

# Cost, Convenience and The Environment Often In Conflict

The Boston City Council this week voted to approve and send to Mayor Marty Walsh the controversial proposal to ban plastic bags, aimed at reducing plastic bag litter in neighborhoods and increasing reusable bags. The legislation would ban flimsy, single-use checkout bags at retail establishments, so that stores would instead offer recyclable, reusable, or compostable bags at checkout. This effort has been trending in many mu-



nicipalities. It's a proposal that has widespread daily impacts on citizens and businesses and stimulates heated discussion from both sides. Along with reducing visual pollution and solid waste, a primary goal of Boston's proposal is to reduce marine pollution. We know plastic products have negative impacts. As Woods Hole scientist Christopher Reddy stated in an article earlier this year, "The images of turtles ingesting plastic bags

that look like their favorite food, jellyfish; of birds and seals choked by six-pack holders; of bags polluting beaches, and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, all provoke legitimate sadness and concern. A plastic bag ban is a relatively quick and painless, and clearly beneficial, action to address marine pollution, but it highlights society's mixed relationship with science and its role in public policy". He added, "To develop effective public policy, policymakers must evaluate and balance several factors and perspectives, including economics, the environment, quality of life, and science. But, in reality, stakeholders aren't so egalitarian in weighing all the factors".

Plastics are going to continue to flow into the ocean for decades from a variety of sources beyond bags: microbeads, bottles, containers, balloons, pellets, etc. Minimizing any individual source is helpful, but it is

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# EDITORIAL

## Why We Remember Pearl Harbor

“If we forget our history, we are destined to repeat it”. This statement comes to mind as America remembers the ‘Day of Infamy’ - the attack on Pearl Harbor. There are events in our nation’s history that we should always remember, so that we may never again be taken by surprise. That day on December 7th, 1941, when Imperial Japan launched a sneak attack killing 2,403 American service members and wounding 1,178 others, should always serve to remind us why the United States Military must remain

strong and always prepared. History has proven over the centuries that military weakness usually tempts aggressive enemies and often results in war.

December 7th was designated National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in 1994. Though it’s not a federal holiday and most of us were not born when the attack occurred, it should always be remembered by every American and serve to remind our people that the world is still a dangerous place and even more dangerous when we as a nation become divided and/or complacent.



*“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts” – Janice Maeditere*

## Collins calls for immediate DPH hearing on HarborLights closure



Earlier this week, Representative Nick Collins has called for a state hearing to be held by the Department of Public Health on the proposed closing of the Harborlights nursing and rehabilitation facility run by Kindred Healthcare. Just days

ago, on December 1, 2017, Kindred notified the state Department of Public Health, as well as staff and patients at their 6 facilities across Massachusetts that they intend to close all of the facilities by the end of the first quarter in 2018. The news was met with surprise and outrage. “DPH and the facility was notified Friday in the mail. I got one Wednesday. Closing this facility in unacceptable and the community will be heard on this.

Under DPH regulations, any nursing facility in

Massachusetts seeking to close must go through a public process that includes a public hearing, followed by a comment period. Rep. Collins is calling for the hearing to be held in the South Boston community so that residents and families of patients can be heard. “Like many people in the communities I represent, I’ve had family treated at HarborLights. I’m opposed to this closure and will be seeking a delay so we can find a way to salvage. It’s important not just to South Boston but our

regional health care system.”

A similar situation took place in the North End in 2016 when the Spaulding Rehab Facility was seeking closure. A delay was sought and with public pressure from community as well state and city officials. The process resulted in a new operator, Marquis Health Services, taking over the facility.

“Last year In the North End they were faced with a similar crisis. But the community banded together, spoke with one voice, and were

successful in having a new operator take over. We need to do the same thing. It’s going to take everyone getting involved in this”, Rep. Collins said.

He is working with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to have the hearing scheduled before Christmas, and in South Boston so as many residents as possible can testify. “We need everyone there for this one. Time is of the essence. The urgency is now.”

Details on the meeting will be published in this publication once details are confirmed.

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# The Information Center



## Not Guilty? Really?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at [jciccone@southbostontoday.com](mailto:jciccone@southbostontoday.com)

“It’s just amazing to me why any city wouldn’t want to rid itself of criminals who are also in the country illegally”. This is a quote from United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions regarding Sanctuary Cities. The question Sessions asked makes perfect sense to anyone who uses ‘common sense’ when trying to understand the mindset of the people who fought tooth and nail in their defense and for the acquittal of Jose Inez Garcia Zarate. Zarate of course being the five time deported criminal illegal alien who shot and killed Kate Steinle in San Francisco.

Zarate, as was stated was deported five times from the United State but returned to San Francisco where he had the protection of that city’s sanctuary city status. It is pretty much indisputable that had this man; who by the way has an extensive criminal record, not been under the protection set up by the extreme liberal/progressive lawmakers who have turned San Francisco into the clown factory it is today, Kate Steinle would still be alive.

The outpouring of support and sympathy for Zarate coming from many in the liberal segment of this country is mind boggling. It’s as if Ms. Steile’s life didn’t matter when compared with her killer’s. But I’m willing to bet that had the bullet from the gun that Zarate claims he ‘found’ on the side walk hit and killed a harbor seal in San Francisco Bay, there would have been outrage coming from the same progressive handwringers who would demand he be tossed

in jail with the key thrown away for committing animal abuse. It’s how they think out there.

This verdict hit especially hard for so many other American citizens who have lost loved ones at the hands of criminal illegal aliens. One such mother, Laura Wilkerson, whose son was also murdered by an illegal was shocked and in total disbelief. It’s happening all over the country. And as many of the victim families have come out and stated, there is blood on the hands of those who push for giving sanctuary to the hardened criminals who have entered into and continue to return to this country to commit violent crimes. ‘Kate’s Law’ is named for a bill that Republicans in congress have been trying to pass for years. It’s named for Kate Steinle herself. This is a law that would automatically mandate a five year prison term for any criminal illegal who sneaks back into the country after being deported. And yet, well over a hundred liberal members of congress voted against it.

