



Who Needs Bus Drivers If You Can Walk To School?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

Leave it to what the Mayor, officials both from the Union involved and the School Department, as well as both candidates for mayor are calling a “rogue element “of the bus driver’s union to make the case for children to be able to attend a school close to home so that parents don’t need to worry.

After Tuesday’s surprise wildcat strike, Mayor Thomas M. Menino said that the strike “was led by a rogue element of the union. And we’re going to deal with

that rogue element of the union,” telling reporters at a City Hall press conference that a few rabble-rousers tried but failed to block bus drivers resuming their normal routes Wednesday morning. Although the vast majority of Boston school buses returned to the road yesterday - officials said 91 percent were on time and 98 percent arrived within 10 minutes of that mark - interim superintendent John McDonough said the long-term situation remains uncertain. Meanwhile, union

officials, who have publicly disavowed the strike, were meeting in Quincy. Perhaps the drivers have legitimate concerns and they should be addressed, but according to everyone interviewed including both candidates for Mayor, Councilor John Connolly and Representative Martin Walsh, the strike is illegal based on the existence of a valid contract.

As reported in the Boston Herald, Jean Claude Toussaint, chief steward at the Readville bus yard in Hyde Park, told reporters outside the Adams Inn in Quincy the drivers hope to emerge from today’s meeting with bus vendor Veolia Transportation with assurances in writing that their grievances will be addressed. However, Mr. Toussaint said on behalf of the drivers, “They’re not getting paid enough for the hours they work. They’re putting the blame on us. It’s not us, it’s the company.” Veolia spokeswoman Valerie Michael said the meeting “is the very start of the process.

The cost of bussing is nearly \$90 million. Rep. Walsh, for example, wants to invest

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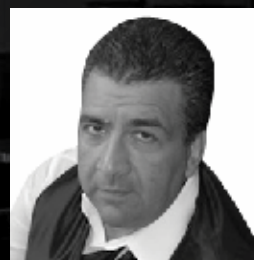
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EDITORIAL School Bus Strike Emphasizes Need For Neighborhood School System

“There is no right to strike against public safety by anybody, anywhere, anytime”. President Calvin Coolidge made that pronouncement when authorizing the use of force and subsequent firing of Boston Police strikers. It was invoked once again when President Ronald Reagan fired striking Air Traffic Controllers.

Mayor Menino was justified in his anger Tuesday morning when he called for the firing of striking bus drivers. He was further correct when he called it an illegal strike. Busing as a remedy for racial inequality has been proven a dismal failure and abandoned everywhere except Boston, where liberalism can never admit to even one mistake. Busing should be for transportation only and then only in the suburbs.

Urban areas should all be neighborhood walk-to-school systems. Besides the money saved could put a police officer at all adjoining school streets at 8-9am and again at 2-3pm. The bus pollution and bus traffic congestion would be a thing of the past.

Urban school bus driver was always a temporary position. Like many other jobs, it's time has come and gone especially when the point of contention is accountability. The drivers think it is unfair for GPS devices in their bus to monitor their location. Using an outrageous and untrue assertion that drivers can't even take a private bathroom rest, they think they have support from the public.

It is more likely the public thinks they should be disbanded and on the unemployment line.



“There are no necessary evils in government. Its evils exist only in its abuses” -Andrew Jackson

Last Week's Poll Results

Do you believe the Mayor and BRA struck a 'backroom deal' at the expense of Boston's citizens when they agreed to sell the Red Sox rights to Yawkey Way and Landsdowne Street?

Here's How You Answered:

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Deadlines

396 West Broadway • 617.268.4032 • Office hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm

Press Copy - Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. - Advertisements - Space Reservation - Monday at 5:00 P.M. Ad Material - Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. Camera Ready Ads - Wednesday at 9:00 A.M.

The Information Center



Close the Ocean and Cancel Christmas

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at jciccone@southbostontoday.com

Are you tired of hearing about the Government Shut Down, the “Partial Shutdown, The “Slim Down” or whatever they were calling it as of early this week? Most Americans have now had enough of Washington DC and all the drama. But there are just so many things about what’s been happening with this, I can’t resist the urge to dissect it all a bit more. If you’ll indulge me, we’ll begin.

The now famous quote by a frustrated and embarrassed US Park Service Ranger does much to expose what the game plan on the part of this Administration is: He said: “We’ve been told to make it as difficult for people as we can. It’s disgusting.” And a perfect example of that was the shocking treatment received by the World War II Veterans when they tried to view the WW II Memorial. An outside open area with no gates was blocked by barricades ordered by a petty and vindictive White House met these vets as they merely tried to walk by and see the Memorial. It costs nothing to walk by and look at it. It cost a lot to send federal employees to erect barricades to stop them. This pretty much backs up the quote by the Park Ranger.

This angered millions of Americans furious at the treatment of these war veteran heroes; many in their 80’s and 90’s. But what brought cheers and admiration from the public was how the vets

responded. They moved on in and swept by the barricades and got to the Memorial anyway. Said one vet in a wheel chair: “The Nazi’s and the Kamikazes couldn’t stop us. There’s no way we’re going to be stopped by some barricades and a few park workers.” Beautiful! Defiance in the face of tyranny is why these vets went overseas to war in the first place. They are determined not to take it in their own country.

Then they tried to remove Vietnam Vets from viewing Their Memorial. It costs more money to make the lives of these vets and other Americans difficult, which is exactly what’s going on, than it does to leave open air exhibits accessible. But here’s one for you. As of this writing, Obama planned to allow the rally for Amnesty for Illegal immigrants to take place on the National Mall. Gee, who would have thought..?

In Florida, fishermen were prohibited from heading out to work their traps because they had to go through a federally regulated channel. They closed the ocean. Because of the shutdown, will they try to ban foliage viewing and cancel Christmas this year? Said another ticked off federal park employee – “I’m surprised Washington doesn’t order us to drape a huge tarp over Mt. Rushmore so tourists can’t see it when they ride by.”

The Grand Canyon is closed but not Obama’s golf course. They shut down the federally run Amber Alert

website, But not Michelle’s ‘Let’s Move’ site. There was an outcry over that one too. They had to relent on this and reopen the Amber Alert site. That was too blatant even for this White House. As the shutdown continued to play out, with more acts of spite being exposed almost by the

hour it became more apparent, even to many ‘low information voters’ just how mean spirited this bunch in DC really are. It kind of explains why so many more Americans by the day are starting to refer to this Administration as ‘The Regime’.

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Letter to the Editor *Mayor's Race Needs to Make Education a Priority*

I write to you not as a politician or someone schilling for a politician but as a lifelong resident of this City and taxpayer whose heart is broken every day watching the schoolchildren of this City wait for school buses on corners throughout the City. These are not my children. Last year I witnessed my neighbors and their children waiting for buses that were never coming. Parents who could wait with their children were seen yelling into their cell phones if they could in fact get someone to answer their call, their children next to them sobbing because their parents were upset at being late for work and their teacher was going to be upset because they were late for school.

Children whose parents couldn't wait with them stood at the corner alone hoping that they would make it to school that day. Every parent of a Boston Public School child was assured that this year everything was supposed to be better. The buses were being outfitted with GPS

for the parents to track the bus location and the buses started driving their designated routes at the beginning of August so all could be assured that the drivers wouldn't get lost. We are now a month into the 2013 school year and the GPS is no longer working, there are no bus monitors or seat belts on the buses when they do arrive and school buses are once again not showing up to pick up waiting children.

In a "World Class City" where students from across the world vie for a seat of higher learning and anyone with a telephone can get police, fire or EMS at their door in a matter of minutes why can't we manage to get these children safely INTO a school building at the scheduled time every day. How disruptive is life in these classrooms if there are children wandering into the room late every day or not showing up at all. This isn't the teachers fault, nor the parent or child. This is too hard. The hard part should be getting them to bed on time after doing their

homework not getting them to school.

Not every family has the resources for a private or parochial school education. The solution goes miles beyond the issue of "tax breaks" for private schools which has been argued since the seventies. A longer school day? How about starting with getting these kids in their seats for the "current school day"? If the Boston Public System is, as this paper reports, costing the taxpayers almost a billion dollars a year, almost half of the total City budget then we should expect a lot more for our money.

If we can afford a new City Hall, why can't we give the children of Boston a "World Class Education" or at least get them in to school on time. Whoever you vote for, please ask that they make education a priority of their administration. We all deserve better.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hanley



High Bail for Man Who Allegedly Stole Cruiser

operation of a motor vehicle, and two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, as well as a second docket charging receiving stolen property over \$250 and possession of burglarious tools.

