Gloucester St #4	C	0	2	2.5	1,732	Sun 12-1:30	(774) 275-4030
\$1,395,000	10 Bowdoin St #12	C	0	2	2.5	1,405	Sun 12-1	(617) 266-4430
\$1,299,900	227 Beacon St #1	C	0	2	2	1,415	Sun 2-3	(774) 275-4030
\$1,275,000	345 Comm Ave #8	C	1	2	1	1,125	Sat Sun 12-1	(617) 908-4000
\$1,269,000	286 Beacon St #9	C	1	1	1	1,067	Sat Sun 11:30-1	(617) 206-3333
\$1,250,000	234 Beacon St #1B	C	1	1	1.5	1,040	Sun 2-3	(857) 362-1817
\$1,095,000	41 Beaver Pl #0	C	0	1	1	977	Sun 1:30-2:30	(617) 796-6084
\$999,900	236 Beacon St #2A	C	1	1	1	790	Sat Sun 11:30-1	(617) 206-3333
\$999,000	5 W Hill Pl #D	C	0	1	1	872	Sun 12-2	(617) 519-1480
\$989,000	71 Marlborough St #1	C	1	2	1	942	Sat 12-1	(857) 222-3987
\$899,000	10 Bowdoin St #409	C	0	1	1	749	Mon 5-6:30	(617) 943-8333
\$759,000	150 Staniford St #909	C	1	2	2	1,028	Sun 12-1:30	(617) 548-6461



The Macallen Steps to Broadway T-stop

Remarkable two-bedroom, two-bath rental apartment with one garage parking space at 141 Dorchester Ave. Unit 402's living room has floor to ceiling windows with a sweeping view of the Boston skyline, bamboo floors, dining area, open kitchen with gas range, island counter seating, central air, white cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Master bedroom with full bath leads to balcony. Washer/dryer and storage. 1457 sf 24/7 concierge. Fitness center, pool, BBQ areas. No pets. \$4,600 a month.

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Beacon Hill Townhouse - 160 Mount Vernon Street

This inviting and aesthetically pleasing four story townhouse built in 1871 is in excellent condition. The current owners, who have resided there for 34 years, have brought the house into the 21st century while retaining historic details. There is sensational light and lovely views from both the front and rear. The house has a wonderful, spacious roof deck, gracious rooms, central a/c and a beautiful garden which has been on The Beacon Hill Garden Tour. The building foundation has been underpinned and the garden level has been totally renovated. There is a full on-site parking space. This is a "must-see."

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