There are many Americans who are still walking around in shock that Donald trump was elected president. They just can’t understand how it could have happened. But much of it had to do with his promise and ongoing effort to build that border wall and put in place a real and serious anti-Illegal immigration policy unlike the previous president who all but threw open the flood gates. Another Obama legacy was on display recently in a New York City court when the captured terrorist who as-

sisted in the Benghazi attack that killed four Americans was found innocent of the murder charges because of the policy put in place by the previous administration. The question being asked by many frustrated Americans is why are we granting Constitutional rights and protection to foreign terrorists?

There are so many things happening in this country because of the warped thinking of some of our politicians and the special interest groups that they

fear, that it has caused millions of Americans to respond at the ballot box as they did the 2016 election. When the safety and wellbeing of American citizens are relegated to the back burner while priority is given to those who would cause this country and its citizens harm, there is guaranteed to be a backlash. To those still unable to understand why Donald Trump was elected, look closely and do a bit more reflecting. It really isn’t all that hard to figure out.

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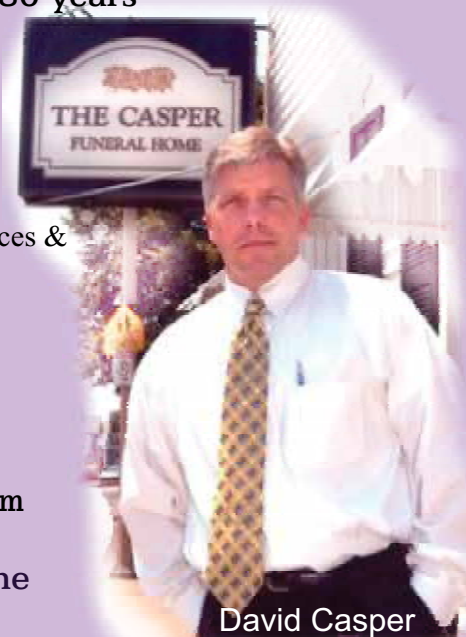
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## Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

### **Mega-merger: CVS to acquire Aetna for \$69B**

Let's get this story out of the way first, for it's a deal that instantly reshapes the health-care industry and will be closely watched by local hospitals, life-science firms, insurers, pharmacies, consumers, lawmakers and regulators. From the Wall Street Journal: "CVS Health Corp. agreed to buy Aetna Inc. for about \$69 billion in cash and stock in a move to transform the pharmacy company and capture more of what consumers spend on health care. Aetna stockholders are to receive \$207 per share—\$145 in cash and 0.8378 of a CVS share, or \$62, in stock, the companies announced Sunday." The big immediate question: Will the merger pass anti-trust scrutiny?

### **Globe calls on Rosenberg to step down during investigation**

Now for the big local political news: Stan Rosenberg's job. The media heavyweight of the state's liberal establishment, the Boston Globe, in an editorial, is

calling on Senate President Stan Rosenberg to temporarily step aside from his presidency, saying it would be too hard for victims of alleged sexual-abuse by his husband, Bryon Hefner, to speak to Senate investigators as long as Rosenberg is in office.

Meanwhile, besides state Sen. Barbara A. L'Italien, who called for Rosenberg's resignation on Friday and again on Sunday on WCVB-TV, other senators are uncomfortable with Rosenberg staying in office during any Senate investigation, though some say he can and should stick it out as president, reports the Globe's Jeremy Fox. Senators meet today in caucuses to discuss an expected Senate investigation into the allegations and to discuss, we assume, Rosenberg's future.

### **Reports: Senators Forry, Donoghue and DiDomenico already lining up votes to succeed Rosenberg**

Even though Senate President Stan Rosenberg said on Friday he would not step down as president, more than a few senators are acting as if it's only a matter of time be-

fore the coveted spot opens up. On Sunday, WCVB's Janet Wu (3:40 mark of video) flatly said "several senators" are "already collecting votes to succeed Rosenberg." Appearing on the same On the Record show, Democratic political analyst Mary Anne Marsh said she knew of three women gauging support for the presidency "as we speak" and then mentioned Sens. Linda Dorcea Forry, Eileen Donoghue and Karen Spilka. She also mentioned a fourth candidate, Sen. Sal Sal N. DiDomenico.

Sure enough, the Herald's Hillary Chabot and Joe Battenfeld report this morning that Forry, Donoghue and DiDomenico indeed "scrambled over the weekend to line up votes they would need to take the presidency." But the Herald reports that "Rosenberg loyalists" Spilka and Senate Majority Leader Harriette L. Chandler have "pushed to keep the Amherst Democrat in power." Then again, GOP political analyst Ginny Buckingham, appearing with Wu and Marsh on WCVB, mentioned that Chandler might be a potential candidate for the

post, along with Sen. Barbara A. L'Italien. The latter seems a little far-fetched, since L'Italien has already declared she's a candidate in the Third Congressional District race, but you never know.

### **Mass. Medical Society drops opposition to physician-assisted suicide**

This is big news in the medical community – and on Beacon Hill, where pending physician-assisted-suicide legislation was emotionally debated just two months ago. From Laura Crimaldi at the Globe: "The Massachusetts Medical Society voted Saturday to end its longstanding opposition to physician-assisted suicide and adopted a neutral stance on what it now calls 'medical aid-in-dying.' The society's governing body approved the changes in separate votes. Delegates voted 151 to 62 to retract the policy opposing physician-assisted suicide. The provision establishing a neutral position on medical aid-in-dying passed by a margin of 152 to 56 votes." Anne-Gerard Flyn at MassLive has more.

**continued on page 5**

## Rep. Nick Collins Testifies For Better Child Protections



State Representative Nick Collins (D-South Boston) submitted testimony to the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Person with Disabilities on behalf

of a bill he filed to ensure consistent, accurate, and effective training of mandated reporters. Mandated reporters include physicians, teachers, clergy members, social workers, and other individuals, who act as a first line of defense against child abuse and neglect.