Assistant District Attorney William Champlin requested that Rodriguez be held on \$250,000 bail and that he wear a GPS monitor, stay away from South Boston, abide by a curfew, and stay away from and have no contact with any victims or witnesses if he posts bail. Judge Michael Bolden set bail in the amount of \$150,000 with orders that Rodriguez wear a GPS monitor, remain under house arrest, and stay away and have no contact with victims and witnesses in the case. He set an additional bail of \$100 on the second docket.

According to prosecutors, Boston Police officers responded to Baxter Street in South Boston shortly before 4:00 a.m. Saturday for a report of a person breaking into a motor vehicle. On arrival, they encountered Rodriguez, who allegedly fled through several backyards and ignored police commands to stop.

Rodriguez entered an unoccupied Boston Police cruiser at the intersection of Baxter and E streets and drove the vehicle onto Baxter Street, which was blocked by another police vehicle, prosecutors said. He then reversed the cruiser at a high rate of speed, according to prosecutors. While attempting to flee, prosecutors allege, Rodriguez twice struck an officer and knocked the officer to the ground, leading other officers to discharge their department-issued firearms. No one was struck, but the officers' discharges will be investigated by Boston Police and Suffolk prosecutors under the policies of both agencies.

Police pursued Rodriguez along E Street and onto Old Colony Avenue, where Rodriguez crashed into a guardrail at the JFK/UMass MBTA station, prosecutors said. He was apprehended after an attempt to flee on foot, prosecutors said. Officers at the scene of the reported vehicle break-in were able to locate a Jeep Grand Cherokee with a broken rear driver's side window. The vehicle's owner confirmed for police that his vehicle had been

broken into and that there were an iPod, headphones, sneakers, and other items inside that did not belong to him, prosecutors said. Police also discovered a second vehicle in the area, a Mercedes Benz C230 that had been broken into as well. Investigators believe the items found in the Jeep had been taken from the Mercedes.

In addition, officers recovered clothing, a screwdriver, pliers, and other items that Rodriguez allegedly discarded as he fled through backyards, prosecutors said. Rodriguez was uninjured during the incident. Two Boston Police officers were treated at Tufts Medical Center for non-life-threatening injuries they sustained prior to Rodriguez' arrest; at least one of them has been released from care.

Rodriguez, who has prior convictions for breaking and entering, receiving stolen property and similar offenses in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2012, was represented for bail purposes by attorney Tom Caldwell. He will return to court on Oct. 10 for the appointment of counsel.

A man accused of stealing a Boston Police cruiser and using it to strike a pursuing officer was ordered held on high bail at his Monday arraignment, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley said.

Wilfredo Rodriguez (D.O.B. 10/20/75) was arraigned in South Boston District Court on charges of armed assault with intent to murder, receiving a stolen motor vehicle, breaking and entering a vehicle at night with intent to commit a felony, leaving the scene of an accident causing personal injury, possession of burglarious tools, resisting arrest, operating with a suspended license, reckless



Reading Between The Lines

“The Tide (St.) Rolls On”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahoney@southbostontoday.com

A recent Boston Herald editorial critical of the BRA approval of the Fenway Park deal ended with the observation - “a 20 year reputation is a horrible thing to waste on this insider deal”.

The Herald is a little “late to the party” if this is the only sweetheart deal they have wondered about over the last 20 years. Perhaps they should have moved their headquarters to Southie years earlier. They would have had a “Ground Zero” view of how the BRA and this administration have played that game from the beginning.

As street smart and politically astute as we like to think, we are very ignorant in the real world of high finance regarding politics and development. In our naïve days we thought that plans, ideas and bills were introduced, debated and voted on. Only later did we realize that long before it reaches the public all the insider cuties buy up the land and licenses. Then the job of selling it to the public as a benefit begins.

In November 1997, the bill CH.152 was passed authorizing the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. As noted, those in the know had already begun to try to control it well before it became public. In the years around 1996, South Boston had a horrible period when over ten of our young teens committed suicide. Public figures both political and private gave talks and took some positive actions to attempt to halt this ongoing tragedy.

Around April of 1997, the Mayor’s top political South

Boston advisor along with another local city department head began appearing at various community meetings. Their purpose was to extend the Mayor’s compassion on the issue and to announce the Mayor’s intention to build a “South Boston Youth Center” on 7 Tide Street in the Marine Industrial Park. Sure enough the Mayor’s submitted and approved a budget for 1998 that contained 600 thousand dollars for a youth center on Tide Street. \$200,000 was spent renovating this building, when all of a sudden, a decision was made to cancel the youth center and instead award it, on a no-bid 65 year lease, to a private entity.

So many questions. Does the City Council vote budget money to be spent one way only to have the Mayor spend it on what he decides? If 200 grand was spent did the private entity reimburse the city? What happened to the remaining 400 grand? Did the property go out to public bid? What happened to the youth center? Was this all a dog and pony show to soften up a vulnerable community for the BCEC and related development onslaught to come?

These are questions that, despite his best efforts, the late great Councilor Jim Kelly was never able to get answers to.

Tide Street itself however just never seems to go away. A few weeks ago, SBT reported that Suffolk Construction was abandoning its place as a redevelopment anchor in the Dudley Square area and is relocating in the Tide Street area. Even though space in the Marine Industrial Park is limited to water dependant marine

industries, no objection was raised to headquartering a construction company there. Not only is an exception being made to even allow them in the Park, now, we are informed, a change is being sought in the Waterway Protection Act to allow a previously forbidden use on

Tide Street. To accommodate their needs, obviously the environment and the public take a back seat. So when the Herald writes of ‘losing a reputation’, remember this - a reputation is necessary to have in the first place.

Take care till next week.

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Window Into The State House

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By staff

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.

DESPITE \$15 MIL., STATE FACES LONG WAITLIST FOR EARLY ED SUBSIDIES: Before heading north to Canada on Tuesday, Gov. Deval Patrick visited the Community Action Programs InterCity Head Start site in Chelsea to announce that \$15 million additional funding in this year's budget would reduce the waitlist for early education subsidies by 3,200 children. More than 50,000 low-income and at-risk children in Massachusetts attend early education programs with annual state subsidies, and the waitlist as of September had 43,000 prospective students. Though the Legislature rejected Patrick's broad plan to

increase taxes and invest an additional \$131 million in fiscal 2014 into early education, House and Senate leaders carved out \$15 million in new investments to dent the waitlist. The investment in early childhood care is the first expansion of the program since 2009, according to lawmakers. "Every child in Massachusetts deserves the opportunity to receive high quality early education, and increasing the number of early ed vouchers will provide thousands more of our children with the opportunity to succeed," Patrick said in a statement. **CHILD ADVOCATES WANT PROBATION OUT OF CERTAIN FOSTER CASES:** Advocates for

children want to stop the practice of assigning probation officers to some kids in foster care who have been removed from their homes for abuse and neglect. Advocates told lawmakers on the Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities Committee Tuesday that probation officers are not properly trained to handle traumatized children. Judges in the juvenile courts argue the probation officers act as their eyes and ears in the cases, making sure children are cared for according to their orders, according to committee staff. Erin Bradley, executive director of the Children's League of Massachusetts, said there is no consistency in trauma training for probation officers. The Children's League is backing legislation (S 31) filed by Sen. Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), that says probation officers cannot be assigned to children who are taken out of their homes on care and protection orders. A group of juvenile court judges submitted written testimony to the committee opposing the bill. Bradley said there is no need for the probation officers because every child in foster care is already assigned a social worker from the Department of Children and Families. Involving probation officers negatively affects some already-traumatized children, she said.

MASS. URGED TO JOIN STATES REQUIRING STUDENTS TO STAY IN SCHOOL LONGER: Raising the high school dropout age to 18 would keep at-risk students in a classroom longer, but proponents on Tuesday said more must be done to combat the root cause of nearly 8,000 students a year giving up on school in Massachusetts. Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, a Boston Democrat and co-chair of the Joint Committee on Education, said the state needs a comprehensive plan to intervene before students drop out of school and not just a "Band-Aid solution." Boston City Councilor John Connolly said raising the dropout age would give leaders a foundation to build upon. "If you're 16 you can't vote, buy a pack of cigarettes, buy alcohol or buy a Lottery ticket, but you can make a decision to put the lowest ceiling possible on your future and it just doesn't make any sense," Connolly said at the hearing. The mayoral candidate said forcing kids to stay in schools "that aren't working for them" is not the complete answer, but policy leaders need a law "backing them up" to keep kids in school as they work to improve public education. The Education Committee last session recommended similar legislation to that filed this year by Chang-Diaz, but it failed to get a vote in the House or Senate.