H.3042, An Act Relating to Online Mandated Reporter Training and Neglect Panel, establishes a free standardized online training program that is updated annually, requir-

ing mandated reporters to renew their training every year to keep up with best practices and ensure consistent and accurate training. The legislation also creates a child abuse and neglect expert review panel to review cases of children who frequently move in and out of DCF care, determine areas of improvement, and report on any system-wide trends that are affecting families and children.

"There is nothing more im-

portant than safeguarding the wellbeing of children in the Commonwealth" said Rep. Collins. "I am immensely proud to advocate on behalf of this bill together with the Children's League of Massachusetts, to ensure that our most vulnerable children are not abused, neglected, or mistreated. The standards set forth in this legislation will allow those on the front lines, the mandated reporters, to have all the up-to-date tools and best practices at their disposal to identify and

report suspected abuse and ensure the highest level of protection for children across the State."

Other officials who spoke on behalf of the fourth term legislator's bill included Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, Maria Mos-saides the State's Child Advocate, and Sophie Hansen, Political Director for the Massachusetts's Chapter National Social Worker's Association. The Committee will now deliberate the bill's future.

# Remembering Pearl Harbor



By Kevin Devlin

Seventy-six years ago, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Navy conducted a surprise attack on American military forces, when they bombed Pearl Harbor, a two-hour bombardment killing more than 2,400 American sailors and civilians, damaging 20 ships, and destroying 164 planes. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the

Pearl Harbor attack as a day that would live in infamy; a “dastardly deed” which would not go unpunished. Knowing his nation couldn’t sustain a protracted war against such a vast industrial power, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was quoted, but was never verified as saying, “I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve.”

Our involvement in World War II began on that dark day in Hawaii and ended four years later on the shores of Japan. On August 6, 1945, the Enola Gay dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, on August 9, the city of Nagasaki was bombed. Overall, over 210,000 people died during the two bombings while others suffered and subsequently died from radiation exposure. Under the leadership of Emperor Hirohito, the Japanese

surrendered on August 14. The surrender documents were signed on the USS Missouri shortly thereafter on September 2. The Japanese started this war and suffered the horrific consequences for their actions. “The Japanese began the war from the air in Pearl Harbor,” President Harry Truman said. “They have been repaid many fold.”

Fast forward to 2017 and the world still stands on very shaky ground. Terrorism is a worldwide issue, as innocent men, woman, and children are murdered; the victims of Jihad. Conflict and war are the order of the day. Iran poses a serious threat. North Korea is out-of-control. The Middle East is in turmoil. China and Russia can’t be trusted. Europe and Great Britain have seen better days. Africa, Mexico, Central America, and South America, are

places you wouldn’t want to live. And at home, America is divided.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor provides witness, to this day, that one must prepare for war to secure peace. Evil men prey on weakness but fear strength. That’s why we must never forget those Americans who died on December 7, 1941. That’s why Americans have to stand tall against those who want to destroy us and our way of life. That’s why we must forget our differences when it comes to matters of national self-defense; and why we must have a strong military to protect us from harm. We must always be ready and ever vigilant. We mustn’t be the aggressors but we need to be prepared to defend our nation, our people.

Sadly, that’s the way the world is and we must never forget that. Otherwise, we may suffer another Pearl Harbor. And we don’t want that.

## Window Into The State House

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### Not so fast, Mitt

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney’s plans for a return to political life via a vacant Utah Senate seat could be complicated by President Donald Trump, who appears to remember Mitt’s biting criticisms of him during last year’s presidential campaign and who is now urging Sen. Orrin Hatch—who, at 83, is the longest-serving Republican senator in history—to seek one more term, Alex Isenstadt of Politico reports. Trump is slated to appear at a rally in Utah on Monday and Hatch is due to ride to and from aboard Air Force One.

### State: No West Station in Allston until 2040

The state has opted to first realign the Turnpike and rebuild an elevated stretch of the Pike near Boston University before proceeding with construction of new “West Station” in Allston, reports Bruce Mohl at Commonwealth. The target date for

the station: 2040, i.e. 23 years from now. Jim Aloisi, a member of the board of TransitMatters and a former state secretary of transportation, says it’s “completely wrongheaded” to proceed with a transit-orientated development project without the transit portion that attracts development.

### Pundits: Going cashless is the way to go for the T

The Globe’s Dante Ramos and Commonwealth’s James Aloisi both agree: To improve T service, it’s essential the MBTA make the switch to an integrated cashless fare system, despite concerns low-income and senior citizens may encounter problems with the switch. Writes Ramos: “(T) here’s a price to everyone — including poor and elderly people — if the MBTA treats riders like helpless sheep who can’t adapt. ... If anything, the T should have been giving customers a firmer push away from cash payments long before now.”

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## City Council Passes ‘Bring Your Own Bag’ Ordinance

**A**t the November 29th Boston City Council meeting, Councilors unanimously passed an ordinance sponsored by Councilor Matt O’Malley and Council President Michelle Wu aimed at reducing plastic bag litter in neighborhoods and increasing reusable bags.

The legislation would ban flimsy,

single-use checkout bags at retail establishments, so that stores would instead offer recyclable, reusable, or compostable bags at checkout. These paper bags or thicker reusable plastic bags must be offered for at least a 5-cent fee kept by the stores in order to help small businesses offset transition costs. Bags without handles would not be

subject to a fee, so that small paper bags such as those used by pharmacies to hold medication bottles would not be charged. Customers would be able to opt out of all fees by bringing their own bags.

“We all see flimsy plastic bags left on our streets and stuck in our streets and storm drains, polluting our waterways and green

spaces, and ultimately getting tangled up in the equipment our recycling contractor uses every day. We as taxpayers are spending money cleaning up flimsy plastic bags that are littering our neighborhoods and are terrible for the environment,” said Council President Wu. “This ordinance balances the need to address an environmental concern with considerations for small businesses and consumers. During the next year we will be reaching out to organizations and communities in every neighborhood to make sure that all Bostonians know what changes this makes and have access to free reusable bags.”