Rental Inspections? Why?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

Last December (2012) the City of Boston announced a required registration program for all rental apartment units. The program anticipates registering approximately 140,000 of The City's estimated 167,800 apartment units. Owner-occupied dwellings comprised of less than six apartment units are exempt. A publicly-accessible registry of all rental units will be simultaneously created. The program was approved by Boston's City Council by a 9 to 4 vote. City Councilors voting against the measure were Frank Baker, John Connolly, Bill Linehan and Mike Ross. The measure was opposed by the Greater Boston Real Estate Board.

The rental registration ordinance requires an annual registration and inspection overseen by Inspectional Services every five years. In addition to an initial registration fee and annual registration fee City Officials claim the program will prioritize problem properties and add eleven new

employees at the Inspectional Services Department to enforce compliance.

Opponents claim it will push rents up by passing along unnecessary fees to tenants, that so-called problem properties will not register, and the ordinance is unconstitutional. The original registration deadline was July 1, 2013, which due to lack of participation was pushed back to August 31. Failure to register carries a non-compliance penalty of \$300 per month.

South Boston City Councilor Bill Linehan is strongly opposed to the program and has said so in a previous press release. City Councilor At Large and mayoral candidate John Connolly voted against the measure and remains opposed. State Representative and mayoral candidate Marty Walsh has stated that "we need to increase the rental inspection rate, not lessen it." He also calls for stricter enforcement on his website.

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in early childhood programs, but until the transportation costs are confronted, new programs appear to be unrealistic. One of the biggest challenges for both Walsh and Connolly will be dealing with the wave of union contracts that will be on the table, come January.

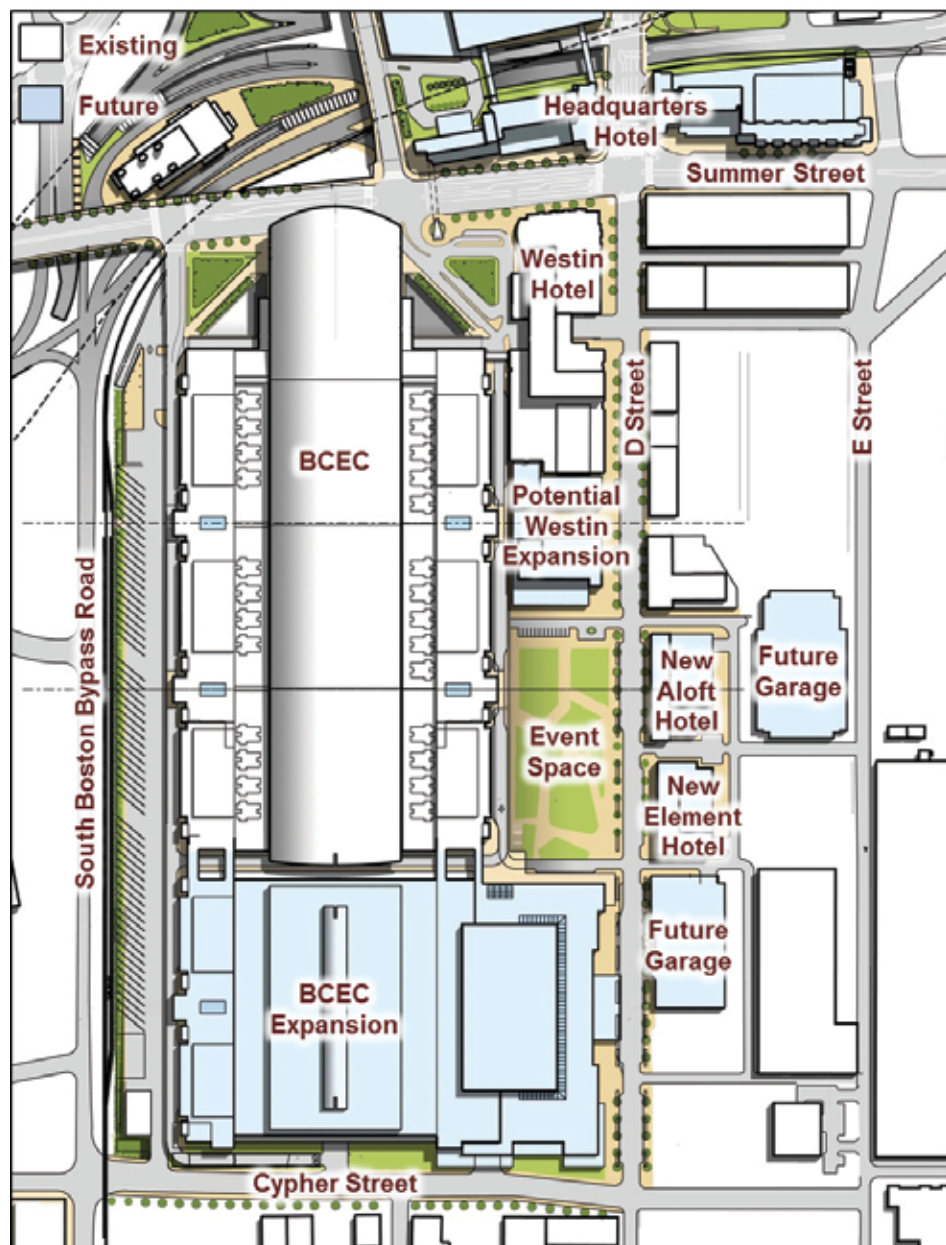
John Connolly had confronted the transportation issue with his Quality Choice Plan last year and was able to affect the outcome of the school assignment process to some degree. He has made transforming the school system a keystone of his bid for mayor. The need for dramatic changing the

school system in a way that engages parents, communities, students and teachers with the goal of a high quality education for all is a goal of both candidates but the question remains – what their priorities are and how do they grapple with the runaway costs is the differential.

Attending a school close to home, expanding early childhood programs, paying teaches better and lengthening the school day could be achieved by dramatically reducing the need for buses. In this case, the "rogue union" may have crystallized the core issues that must be addressed if we want quality schools.

MCCA to Expand Boston Convention & Exhibition Center

Legislation requires no new fees or taxes



The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today filed legislation in the State House of Representatives that would authorize the expansion of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in the South Boston Waterfront without the need for new fees or taxes.

Co-sponsored by State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and State Representative Nick Collins, the bill authorizes a 1.3 million-square-foot expansion of the BCEC, including substantial additions to the exhibit and meeting space, and a second, larger ballroom, allowing the MCCA to attract larger events and host multiple concurrent events. Funding for the \$1 billion expansion would be supported by the existing Convention Center Fund, which was created in 1997 to pay for the construction and operations of the BCEC.

The Convention Center Fund

revenues consist of existing tourism-based fees and taxes, none of which would need to be increased to fund the expansion project. "This legislation is the culmination of a four-year transparent and public campaign aimed at increasing Boston's and Massachusetts' share of the meeting and convention industry," said James E. Rooney, MCCA executive director. "Over the past decade, we've worked hard to make Massachusetts a major convention market, and with the successful passage of this legislation — which requires no new fees or taxes — we have an opportunity to solidify our leadership and increase the jobs and economic benefit our work creates for years to come."

"The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center is a world-class convention center set in the heart of one of our City's most exciting and vibrant neighborhoods,"

Mayor Thomas M. Menino said. "Its expansion will bring thousands of new jobs and strengthen our City's international reputation as a top destination for meetings and conventions. I look forward to the approval of the expansion's legislation and the value it will bring to the entire City of Boston."

The MCCA's expansion campaign, named Top 5, was first announced in 2009 and seeks to increase the number of hotel rooms near the BCEC, expand the facility to better accommodate growing or overlapping events, and allow Boston and Massachusetts to increase their market share in the \$263 billion U.S. meeting and convention industry.

Shortly after announcing the start of the campaign, the MCCA established the Convention Partnership, an independent 27-member group of local stakeholders, elected officials and other leaders appointed by the Governor, the Mayor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President. After a year and a half of research and deliberation, the group recommended pursuing a strategy to increase the number of hotel rooms near the BCEC and to expand the convention center to increase the economic impact from meetings and conventions in Boston.