The ordinance now goes to Mayor Walsh for his approval, and the provisions would take effect one year after that approval, in order to have time for community outreach, education about the new policy, and distribution of some free reusable bags to seniors and others who need them. 59 other cities and towns in Massachusetts already have similar plastic bag legislation in place.



## BPDA Board approves 1.5 million square feet of development

**P**rojects represent an estimated \$501.5 million in investments by developers

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board of Directors approved three (3) development projects representing a combined investment of \$501.5 million at the November 30 meeting. The approved projects will yield 1,047 jobs supporting construction activity and 3,816 permanent jobs.

The BPDA Board approved additional office space approved for South Boston Waterfront’s 63 Melcher project, preserves community-use space

**Live:** Nine units of affordable housing, 29 homeownership units  
**Work:** 2,695 square feet of office space  
**Connect:** Preservation of commu-

nity-use space

As proposed, this project will change approximately 2,695 square feet of existing residential space in the basement of the existing building at 63 Melcher Street. The building and this space is being renovated for office, cultural and/or community use.

The office space at 63 Melcher Street will be available for use by area arts and/or community organizations. The space is also being proposed for cultural and/or community use in addition to office use. The cultural and/or community use of the space is intended to be consistent with the current use of the space as a residents’ and public amenity, as well as consistent with the use of similar ground-floor spaces in near-

by buildings, which are available to the public and used by neighborhood arts and community groups.

In addition, the market rate units at 63 Melcher Street were proposed to be changed from rental units to homeownership units. The condominiums, four affordable innovation units, along with the existing five affordable artist units, are to remain as individual affordable rental units. The remaining existing 29 market rate residential rental units at 63 Melcher Street will become individual condominium units, without change to their numbers or dimensions and offered for sale at market rate.

In addition, the revisions to the project will generate more public benefits in the form of the of DIP uses, includ-

ing \$21,209.65 toward the NHT and \$4,231.15 toward the NJT.

About the Boston Planning & Development Agency

As the City of Boston’s urban planning and economic development agency, the BPDA works in partnership with the community to plan Boston’s future while respecting its past. The agency’s passionate and knowledgeable staff guides physical, social, and economic change in Boston’s neighborhoods and its downtown to shape a more prosperous, resilient, and vibrant city for all. The BPDA also prepares residents for new opportunities through employment training, human services and job creation. Learn more at [www.bostonplans.org](http://www.bostonplans.org), and follow us on Twitter @BostonPlans.

## Salvation Army Bell Ringers *Helping the Less Fortunate Each Christmas*

There are several ways to tell that Christmas is fast approaching. Christmas Carols are being sung at Church, Christmas music is on the radio, those old familiar and beloved Yuletide movie classics on TV along with some brand-new ones are being shown round the clock on some channels. Light displays, Christmas Trees and a sort of magic in the air as the date draws closer also lets us know that it's that special time of year again. Ah, but let's not forget that other telltale sign of the season: The Salvation Army bell ringers on street corners, at the entrance to our favorite stores and pretty much everywhere that shoppers flock.

The Salvation Army, as described by Wikipedia, is a Christian denominational Church and charitable organization structured in a quasi-military fashion. It has more than 1.5 million members. But one of its primary goals is to help relieve poverty as best it can for any and all people, no matter who

they are, where ever there is a need - a noble goal by any standard.

The Salvation Army was established in 1865 by William Booth and has been going and growing ever since. But its activities, as most know are not limited to raising money for the poor during the Christmas Season. Where ever and whenever there is a need, they rush to the scene of that need and swing right into action. Whether it is an earthquake, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and any number of other natural disasters, 'The Army' is always one of the first to respond bringing with it whatever is required to assist. Their volunteers and staff have in every case proven to be competent, professional and above all compassionate with the will, the energy and the ability to help ease the pain and trauma of the victims. But even more than that, they help lay the foundation for long term and permanent recovery, so that the victims can get their lives back together and get back on their feet as soon as possible.

One of the most impressive aspects of the Salvation Army is the fact that much like every religious organization and church, a much larger percentage of funds raised goes directly to those people who need it. Unlike many other charities, which have CEO's and directors that draw huge salaries and pay out much to staffing and plush office accommodations, The Salvation Army, by comparison, has very low administrative costs, allowing it to give just about all the funds and donations it collects directly to those requiring it. To say the work its members do is a labor of love would seem to describe the work they do accurately. Over the years they have often been referred to as Angels.

So, the next time you walk into Stop and Shop on E. Broadway or into a Walmart or your favorite store at the mall and hear those bells ringing and see the volunteers shivering in the cold air wishing all a Merry Christmas, it's important to remember that the work these dedicated



volunteers are doing comes from the heart and the money you might choose to drop into their festive red containers is sure to go right to someone who truly needs it this Christmas Season. And if you think of it, why not take a little time to thank the manager of the business or store for allowing the Salvation Army to set up at their location. It will mean a lot to everyone involved and help allow a wonderful tradition to continue forever or for as long as it is needed. If you want more information about the Salvation Army or how to make a donation, you can call one of the local locations here in Boston at 617-547-3400 or go online and type Salvation Army into any search engine to learn all about them.



On November 9, 2017, New England Council President and CEO Jim Brett was honored by Community Work Services (CWS), with its inaugural Lifetime Achievement and Advocacy Award for Individuals with Disabilities.

The award was presented to Jim at the organizations' 140th Anniversary celebration at the Omni

Parker House in Boston. CWS is a Boston-based non-profit organization that works to "empower individuals living in poverty to transform their lives through job training and employment."

Pictured here (L-R) are Craig Stenning CWS, Jim Brett, CWS Board Chair Paul Davis, and Serena Powell of Fedcap.



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## The Wine Guy



### HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Let the stress begin! Gift lists, parties with friends and co-workers, possible travel plans and hostess gifts- and that's just this coming weekend! While we all love this time of year, there's a lot to be said for doing things in a way that's fun, but also convenient;

so, let's take a look at the "home front" and do it the easy way-on the Southie Shuttle. In case you didn't know it, the Southie Shuttle offers an easy, convenient way to get around to a number of places in the neighborhood, especially some of our favorite restaurants.

Have you been down to Barlow's lately? This is the perfect time to get a group together, hop the Shuttle and drop into one of our favorite restaurants, where you can indulge yourself with a Salmon au Poivre, grilled salmon in a peppercorn cream sauce, with mixed vegetables and rice pilaf; don't forget to order a glass of La Crema Pinot Noir and don't blame me if you have more than one - it's hard not to with this salmon dish.

Barlow's, 241 A Street, Boston, <http://barlowsrestaurant.com/>

Located on West Broadway, in a space that, according to its website, "housed the only department store that the neighborhood ever had", the Lincoln offers a varied fare of

comfort food in a tavern setting. Over its time in South Boston, it has appealed to people from all over the city for its outstanding core dishes, eclectic Test Kitchen menu and the great drinks selections, particularly still and sparkling wines. There are few better "spot hitters" than a table in the back and an order of the Wood Grilled Bar Steak, which is a 16 oz ribeye, with truffle potatoes, Point Reyes blue cheese butter, LT steak sauce, and béarnaise sauce; pair it with some Tempranillo, Vina Bujanda Crianza, RIOJA from Spain and don't be shy about seconds-you're taking the Shuttle and it's a steal at \$9/glass!

The Lincoln, 425 West Broadway, South Boston, <https://lincolnsouthboston.com/>

When I was a kid, I remember riding with my dad to do errands or go into Boston and the only station he ever allowed to be on was WJAR in Quincy and you couldn't talk if it was Sinatra Hour. Well,

we're all a bit older now, but you can still get the "full Sinatra Hour" effect AND great food and drinks, even if every other venue in the City is playing Christmas music...and you can talk, especially if it's with family and friends. It could only be Lucky's Lounge. Great layout, very comfortable and conveniently located between the Financial District and South Boston, this one is also a Shuttle stop. Probably a good thing, too, because along with some Shrimp Scampi, pan-seared shrimp with linguini and roasted tomatoes and spinach, served in a garlic white wine butter sauce, you'll probably enjoy more than a glass of Sancerre, Domaine Fouassier, Loire Valley, 2014 with the Scampi.

Lucky's Lounge, 355 Congress St., South Boston, <https://luckyslounge.com/>

These are just a few of the many locations served by the Southie Shuttle. For more information.....

**-Talk to The Wine Guy at [jdris8888@gmail.com](mailto:jdris8888@gmail.com)-**



## Outpouring of Love and Support for Patsy Devoe

The 'neighbor helping neighbor' spirit is still alive and well in Southie. The saying "The more things change the more they stay the same" describes the outpouring of support for South Boston's Devoe Family. As most of our readers are aware, while Patsy Devoe and her husband, retired Boston Police detective Richie Devoe were on vacation in Aruba, Patsy became severely ill and needed to be rushed in for emergency surgery. To their unpleasant surprise, their insurance was not accepted in the Aruba hospital and the huge and rising bill to the tune of more than \$20,000 had to be paid out of pocket and the costs continue to skyrocket. The med flight home, first to Florida, then to Boston has cost tens of thousands of dollars more.

A 'Go Fund Me' account was set up by family members and an appeal was made to the community. Not surprising was the huge response

and outpouring of love and support from friends and neighbors as donations are pouring in, accompanied of course by many prayers. But more is still needed and those who are able are asked to go online and donate to help out Patsy Devoe.

Patsy and Richie Devoe are certainly no strangers to current and former South Bostonians. This loving couple is well known for helping out and contributing to every worthy cause and charity that comes up and have been doing so for over 40 years. It's no wonder that so many people have stepped up to help them in their time of need. It is heartwarming to see that the traditional neighbors helping neighbors' custom that South Boston has always been so famous for still exists today. When one of us is in need; especially in an emergency such as this, the rest of us always seem to be there to help.

Patsy and Richie's children are Suzanne Devoe, Ricky Devoe, Kristie Norwood, Lance Norwood, Jacky Devoe and Victor Valles. They have all been working together on this effort to get Patsy home and are very grateful for all the support they have been shown. To contribute go to <https://www.gofundme.com/help-bring-patsy-back-to-boston>.



## Public Meeting

# 457-469A WEST BROADWAY

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11**

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**200 D STREET**

Condon Community Center  
South Boston, MA 02127

**PROJECT PROPONENT:**

463 West Broadway LLC

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

463 West Broadway LLC is proposing a mixed-use development of an approximately 65,282 square foot building containing 44 condominium units with 48 garage parking spaces. The proposal includes six (6) IDP Units (affordable) and 13,500 square feet of commercial retail space.

**MAIL TO:** **JOHN CAMPBELL**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
**PHONE:** 617.918.4282  
**EMAIL:** John.Campbell@Boston.gov

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:**

1/15/2018

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



## Public Meeting

# GE HEADQUARTERS: NPC/PDA AMENDMENT

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**290 CONGRESS STREET**

BSA Space, Atlantic Wharf  
Fort Point Room  
Boston, MA 02210

**PROJECT PROPONENT:**

General Electric

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Three changes are planned for the Proposed General Electric (GE) Headquarters Project: 1. Rehabilitation of the Necco Court Bridge: This four-story bridge will be used as an extension of the office, research and development and related uses planned at the Brick Buildings. 2. Additional Open Space Parcel: An additional open space parcel of approximately 9,387 square feet is being added to the Project Site in order to create more public open space. 3. Rooftop Room: The planned meeting space on the rooftop of 5 Necco Court will be modestly expanded so that it will have the capacity for larger meetings. Altogether, these additions will add 3,865 SF of GFA to the overall project. To review the initial approved project and its supporting documents, please go here: [http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/general-electric-\(ge\)-headquarters-project](http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/general-electric-(ge)-headquarters-project)

**MAIL TO:** **SONAL GANDHI**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
**PHONE:** 617.918.4314  
**EMAIL:** Sonal.Gandhi@boston.gov

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:**

1/17/2018

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

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# Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour And Christmas Tree Lighting

The Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour took place on Sunday, December 3, at M Street Park. Santa and Rudolph, the Elves and the Christmas Toy Soldier accompanied the Mayor

and his colleagues in government, Rep. Nick Collins, Registrar Stephen Murphy, Councilor-Elect Ed Flynn, Police Commissioner Bill Evans, C-6 Captain Joe Boyle and those who keep the wheels of City

Hall government turning for the citizens, including Parks and Recreation and the Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment.