"I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation, not only because it offers an innovative way to fund this project, but for the long-term benefit it will bring to the entire First Suffolk Senate District, the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," said State Senator Forry. "I am thankful that the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority has shown a real commitment to ensuring that the expansion of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center will truly reflect the diversity of the City of Boston. The BCEC was built for \$850 million and has created \$5.3 billion in economic impact over the last 10 years. As the BCEC continues to grow, I am excited by the opportunities that this expansion will create for women and minority-owned businesses as well as a chance to open construction jobs to those hit hardest by the dire economic times we have endured. The conventions that come to Boston fuel the economic drivers that have made the Commonwealth stable and successful during tough economic times."

"With the opening of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in 2004, Boston and Massachusetts became one of the most desired and successful convention destinations in North America," said State Rep. Collins. "With the filing of this important legislation, it is our hope to build on and increase our success. Growing our convention business means growing our economy, creating new jobs and bringing more money to the Commonwealth today and into the future."

Earlier this year, the MCCA board of directors selected a team to develop two mid-priced hotels containing a total of 510 rooms directly across from the BCEC. The project is expected to create 500 construction jobs and 150 permanent jobs while paying more than \$3 million in occupancy and property taxes annually to the City of Boston. Groundbreaking is expected late this year or early in 2014, with the opening scheduled for late 2015.

These two new hotels are part of a larger effort by the MCCA to encourage additional hotel development near the BCEC. With only 1,690 hotel rooms within walking distance, the BCEC has far fewer accessible rooms than its competitors, which average 7,584 rooms. Additionally, all of the existing hotels near the BCEC are higher priced "four star" hotels, with no lower-priced options available.

In June, the boards of both the MCCA and the Massachusetts Port Authority approved a letter of intent to work cooperatively to seek private developers for a headquarters hotel project on Massport land in the South Boston Waterfront. As planned, the project would consist of at least two hotels, with a total of 1,200 to 1,500 rooms, creating around 2,000 construction jobs and nearly 1,000 permanent jobs.

It is expected to be one of the largest hotel projects in the nation that when complete would generate more than \$25 million annually in city and state tax revenue. In total, the BCEC expansion, the mid-priced hotels and the headquarters hotel projects are expected to create 4,700 construction jobs and 2,100 permanent jobs while generating \$716 million in annual economic impact and \$41 million in tax benefits for Boston and the Commonwealth.

Connolly Highlights Comprehensive Public Safety Plan

Links Public Safety to Public Health



Mayoral candidate John R. Connolly this week highlights the need for a comprehensive plan to address crime and violence that includes community policing, expanding

job opportunities for young people, tougher gun control laws, and other critical elements. Connolly outlined several ideas for better linking public safety to public health and testified at the State House on the

need to prevent young people from dropping out of school. "Violence on our streets constitutes an epidemic, killing or injuring hundreds of Bostonians every year," said Connolly. "As mayor, I will bring our public health resources together with our public safety resources to ensure that we have a coordinated, holistic approach to creating safe and healthy neighborhoods for all Bostonians."

To coordinate public health and public safety strategies, Connolly outlined three steps he would prioritize as mayor:

- **Address issues related to mental health** with increased access to mental health services through our schools and community health centers and improved training for first responders on how to handle a mental health crisis.
- **Focus on addiction and recovery,**

including creating an Office of Recovery Services focused on working with private and nonprofit partners to support and expand recovery programs and addressing the root of the problem by working to prevent young people from becoming addicted to drugs.

• **Support social-emotional learning and health services in all of our schools** and accelerate the expansion of social-emotional learning curriculum to help young people resolve conflict peacefully.

Connolly testified at the State House in support of An Act Reducing the Dropout Rate at a hearing in front of the Joint Committee on Education. In 2011, as chair of the City Council's committee on education, Connolly co-sponsored legislation with Councilor Tito Jackson to raise the dropout age in Boston from 16 to 18 years of age.

"This Building Is Not For Sale"

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Ray Flynn

This past weekend, while attending a Memorial Plaque Dedication at Engine Company 2 for four heroic firefighters Stephen Gunn, Edward Barrett, Arthur Spacone and Joseph Downing, who had lost their lives in South Boston while on active duty over the years, a retired firefighter asked me a direct no nonsense question. "Ray, the city has many problems that need solutions - public safety, drugs, and certainly the public schools, but I'm deeply concerned about our country's financial situation. The people know this, but our politicians seem paralyzed to do anything about solving the problem."

I talked about all the partisanship and anger in government today and how it is destroying our government's ability to get anything done. But then he shifted gears and asked me about the mayor's race and what do I consider the challenges ahead. I said that he defined some of the key problems, but let me add two other ones. The next mayor may have to deal with

a couple of very serious problems, which could have a profound impact on the taxpayers of the city for years to come. The first one will be the city's contractual obligations with city unions and its potential financial consequences. Dealing firmly but fairly with unions is one of the most important management responsibilities of any mayor. The second major problem and probably the most important will be reforming the development process in Boston by making it fair, open and transparent. Developers have more political power in Boston than anyone. Development is good for the city, it creates jobs, but if it hurts our taxpayers with "sweetheart deals" to developers, and destroys the integrity of the development process, it can be very damaging to the reputation of our great city.

I further said, in the upcoming mayoral debate I would make the following commitment. The day after the election, I would call

for a complete audit of the city's finances, including its outstanding unfunded contractual obligations to police, fire and city workers. This is in the hundreds of millions of dollars which could seriously hurt other essential city services. This will require hard and difficult decisions which unfortunately no fiscal "watchdog agency" or "independent institution" has been willing to address. Kick the problem over to the next mayor is not a prudent policy.

The candidates have naturally been trying to talk about how they intend to provide a new hope and better services for the voters, but the sad fact is however, they may have very little money to do that. As I often said, "you can't spend money you don't have." People have to get involved in their city once again. Thirty percent voter turnout in Boston in the past preliminary election is a sad state of civic pride in Boston. In 1983, seventy percent of Boston voters turned out for the

final and sixty percent voted in the preliminary election, in this once politically proud city.

In addition to an outside financial audit, I would demand a review of all development decisions that have been made by various agencies of the city over the last several months. I'd want to know if the taxpayers got a fair and honest deal. If not, what can be done about it? The voters deserve answers.

I'm convinced that both candidates have the ability and integrity to lead Boston in a new and enlightened direction, but we also owe it to the people of the City of Boston to look back and review how we got into this situation. Development deals mean millions of dollars for developers and their paid political lobbyists. Certainly, the money shouldn't come out of the pockets of Boston taxpayers. As I famously said in a City Hall Plaza mayoral debate in 1983 while pointing over my shoulder to City Hall, "this building is not for sale."



Support for WW II Vets On Display

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

Polls show that reaction to the federal government's partial shutdown varies. Americans are pretty much now evenly divided as to who is at fault and what the solutions should be. But those same polls also show that an overwhelming majority of US citizens were very displeased at the treatment so many veterans received last week when, as they arrived by the bus loads; for pre booked trips to visit the World War II Memorial they were met with barricades and park rangers who attempted to prevent them from entering and viewing this open air outdoor display. The mood of Americans then turned to anger at the actions of government officials but heart felt pride and admiration for these veterans; most of them in their 80's and 90's who refused to be stopped.

As the reports stated, the veterans, many in wheel chairs and using walkers, "swept passed

security and those barriers to get to the monument." Here in South Boston, a group of concerned residents wanted to do their part to show support for our own local WW II veterans as well as veterans nationwide. They drew up a flier and appealed to South Bostonians to send a clear and visible message showing that support by bringing flowers to lay at South Boston's own beautiful WW II memorial on this neighborhood's beach. The fliers were sent around by email, by hand and the word got around by word of mouth as well.

The writing was simple, short and to the point. The words were in bold print with a waving Old Glory, the US Constitution in the background and a photo of an American Eagle: It read as follows:

"In response to the government's recent decision to close the World War II Memorial in Washington DC and the decision to prevent our veterans accessibility to honor

their fallen comrades, we would like to show our support locally, we would like to ask all of you to please place a bouquet of flowers at the WW II Memorial in South Boston. This sends a clear message to our veterans in South Boston and across the country that we have not forgotten their sacrifice and service to our nation."