Our local Dunkin Donuts franchisee supplied the refreshments,

including the festive gingerbread, while a juggler, carolers and the talented balloon-twister kept the excited children and their equally happy parents entertained.

"Our holiday trolley tour and tree





lightings provide some of the best family memories of the year, building community spirit throughout Boston and bringing a little extra joy to residents during the holiday season," said Mayor Walsh. "The holiday season is a time for friends, family

and neighbors to come together and celebrate, and I welcome all to attend this weekend of inclusive, family-friendly fun."

In its 22nd year, the event is sponsored by Bank of America, and includes visits with Santa,

holiday performances, tree lightings and more. "Bank of America is proud to continue our support of Mayor Walsh's Enchanted Trolley Tour, a long-standing tradition that brings joy and excitement to neighborhoods and families across

the City," said Miceal Chamberlain, Bank of America Massachusetts President. "We thank the City of Boston for the opportunity to help kick off the holiday season and make our communities stronger and more vibrant."

# TurfMutt Shares Winter Storm Safety Tips for Pets



**L**ucky the TurfMutt is a former street dog, who spent cold days and nights without a home before he was rescued by Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). Now, Lucky has a warm bed to sleep in and a new mission – to teach kids and their families about the importance of our living landscapes.

This superdog knows that part of taking care of the family yard in the winter months includes cleaning up from snow and ice storms. “Even though we have fur coats, pets feel the cold just like humans do, and I know just how uncomfortable that can be first-paw from living on the streets before Kris rescued me,” says Lucky the TurfMutt. “I want to encourage families to ‘bone up’ on these tips for keeping everyone in your family – including your pets – safe and warm this winter.”

Reduce outdoor activities when temperatures dip low. Your pets will always be most comfortable inside with you, but it’s imperative you keep them indoors during severe weather.

Using a snow-thrower can make quick work of snow removal and can create a path to your pet’s bathroom area. But always keep kids and pets away from the equipment.

Don’t cut your dog’s fur in the wintertime. Pets naturally develop winter coats to protect them from the harsh, cold elements.

After bathroom breaks and walks, check your pet’s ears, paws and tail for any sign of frostbite.

Keep a dry, clean towel handy to wipe down your pet’s legs, belly and paws after each outdoor excursion. Ice-melt chemicals can irritate their skin and cause serious illness if ingested.

Antifreeze smells and tastes sweet to pets, but it’s toxic to dogs and cats. Quickly clean up any spills, and consider using a brand made from non-toxic propylene glycol instead.

Ensure your pet has plenty of fresh, clean water to drink. Winter air is dry!

Offer a warm, dry place for your pet to rest inside. A pet bed works perfectly.

“Like most dogs, Lucky loves to romp in the snow, but one of our rules is that if it’s too cold for us to be outside, it’s too cold for him, too,” says Kiser. “As guardians of our pets, it’s important that we keep their safety in mind during all kinds of weather.” To learn more about the benefits of your family lawn for pets and people during all seasons, go to [SaveLivingLandscapes.com](http://SaveLivingLandscapes.com) and [TurfMutt.com](http://TurfMutt.com).

## About TurfMutt

TurfMutt was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute’s (OPEI) Research and Education Foundation and has reached more than 68 million children, educators and families since 2009. Through classroom materials developed with Scholastic, TurfMutt teaches students and teachers how to “save the planet, one yard at a time.” TurfMutt is an official USGBC® Education Partner and education resource at the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development (NEED) project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2017, the TurfMutt animated video series won the coveted Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award for Best Interstitial Series. TurfMutt’s personal, home habitat also is featured in the 2017 and the upcoming 2018 Wildlife Habitat Council calendars. More information at [www.TurfMutt.com](http://www.TurfMutt.com).

## Cost, Convenience and The Environment Often In Conflict continued from front page

important to understand and weigh the relative costs and benefits of policy decisions—to help focus limited public and private resources on those which will have the greatest impact. A quick fix makes for political sound bites, but what about monitoring and archiving the effect of the ban over time for the purpose of a clinical review of its actual impact. This data can then be evaluated for its usefulness in further public policy decisions related to all stakeholders.

In 2016, despite the opposition by unions working for manufacturers of the plastic bag industry and manufacturers themselves ponying up millions, California voters approved Proposition 67, the statewide ban on carry-out plastic bags, 52 percent to 48 percent – a very close vote. Many other locales have banned these bags including Aus-

tin Texas, Cambridge and Brookline MA, Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Boulder, New York, Portland ME, and Washington DC and now Boston.

The Los Angeles Times recently reported that, “It’s been a year since Californians banned most stores from handing out flimsy, single-use plastic bags to customers. It was the first, and remains the only, U.S. state to do so. But guess what? In the end, this momentous change was not a big deal. Shoppers did not revolt or launch recall campaigns against state lawmakers. Food still gets to people’s houses. Reusable bags did not spark an epidemic of food-borne illnesses, as some critics suggested they would. Consumers didn’t go broke paying 10 cents apiece for the thicker, reusable plastic bags that stores are allowed to distribute instead.”

It did however point out what many in the opposition fear is the ultimate motive, and one that could have a se-

vere impact on the industry and jobs. The report went on to state that, “So much for all the terrible things plastic-bag makers warned would happen during their multimillion campaign to persuade voters to reject the ban last November. In fact, this first year unfolded pretty much the way proponents had predicted. That’s an important lesson for next time. And there must be a next time. Because although it took several years and a fierce political fight to accomplish, banning disposable plastic grocery bags (known as T-shirt bags because of their design) was just the first salvo in the battle to reduce disposable plastic waste. There is still far too much single-use plastic tossed out every day — heaps of beverage cups and lids, snack wrappings, potato chip bags, water bottles and take-out food containers.”