The flier was sent out late Friday evening. We immediately posted it on the South Boston Today facebook page. By early Saturday morning it was apparent that South Bostonians agreed with this message. Stacked up at the base of the World War II Memorial were dozens of bouquets of fresh flowers and live plants sending an unmistakable message of support to our veterans that in this community and in towns and cities all across the country, America's veterans will continue to be honored and no government shutdown or other actions will ever diminish that.



In response to the Government's recent decision to close the WWII Memorial in D.C. and the decision to prohibit our veteran's accessibility to honor their fallen comrades we would like to show our support locally by asking all of you to please place a bouquet of flowers at the WWII memorial in South Boston. This sends a clear message to our veterans in South Boston and across this country that we have not forgotten their sacrifice and service for our nation.

Military Appreciation Tonight

Councilor Bill Linehan will host a Military Appreciation Night Tonight at Shenanigans for members of all services and of all wars. The event begins at 6 PM and will end at 9 PM with a small buffet. "We welcome all of our great veterans as well as Gold Star Mothers to come by have a bite to eat, meet old friends and share stories. We look forward to seeing you tonight at 6PM at Shenanigan's on West Broadway

SBT



www.southbostontoday.com



Stepping Up and Stepping Out:

Your Guide to the Southie Scene and the “Southie Senses”

South Boston Today begins a regular series about life in South Boston and all that it has to offer. Southie is a vibrant and growing community and there are so many ways for residents to become connected and involved. Here are some of the best ways to see, hear, taste, touch and smell all that is Southie. From City Point to Fort Point to the South Boston Waterfront, there are so many opportunities to put your senses to good use!

Stepping Up: Give A Little, Get A Little

No good deed goes unpunished.

Nothing is free and everything comes with a price. Both expressions suck the humanity out of pretty much everything. Sure, sometimes volunteer work goes unappreciated and assumed. And yes, our time/money can be taken for granted. But weren't we taught that you don't give to get? Offering your services for a cause you truly believe in should be the reward. An expectation that someone is going to give you praise because you did something “unselfish” is unwarranted; better bust out your ‘self high-five’. To say that helping others doesn't lend to some type of compensation is false; when we do good, we feel good. Here in South Boston, residents

of our corner of the city and some of those who just occupy the commercial space 9-5, have whipped up a couple of events where you can break the rules! As the great Mick Jagger once said “You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes well you might find you get what you need.”

Reap What You Sow

Want to have your cake and eat it too? It can all happen at South Boston Grows Community Meals series slated to start Wednesday October 16th, with additional dates of the 23rd and 30th. A \$20 donation pays for your meal and is applied to the needs of SBG youth programs. There will

also be a drawing, drinking, music and I am sure, some dancing, in the Factory 63 community room. Just another way for all of Southie- new residents and old- to come together for a good cause- with a little fun sprinkled in. Maybe it won't be cake you'll eat, unless it was concocted from something grown in the garden, but it sure will taste and feel good.

bostongrows.org
factory63.com

TUGG at Your Heartstrings

Friends with benefits. Pure genius- get a bunch of innovators, entrepreneurs and philanthropists, throw in some booze, bites and beats- and you've got yourself a

block party with an added bonus. The Design Exchange Boston is a week of activities that engage and promote the world of design in a growing and novel economy such as ours. And with this success comes a price that so many individuals are willing, ready and able to pay. This Friday October 10th, TUGG (Technology Underwriting Greater Good) partners with Empire Boston to put on a celebration of the ever-evolving world of creative design and philanthropy. This fete is free of charge; TUGG just asks that you make a donation to one of their many beneficiary institutions. Everyone wins!

tugg.org
dxbboston.com

Stepping Out: Brew Ha Ha

Beer: a word that probably comes in as a close second to ‘Ok’ as the most common word known in the world. Whether you call it cerveza, bier, birra or biere and whatever your preference: ale, lager or stout, in whatever vehicle- bottle, can, pint glass, cold mug or red Solo- it is delivered, all reactions equal satisfaction. You can use it to make bread and batter, fertilize your lawn, polish pots; hell, it can even aid in passing a kidney stone. The possibilities are endless! But let's be honest- nothing is better when it is served up to be sipped. With some amazing and accommodating venues in Southie, there are a few occasions where our love affair with the wonder brew can continue. Step right up to the passion pit.

Beer-ter Late Than Never

Most five year olds cannot boast the success and drinking prowess that this young'un has achieved- and honestly, they shouldn't try.

This Thursday October 10th, M.J. O'Connors is celebrating its 5th anniversary at the Westin Waterfront by turning their patio into a German wonderland, extending the Oktoberfest holiday a few more days. Entrance to this event is limited so get tickets while they last. O'Connors- quenching Thirsty Thursdays.

mjoconnors.com
mjsoktoberfest.eventbrite.com

Catch My Draft?

Want to see where the magic happens? What's behind the iron (stainless steel) curtain? This Friday October 10th, Design Exchange Boston and Harpoon, host a tour, tasting and tipping back of a pint of Southie's famous brewery. Afterwards test out Harpoon's beer hall and pick up a pretzel and another pop- I guarantee you will come out with some trick of your own!

harpoonbrewery.com
dxbboston.com



Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.

Southie Senses:

Things to touch, see, taste, smell and hear in Southie



Touch: *Grab Your Slice of the Pie*

Apple, pumpkin, chocolate cream; you thinkin' what I'm thinkin'? YUM- pie!!! But those flaky and buttery molds don't just cradle sweet fillings; this is a time of year for savory stuffs. K.O. Pies located on 'A' St. will have your mouth watering before you hit the front door. With offerings of beef & cheese, Irish stew and curried vegetables, banana cream will be but a distant memory. With an additional location in Eastie, our friends across the bay can save their toll money: more pie. Get in my belly! kocateringandpies.com



See: *Can You See What I See?*

Rin tin tin. From afar, it looks like a display from Flanagan's on West Broadway. As you get a little closer, flashbacks of sitting at the dining room table at Grandma's where you couldn't get up because you didn't finish your lima beans, flicker past your eyes. Like out of a movie, forms, built out of canned goods and fashioned into images from some famous flicks, are on display at the BSA space's gallery exhibit, Canstruction. In it's 18th year of competition, with the help of local architects/designers/engineers and Stop & Shop, these screen shots are available for viewing October 14th- November 1st. Judging will be open to the public October 14th-16th; at the end of the reveal all canned goods will be donated to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. You decide who gets "canned".

bbsaspace.org • canstruction-boston.org



Taste: *Leaves a Sweet Taste in Your Mouth*

The Boys of October are back! Our beloved Red Sox clinched the ALDS/East championship in 3 out of 4 games and face an unknown opponent in the next series, so they will enjoy 3 days of rest/relaxation/celebration before getting up to bat again. The excitement around the city is palpable and the topic of conversation. This is very true of Southie, where you will find many people out on the town game nights, sure not to miss a moment to make dinner or grab a six pack. And watching the game with fellow fanatics makes everything taste better. Get on down to the Beer Garden, grab a bite/brew/barstool and make besties with your bartender. Savor the flavor of victory! bostonbeergarden.com



Smell: *Get a Whiff of This*

This weather change gives me a hankering for something hearty and homemade. Though my mom is only blocks away, if I asked her about a home cooked meal, she would be expecting an invite to my place. Not what I was thinking... You can however have Thanksgiving 365 days a year in South Boston. My Diner, on 'A' St., offers an on site roasted turkey dinner with a variety of fixins' to eat on premise, take out, and wait for it-DELIVERY. As if you could get better than that, they have a website with a menu for easy viewing. Breathe easy. astmydiner.com



Hear: *What's All the Buzz About?*

Those busy little bees are at it again. The Seaport Hotel has found another use for its in house honey- beer. Using 300 out of it's 350 lb. honey harvest, the Seaport in conjunction with Long Trail Brewing Co., gives us Honey Ginger I.P.A. A featured pint at the TAMO bar, it is ready for your stamp of approval. Go on and catch a buzz! tamobar.com

Embrace All Of The Southie Senses:



Southie- South of the Border

September 15th- October 15th marks National Hispanic Heritage month- a fiesta commemorates all those that speak one of the original romance languages- Spanish. Culture and history are shared in many ways- one being food. Though there are so many countries and dialects that descend from the mother tongue, but most popular as far as cuisine is concerned is Mexican. Sip on margaritas at Salsa's, grab \$2 tacos on Tuesdays at Barlow's, view the scene and scenery at Temazcal, hear the slurping of ceviche and coronaritas at Papagayo and smell the aroma of fresh guacamole being made at Rosa Mexicano. If you are la reina o el rey de la cocina (the queen or the king of the kitchen), here are some recipes that are sure to make your willing subjects taste buds bailar (dance). ¡Ole Mole!