As plastic bag banning proposals continue to pop up in coastal communities across the country, will govern-

ment decide to devote the resources needed to meaningfully answer the question about plastic bags? impact on the environment? And while plastic pollution is also a visible problem, will we devote as much passion and energy to less visible marine pollution issues, for example, where the science is more readily available? Another problem, which Massachusetts also faces, is runoff or leakage from yard, farm, and golf-course fertilizers, faulty septic systems, and sewage overflows that are overdosing the ocean with nitrogen. This has caused fish kills and have been linked to harmful algal blooms that threaten food supplies, economic hardship, and public health.

The intersection of environmental protection, economics, jobs and convenience often results in unintended consequences that must be factored into decision-making over the long term. Mayor Walsh will have to weigh all of this as he decides what to do.

# Snow Angels in South Boston to Assist Seniors

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

**S**now Angels. What a great idea. It's been in the news already on FOX/Boston Channel 25 as well as on other news outlets but we here at South Boston Today agree that this is such a beautiful effort that we also felt the need to mention it.

For those who may not have heard about the program, yet it is described as follows: 70 volunteers from the South Boston community will be recruited to do the work of shoveling for this neighborhood's senior citizens and disabled residents when and each time 3 or more inches of the white stuff arrives. These volunteers will bring shovels and ice melt to their designated areas and handle the task of clearing and treating the walks and stairs of those who are not able to do it themselves. The volun-

teers will be paired with residents and it will be their job to arrive at the homes and get the work done when the snow has fallen. It will also be a good way to increase interaction among residents of all ages. The program is set to begin next month.

There are many seniors who are not able to clear their walks and stairways from ice and snow. Sprains, back injuries and even heart attacks are fairly common occurrences in winter because of the need to keep the city's walkways safe. Shoveling snow can be fun and exercise for some but a danger to others so the Snow Angels program will actually be just what the doctor ordered to many locals.

This program is being organized by South Boston's Laboure Center, which is run by Catholic Charities and it has the support and the blessing of Mayor Marty Walsh and the City of Boston.

The reported goal is to have one volunteer for every neighborhood block with a captain overseeing a 10-block area. By the sound of it, coordination will be the key and it looks like it will be accomplished with almost military precision. To qualify to be part of the program, a resident must be at least 65 years of age or have a physical disability.

Jacob Bombard, the director at Laboure stated that "The program is a response to the City of Boston's Age-Friendly Action Plan 2017 put forth by the Mayor's Commission on Affairs of the Elderly which seeks to make Boston a better place to live for its older adults." Bombard went on to say that the month of December will be dedicated to recruiting the volunteers that will actually be doing the work and January will be when the lists will be put in place for those in need of the service.



Snow Angels is a wonderful and creative idea and the folks at Laboure should be commended for bringing it to South Boston. The act of selflessly helping others in need is what angels do. To find out more about the program; whether it is finding out how to be a recipient of the Snow Angel's program or how to go about becoming a volunteer, you can contact the Laboure Center directly at 617-464-8500.

## Mayor Walsh And AT&T Host 21st Annual Holiday Seniors' Phone Call Event



"Today, I am calling Freising, Germany," said Dorchester resident Barbara Culbreath (right), 84. "I have relatives there. I no longer can make international calls at home, so this is an opportunity to speak with them."



"I am happy to call my friends and family," said Lame Prifti, 84, who made his call to Albania. "I come to this event every year."

**M**ayor Martin J. Walsh, the Commission on Affairs of the Elderly and AT&T invited older adults to Boston City Hall to call loved ones anywhere in the world, free of charge. Now in its 21st year, the holiday celebration attracted hundreds of seniors who made phone calls to Finland, China, Cabo Verde, Haiti, Russia, Sierra Leone, among other places around the world.

"Being able to hear your loved ones' voice is priceless," said Mayor Walsh. "Having family in Ireland, I know that it is hard to be away from family, especially during this time of the year. We are proud to help older adults in Boston stay close to loved ones all over the world."

Lame Prifti, 84, of the Back Bay, made his call today to Albania. "I am happy to call my friends and family,"

Prifti said. "I come every year."

South Boston resident Ann Japp, 82, moved to Boston in 1961. "I'm calling my sister and her family back in Scotland," Japp said. "I know she likes to get my call."

"We're happy to once again help Boston seniors stay connected with their friends and families living overseas this holiday season," said Patricia Jacobs, president, AT&T New England. "We hope this event provides a

little bit of joy for Bostonians as we kick off this holiday season."

The event featured breakfast and lunch, access to representatives about cell phone questions, half hour phone calls to loved ones, and a "Winter Wishes" arts & crafts project.

AT&T Inc. helps millions around the globe connect with leading entertainment, business, mobile and high speed internet services.

## Does The Electric Toothbrush Really Outperform The Manual Toothbrush?



In major league baseball, it's the designated hitter rule versus pitchers hitting for themselves. In dental circles, it's the electric toothbrush versus the manual toothbrush. For many dentists when it comes to the electric toothbrush, they say throw out the manual—toothbrush, that is. South Weymouth Dentist Dr. Richard Wolfert, DMD, AKA “The Toothboss” is an electric toothbrush advocate and offers winners of his Smiling Neighbor program

the choice between a gift card to a local restaurant and a Sonicare electric toothbrush.

“A few choose the electric toothbrush, but most choose the gift card,” said Dr. Wolfert, whose practice is located at 1121 Main Street in South Weymouth. “That’s too bad because the benefits of using an electric toothbrush far outweigh a meal at a five-star restaurant.” Dr. Wolfert prefers the electric brush because it uses ultrasonic motions, enabling users

to brush hard-to-reach places. And since it’s powered by a battery, the consistent movement of the bristles minimizes or eliminates the accumulation of plaque and food debris that cause gum disease.