Visit my blog at southboston.com to see the recipes.



Who is Laela?

Born and raised in this town, Laela believes that contributing to your neighborhood through volunteer work and socializing within the community are inborn in the people of South Boston. Those innate characteristics are interwoven into every fiber of a South Bostonian's being. Continuing the traditions that the South Boston community has always practiced, the features Stepping Up and Stepping Out are two ways in which old AND new residents can find opportunities to do what Southie has always done: give back. Both "born and raised" and the new Southie generation will be able to carry on these practices.

New Digital Mammography Suite at SB Health Center

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Margaret Lynch

October brings with it traditional autumn colors - orange, gold, brown and plum. But perhaps the most brilliant and important addition to the October palette is the pink of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, designated to remind us to take charge of our breast health to prevent this disease. The good news is that significant progress has been made since the October awareness campaign was first launched more than twenty five years ago. Millions of dollars have been raised for breast cancer research, and the rate of women dying from this disease has been dropping. Today, there are over 2 million women living in the United States who have been treated for this disease. When breast cancer is detected early, the five-year survival rate is 98 percent.

However, not all the news is good. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer in American women. In Massachusetts alone 5820 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 810 women will die from the disease. Survival rates could be increased through the use of effective screening tools. The combination of monthly breast self-exams, yearly clinical breast exams, and regular mammograms beginning at age 40 is the best way to detect breast cancer in its earliest and most treatable stages.

Here are specific steps you should take:

Breast Self-Exam (BSE): Every woman should examine her breasts once a month to check for physical changes. If you are unsure of how to perform a breast self-exam, ask your health care provider to demonstrate



and explain the ideal time to conduct one. It is very important for women to become familiar with their breasts and understand what feels normal. Start early, beginning at age 20.

Clinical Breast Exam (CBE): Be sure to ask your health care provider to give you a clinical breast exam each year. The exam consists of checking the breasts for any changes, lumps, or other possible warning signs of breast cancer through physical touch and appearance. You should begin having clinical breast exams in your 20's and 30's.

Mammography: Beginning at age 40, all women should have an annual mammogram. It is a good idea to have a baseline mammogram at age 35. The mammogram is an "x-ray"

of the breast and is the most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer, long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt.

It is also important to know that while all men and women are at risk, some women are at a higher risk. Age itself is a risk factor for breast cancer; the majority of women diagnosed are over the age of 50. Also at higher risk are women with a family history of breast cancer, women with inherited abnormal genes, women who have previously had cancer in one breast, and obese women with sedentary lifestyles.

Breast cancer is often detected in its earliest stage as an abnormality on a mammogram before it can be felt by a woman or by her health care provider.

The following may occur when a cancer has grown to the point where physical signs and symptoms are present: breast lump or thickening; swelling, redness or tenderness; skin or nipple changes in color or texture; dimpling or puckering of the skin; nipple pain, discharge, scaliness or retraction; and, lumps under the armpit area. If you experience any of these symptoms, see your health care provider immediately.

Some other common sense prevention tips – that are appropriate beyond breast cancer as well – are to eat a low fat diet, exercise regularly, and not smoke. And if you suspect that you are at high risk for the disease, talk to your health care provider. With the strides being made in prevention, there are drugs available to help prevent breast cancer for the higher risk categories.

Let the pink you see this October serve as a reminder to get screened, but be vigilant about prevention all year round. If you are in need of a mammogram, South Boston Community Health Center now offers the latest in digital mammography technology. You can call the South Boston Community Health Center's Radiology Department at 617-464-7624 to set up your appointment. Appointments available Monday - Friday, as early as 8:30 AM and as late as 6:30 PM.

Margaret Lynch is the spouse of Congressman Stephen Lynch and is the Director of Marketing and Development for the South Boston Community Health Center. She is a member of the Congressional Families Cancer Prevention Program of the Prevent Cancer Foundation.

CONTINUED FROM page 3

The other related battle raging is of course over ObamaCare. The question many are asking is, if ObamaCare is so good, why is it that Obama himself, his family, The Congress, the Senate and all their aides want no part of enrolling in it themselves? Are there any who cannot see the inconsistency in this?

And finally, here in Boston we have a disgruntled accused terrorist in our midst. Poor little Dzhokhar Tsarnev, the surviving brother from the Marathon Bombing has complaints. Reports say he is not happy with his living conditions in jail. He gets limited access to the outdoors and to TV. Now with what happened as a result of

those bombs being set off, you'd think the reaction to his whining would be that everyone would either be laughing that he has the nerve to make his demands or mad about it. And most people either way are. But remember, this guy actually has a following of little groupie supporters who think he should be set free or at the very

least, treated with understanding and kindness because as one 20 year fan of his said on her social media site – "He's so cute". How do you respond to people like this? It really isn't funny, but it's hard not to laugh at the mindset we're dealing with here.

Note: Talk back to John Ciccone by email at jjciccone@southbostontoday.com

The Artists' Studio



Made in Fort Point

Store and Gallery of The Fort Point Arts Community, presents: Kippy Goldfarb, Worlds within Worlds, October 1 - 31, 2013

Opening Reception Thursday October 10, 5-7pm

Made in Fort Point will be featuring photography by Kippy Goldfarb for the month of October.

"I love photographing nature, particularly flowers and trees. In the past two years I have taken images of details of flowers, explored those details through repetition, recombination and re-coloration." In this show, Kippy continues that process with trees, exploring what happens along boundary lines between repeated elements. "In the right combination, boundaries take on a life of their own; resolution of those boundaries creates worlds within worlds."

Kippy Goldfarb (Carolle Photography) has been an artist and professional photographer in the Boston area for over 30 years, and has had a studio in Fort Point since 1987. In addition to her art, she specializes commercially in photographing special events, theatre productions, portraits and headshots for actors, writers, artists, business trainers and executives. Her photographs have been displayed in a number of galleries throughout New England and Nationally. Her work is in private collections in the U.S., in collections at The Centre Pompidou and the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, France. She holds a M.Ed.

from Harvard in photography/acting/psychology.

Location and Hours: The Fort Point Arts Community's store and gallery is located at 30 Channel Center Street, off of A Street (adjacent to Barlow's Restaurant) in Fort Point. Monday-Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday and Sunday 12pm-4pm.

Made in Fort Point is a store, gallery, community space, performance venue, and informal incubator for artists and small arts-related businesses. We encourage new ideas, collaboration, connections, and economic growth. MIFP sells and exhibits the art, craft, and design of over 75 Fort Point artists.

About The Fort Point Arts Community:

The Fort Point Arts Community, Inc. of South Boston (FPAC) is a non-profit founded in 1980 to enrich the Fort Point area with an artists live/work population that contributes to the district's and the City of Boston's cultural life. In Fort Point, artists not only create art, we advocate for the development of permanent studio space, present two Open Studios events each year, organize art lending programs, run two galleries and a store, produce temporary public art, and are active participants in determining the future of our neighborhood.



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Fire Fighters Lost in Line of Duty Honored

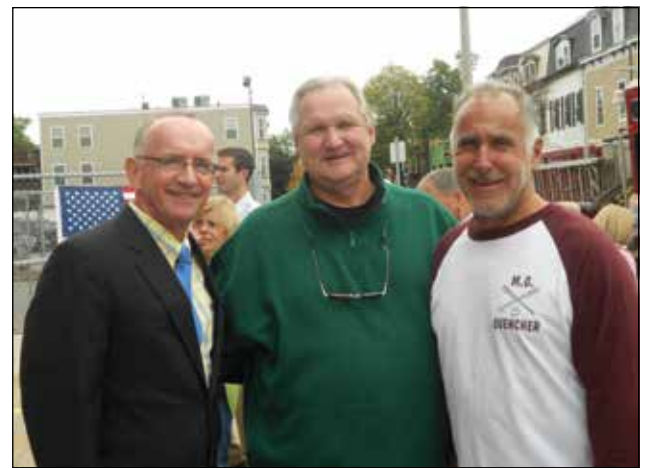
It was a long time in coming but last Saturday, on a beautiful autumn day, at the corner of K & East Fourth Street, at the Engine Company 2 Fire House, 4 true American heroes were honored for their outstanding service and for losing their lives in the line of duty so many years ago. Bronze Memorial Plaques were installed on the outside of the red brick station that has stood guard in this community for many generations in honor of South Boston's courageous firefighters.

These plaques were dedicated to the service and memories of

Stephen F. Gunn: Died in the line of duty on February 3rd, 1946, Edward J. Barrett: Died in the line of duty also on February 3rd, 1946, Arthur P. Spacone: Died in the line of duty on December 25th, 1959 and Joseph J. Dowling: Died in the line of duty on October 16th, 1970.

The large crowd that gathered for the Memorial dedication was made up of family members and friends of the deceased and also of grateful neighbors who either had fond personal memories of these great men but also others who did not know them personally but wanted to be part of the gathering to show





support and gratitude to those who lost their lives protecting the citizens of this city doing the jobs they loved so much.

Guest speakers included local elected officials State Representative Nick Collins and City Councilor Bill Linehan, Pastor Robert Casey,

as well as representatives from the Boston Fire Dept: Captain Joseph Casper, Captain Joseph Provencano, Rich Paris, the Fire Fighter's Local 718 President and retired commissioner Paul Christian. Janet O'Connor, granddaughter of Edward Barrett also spoke. Unveiling the

Plaques were Janet O'Connor, Barbara Gerbick, daughter of Arthur Spacone and Jo-Anne Downing, the widow of Joseph Downing. Captain Joe Provenzano stated that "two groups of people that the people of South Boston have always respected and cared about are their soldiers

and their firefighter."

It was a moving ceremony filled with emotion and feelings of pride as a grateful neighborhood turned out in large numbers showing once again and often that in South Boston, we never, ever forget our heroes.

CASTLE ISLAND ASSOCIATION SENIOR SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
JUNE 15 - NOVEMBER 2, 2013

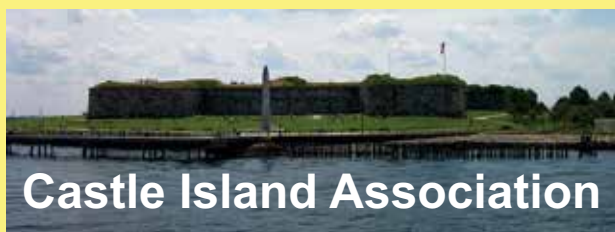
WEATHER PERMITTING

10:00a - 24 Bellflower St.
10:10a - Devine @ Old Colony Ave. (Task Force Building)
10:15a - 185 West Ninth St.
10:20a - Telegraph St. @ Dorchester St.
10:30a - Farragut Rd. @ East Broadway
10:35a - Drop off Castle Island
10:50a - Castle Cove (Bolton St. Side)
11:00a - 200 D St. (Condon School)
11:10a - 120 H St.
11:20a - 199 H St.
11:25a - Farragut Rd. @ East Broadway
11:30a - Drop off @ Castle Island
11:45a - 1380 Columbia Rd. (Compass Bay)
11:55a - 120 L St.
12:05p - Farragut Rd. @ East Broadway
12:15p - Drop off @ Castle Island

12:30p-2:00p Shuttle from residential locations in South Boston to Castle Island (seniors may call the shuttle company 617-268-4110 the day prior to schedule a ride during this time period).

Return Trips: 2:30p-4:00p. Shuttle from Castle Island to various drop off locations in South Boston. Shuttle vehicle will return every 20 minutes. Departure times are as follows (subject to traffic delays at the Island) 2:30p, 2:50p, 3:10p, 3:40p, 4:00p. THE LAST DEPARTURE FROM CASTLE ISLAND WILL BE AT 4p.

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Castle Island Association
Representative Nick Collins and
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Castle Island Association

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Equal Housing Opportunity



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON SITE CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES March 2013 – September 2013

OFF-TERMINAL AREAS
935 East First Street, South Boston
RTN 3-00257

Coastal Oil New England, Inc. (CONE)
Tuesday, October 22nd, 7:00 PM

As part of the Public Involvement Plan process for the site at 935 East First Street, CONE will host a public information meeting about remediation and assessment activities for this site. The site is known as Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-00257 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the continued cleanup of the site pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).

The meeting will be held at the Curley Community Center, 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston, on Tuesday October 22nd, 2013 @ 7:00 PM. Please use the M Street entrance. This meeting will only address the Off-Terminal areas. PIP meetings for the On-Terminal portions of the site (i.e. 900 East First Street) are scheduled and held separately by Massport.

Copies of assessment and remediation documents produced during the last six months (including the recent September Remedy Operations Status Report) are available for review at the Northeast Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection or on-line at http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/.

Interested parties may also submit written questions or concerns to Michael Stiller, LSP at URS Corporation, 260 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110 or by e-mail at michael.stiller@urs.com.

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
178 I Street Three Family	\$890,000	Date of Sale 9/27/13	15	3	2798
452 East Third Street Two Family	\$855,000	9/27/13	10	2	2500
1500-1504 Columbia Road Condo	\$850,000	9/26/13			
1-11 Hamlin St UNIT 4 Condo	\$719,000	9/27/13	4	2	1479
525 East Second St UNIT 1 Condo	\$649,000	9/30/13	6	3	1833
141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 118 Condo	\$625,000	9/24/13	3	1	1008
124-D West Seventh St UNIT 14 Condo	\$550,000	9/27/13	6	2.5	1455
360 West Second St UNIT 10 Condo	\$549,000	9/30/13	4	2	1206
707 East Broadway UNIT 3 Condo	\$525,000	9/24/13	4	2	1126
214-216 West Fourth St UNIT 2L Condo	\$510,000	9/30/13	5	2	1050
435 West Seventh St UNIT 3 Condo	\$506,000	10/1/13	5	2	1115
153 I St UNIT 1 Condo	\$505,250	9/26/13	4	2.5	1155
138-142 West Ninth St UNIT 8 Condo	\$475,000	10/7/13	5	2	1258
529 East Broadway UNIT 8 Condo	\$365,000	9/27/13	3	1	525
66 Telegraph St UNIT 4 Condo	\$351,000	10/2/13	4	1	655
124 D St UNIT 1 Condo	\$335,000	10/2/13	4	1	791
102 Dorchester St UNIT R3 Condo	\$325,000	9/30/13	3	1	720
137-139A Dorchester St UNIT 2D Condo	\$225,000	9/25/13	3	1	549

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Annual Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, all were welcomed to bring their family pets to a Blessing of the Animals this past Friday October 4 at South Boston Catholic Academy and Sunday, October 6 after the 12 PM Mass at Gate of Heaven Church.

The Blessings were done by Deacon Matt Janeczko, who is a Franciscan. Bunnies, hamsters, fish, cats and many dogs received this special annual blessing.









Lace Them up for Barb - Breast Cancer Walk

Last Saturday, October 5th, the 'Lace them up Team' set up tables outside Julie's Family Learning Program at 133 Dorchester Street in South Boston to help get the word out and raise money to coincide with the 'Making Strides against Breast Cancer/Lace them up for Barb' walk which was held the next day.

At the tables, there were excellent items for sale as well as bake sale goods that were prepared to perfection. The tables were set up from Noon till 4 pm on what turned

out to be a beautiful picture perfect fall day. The mood was upbeat as shoppers and supporters stopped by to make purchases and donations and offer help for this worthy cause.

As the dedicated volunteers stated: "So many people have lost a loved one to this painful disease, some have fought and won and we can only continue to help fight the battle with them and support all efforts to end this disease". By helping the Lace them up Team, it is certainly assisting in this worthwhile campaign.

Kaitlyn Keaney Fund Golf and Benefit

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

Now in its 6th year and going stronger than ever, the annual Kaitlyn Keaney Memorial Golf Tournament and Benefit Party will be held on October 18th. So popular has this event become that the Golf Tournament part of the event filled up quickly but there is still room for anyone to go to the party that follows. The party takes place at the Cornerstone Pub on West Broadway in South Boston starting at 8: pm after the tournament.

Started by two of Boston's Finest, Boston Police officers Tommy Noto and Patrick Byrne wanted to do something special to honor the memory of fellow police officer Kaitlyn Keaney while helping others in need year round, but especially during the Christmas Season. Starting back in 2008, the fund has given more than \$35,000 in scholarships to Boston high school seniors for college scholarships and more than \$30,000 in other donations

to worthy causes and people who truly needed a hand up because of hardships, accidents, fires and any number of other tragedies. Needy families have benefited from this fund and countless children; who otherwise may not have received anything for Christmas, received toys and other gifts to give a boost their spirit during the Holiday season. In fact, the fund has donated well over \$5,000 in toys to needy kids.