One part of a standard examination is evaluation of the effectiveness of a patient’s brushing. If a patient shows signs of being ineffective with a manual brush, Dr. Wolfert often recommends an electric toothbrush to get them on the right track. “Many times, I can tell whether someone is lefthanded or righthanded by looking at their gums. If they are righthanded, you can see more inflammation and sometimes more recession on the left side of their mouth as they are more likely to not be as effective to their weak side. If the electric brush is used properly, its effectiveness is readily apparent throughout the mouth and the tissues look very healthy,” said Wolfert.

Patients often rush through their home care regimen and this is another area where an electric toothbrush comes in handy. Dentists recommend brushing your teeth for one to two minutes per brushing, with the preference being for two minutes. Since the electric tooth-

brush provides the power, people who use electric brushes brush longer, which minimizes many of the aforementioned issues.

“It’s really not a question of should you or should you not use an electric toothbrush but if we’ve determined you are candidate, why aren’t you?” said Dr. Wolfert. “Cost is an issue, but price has come down in recent years and you can get a very reasonably priced brush for \$60. And with the holidays coming up, you could do a lot worse than giving someone you love an electric toothbrush as a gift.” While cost might be an issue for some, Dr. Wolfert cited the amazing transformation of a patient who made the switch. Before using an electric toothbrush, he was a candidate for expensive and painful gum recession prevention treatments. After the switch, the recession has stabilized.

The Toothboss uses Sonicare as its preferred electric toothbrush vendor. For more information, you can contact The Toothboss at 781-335-0604. For more information on The Toothboss, you can visit Dr. Wolfert’s website at [www.toothboss.com](http://www.toothboss.com).

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It's funny, you never get the texts or the tweets after a couple solid weeks of picks. Crickets from the trolls, if you will. I went 4-1 last week, and I'm 7-3 over the last two weeks. And interestingly enough, I've picked a total of eight road teams during that two-week span.

Well, I've got three more road teams in Week 14. Here are my picks:

**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (-3) over Seattle Seahawks**

-Both the 8-4 Jaguars and 8-4 Seahawks are coming off a win, but Seattle's was probably the team's biggest win of the season. They knocked off the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday Night Football, and they did it without a few of their best defensive players. The Seahawks benefitted from having the game in Seattle, but still, the Eagles had won nine straight entering the game, and were the No. 1 seed in the NFC. After losing to Seattle, Philadelphia is now the No. 2 seed, behind the No. 1 seed Minnesota Vikings. Both the Seahawks and Jaguars would be in the playoffs if they began today. And while Jacksonville's latest win over the lowly Indianapolis Colts isn't as impressive as Seattle's win over Philly, I just can't bet against the Jaguars' defense at home. Jacksonville has the best defense in the NFL, allowing a

league-best 14.8 points per game. And if the Seahawks' banged-up defense is going to catch up with them at some point, it's going to happen on the road. I'll take the Jaguars to win and cover at home.

**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-4) over Oakland Raiders**

-This will be a highly unpopular pick because a lot of people have completely given up on the now 6-6 Chiefs, who have lost four straight. After starting the season 5-0, Kansas City has lost six of its last seven, including Sunday's 38-31 loss to the Jets. The Chiefs actually jumped out to a 14-0 first-quarter lead in that game, and they still ended up losing. Alex Smith did his part though, throwing for 366 yards with four touchdowns. It's time for Kansas City's offense and defense to show up on the same day, and I'll put my money on that happening against the 6-6 Raiders. Oakland heads to Kansas City having won two straight, but those two wins were against the three-win Denver Broncos and the two-win New York Giants. The Chiefs, Raiders, and Chargers are in a three-way tie for the AFC West, but if the playoffs began today, Kansas City would be in based on their 2-1 division record. That one divisional loss was to the Raiders in Oakland in October. So, while things don't look good for

This week, Danny gave "Pic's Picks" for Week 14 in the NFL:

the Chiefs right now, I expect them to play with some type of dignity in their own building against a divisional rival that's already beaten them this year. Give me Kansas City to snap their losing skid and cover the spread at home.

**WASHINGTON REDSKINS (+6) over Los Angeles Chargers**

-The 6-6 Chargers have won three straight and find themselves in a battle for the AFC West title. But I'm actually taking some advice from my Dad on this one: Always take Washington as a road dog. That's exactly what I'm doing this weekend. The 5-7 Redskins are still mathematically alive in the NFC Wild Card race, but their chances of getting into the playoffs are not very good. Washington is coming off a loss to the Cowboys in Dallas on Thursday Night Football, so at least they have some extra time to prepare for their trek to the West Coast. Problem for the Chargers is, the Redskins have already won twice on the West Coast this season, having beaten the Rams in LA in Week 2 and the Seahawks in Seattle in Week 9. Kirk Cousins has every incentive in the world to keep slinging, as he's playing for a new contract in 2018. And I also just feel like the Chargers are due for a letdown, somehow. So, perfect time to take my father's

advice. Redskins cover in LA.

**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (+2) over Los Angeles Rams**

-This should be an absolute battle between the 10-2 Eagles and 9-3 Rams in LA. Philadelphia has a chance to clinch the NFC East, but it won't be easy against a Rams team that's won two straight. In all honesty though, I'm a little taken back by the fact that Philadelphia is an underdog here. They've been downright dominant for the most part, and I could understand if the Eagles were a two-point favorite in this one. So, this one is an easy pick for me. Philly will play the underdog card and knock off the Rams in Los Angeles. I'll jump all over the points in this one because I expect the Eagles to win the game.

**BALTIMORE RAVENS (+5.5) over Pittsburgh Steelers**

-The 7-5 Ravens are sneaky good, and hold the No. 6 seed in current AFC playoff picture, having won three straight. And get this, three of Baltimore's wins this season have been by way of shutout. The Ravens' defense leads the NFL in takeaways with 29, and they now find themselves in a divisional dog fight with the 10-2 Steelers. Pittsburgh might have its sights set on a Week 15 game against the New England Patriots, which could open the door for a Baltimore upset. I'm not putting my money on a Ravens win, but I do feel confident that this game will be a close one in Pittsburgh. Give me the points here.

*Listen to "The Danny Picard Show" at [dannypicard.com](http://dannypicard.com) and on the PodcastOne network. Also available on iTunes and Google Play.*

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