The committee is accepting donations to help the cause and is looking forward to another successful event on the 18th. As Tom Noto stated, "We enjoy organizing this annual event and the fund in general. It's rewarding to do your part to help out so others in need can be helped."

Those interested in making financial donations and donations of gifts can learn more by calling 617-590-4615 or 617-892-2961. Or you can log onto the website at www.kaitlynkeaneyfund.com

Melissa Belmonte Enters UMass Boston Athletics Hall of Fame



On October 10th, Melissa Belmonte will be inducted into the Hall Of Fame Class of 2013 by the University of Massachusetts at Boston. A product of the South Boston Youth Hockey program and Fontbonne Academy, Melissa went on to an impressive career at UMB.

A member of the first four women's ice hockey teams

at UMass Boston, Melissa Belmonte '07 finished her career second all-time in career points with 157 (76 goals, 81 assists) and is one of only four members of the 100 point club. Named a two-time USCHO.com Preseason All-American, she was an ECAC East Second Team All-Conference selection in 2007. She also grabbed All-Rookie Team and Honorable Mention All-Conference honors in 2004.

Belmonte sits tied for first for most games played in program history, appearing in all 103 games that took place during her four years at UMass Boston. Her 76 career goals sit second most all-time behind 2013 Hall of Famer and classmate Andrea Ciarletta '07. Her 81 career assists stand

as the all-time Beacons high mark, while her seven career hat tricks and 18 multi-point games are second most.

She currently owns the program mark for career multi-point games with 46 and sits third in school history with 17 career power-play goals and eight game-winners. Belmonte ranks second in points scored in a single season by a freshman with 53, fourth in points by a senior with 44, and fifth in points by a junior with 40. She currently holds the program mark for power-play goals in a season with seven, and has tied for first in single season hat tricks with four. Her 25 assists as both a freshman and a junior is tied for third most.

She also stands as the program leader in most points recorded in a single game with six, which

she reached on two occasions. She also owns the record for most goals in a game with four, which she also recorded in two different contests.

Melissa is the sister of Ricky and the daughter of Richie and the late Sally Belmonte, South Boston Today extends its hearty congratulations to another successful native of South Boston.





SOUTH BOSTON YOUTH SOCCER

Mother Nature was not nice on Sunday. Could you believe that rain? Nice job to all the kids that showed up to play. Did you have fun running in the rain? I am sure the parents didn't have fun standing on the side lines. Just a couple of reminders before we begin a recap of last week's games.

COACHES: Remember it is important to turn in score sheets. If you do not pass one in there will not be any write up for your team and that is not fair to the children who show up week after week or the Sponsors. Remember all score sheets must be turned in by Monday morning at the latest. Also please fill all score sheets out correctly. For the coaches who have the last game in the Under 8 Division on Sunday, please remember to put the equipment away. Also make sure there is no parent or children (that are not playing the game) near the nets during the game. It is a distraction for the goalie.

PARENTS: Remember all children need to wear shin guards. If your child does not have them, they cannot play. No hats, or jewelry can be worn while playing – this is for the safety of the children. Also, if you have any problems at the field, please see one of the officers of the league and we will take care of all concerns immediately. And remember to stay away from the goalie while they are playing as it is a distraction. All parents should be on one side of the field and the players on the opposite side.

Please remember that all players (no matter what age) and coaches must turn in a concussion certificate. In order to receive your certificate you can logon to: <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/training/headsupconcussion.html>. For children ages 3 to 10 years old you can access another site <http://brain101.orcasinc/5000/.com>. It is a cartoon site and should hold their attention. After you have gone through this info you can go to the other site (see above) and fill out the info saying you and your child have

completed this class. These are not the rules of the South Boston Youth Soccer League. It is mandatory for any youth who are involved in activities on City of Boston properties to take the class. So please make sure you go to this website.

SNACK BAR: Please patronize the snack bar. All monies that are brought in at the snack bar go right back to the local sports teams that use the park, which helps defray some of the expenses to the league.

NEW SOCCER BANQUET DATES & TIMES: The Banquet will be held on Saturday, November 23rd at the South Boston Boys & Girls Club, 230 W. 6th Street, South Boston. Parents are asked to bring desserts. See times and age groups below:

UNDER 4: 12 noon
UNDER 6: 1:00 p.m.
UNDER 8 & UNDER 10: 2:00 p.m.
UNDER 12 & UNDER 18: 3:00 p.m.

And now on to a recap of the games:

UNDER 4 DIVISION:
 At the time of print no score sheets were available for the Small Fries sponsored by Sullivan's, Green Lightning sponsored by Congressman Stephen Lynch, Wolf Pack sponsored by John Hancock Insurance, Green Ninjas sponsored by Councilor Bill Linehan, Happy Green Monsters sponsored by Massport, the team by PAL, Sharks sponsored by FNISports and the Scoop sponsored by South Boston Today.

UNDER 6 DIVISION:
DOLPHINS
MOOSE
 The Dolphins sponsored by Marian Manor beat out their opponent when they scored six goals. All the players did a great job in the rain. The Moose sponsored by the McDonough Post Ladies Auxiliary had a goal kicked in by Rocco Blasi. Dakota Herbert played with lots of energy. Deacon Evricades played great defense. James McFarland had some big kicks. Great game by all who played in the rain. You showed lots of Heart! Ryan M, Katie, Jaelise, Juliana, Ryan C., Logan and Tessa.

Thanks for another awesome effort Moose!

HEAT RED ROCKETS

The Metro Energy Heat played a terrific game. Benjamin scored three goals assisted by Michael, Vasi and Robbie. Andrew scored a single goal assisted by Jack. Pierce did a dynamite job playing all positions. Griffin did a fabulous job manning the net and on defense. Noah showed the most enthusiasm. The Massport Red Rockets gave it their all but just came up short with two goals by Albin Valdez and a single goal by Kyle Lange. Christian Devlin, Jack Hynes and Ella Leeman turned in a stellar performance.

UNDER 8 DIVISION: HOT SHOTS FLYERS

The Boston Home Inspectors Hot Shots played a super game with goals by Derek Martinelli, Mya Donovan, Darin Grady and Tristen Peceovich. Cormac Armour and Brian Quimby played an outstanding game. Ronan Armour was terrific in net. The Massport Flyers kicked in a single goal. All the players did a terrific job.

SILVER HAWKS BLUE DEVILS

The Silver Hawks sponsored by O'Connell Insurance soared to a victory when Ryan Shields scored four goals and Marguerite Greene and Joseph Greene each scored a goal with assists going to Riley Joyce and Keara Wilbanks. Grainne Conlon did an awesome job as goaltender. The Silver Hawks played an incredible game with only six players. The Blue Devils sponsored by Joe Pace & Sons played a good game. Madison Jones scored the lone goal for her team. Maeve Corbitt was dazzling on defense. Nolan Baskiewicz made some nice saves while manning the net. Liana Flood was awesome on offense. At the time of print no score sheet was available for the Ninjas sponsored by Donahue & Associates and the Gang sponsored by The Billy Flaherty's Gang.

UNDER 10 DIVISION: LIGHTNING 5 SHAMROCKS 0

The Lightning sponsored by Massport shutout their opponent with two goals by Will Ahearn and single goals by Dylan Murtagh, Ethan Long and John Gilmartin. Tyler Morrill, Fiona Gilmartin, Jake Swartz, Andrew Menjin and Grainne McBride played a stellar game. The Shamrocks sponsored by Mt. Washington Bank did not score but it was not from lack of trying. All the team turned in a great effort. At the time of print no score sheets were available for the Southie Strong sponsored by Stapleton Florist, Jim Cahill Club Kickers, Boston Firefighters Credit Union Flames and the Hornets sponsored by Jeffrey Chubb Associates.

UNDER 12 DIVISION: JETS 4 MONSTERS 1

The Jets sponsored by the Michael J. Perkins Post A.L #67 Post beat out their competition today. All the players turned in a terrific performance. The Monsters sponsored by Eastern Bank had a lone goal kicked in off the foot of Patrick Harnan. Andrew Devlin, Rose Harnan, Rebecca Donovan, Jacob Downey, Grace Tinlin, David Murtagh, Peter Gailunas and Tyler Errico gave it their all. At the time of print no score sheets were available for the Massport Hot Totties and the O'Brien Funeral Home Lions.

UNDER 18 DIVISION: DECO LEASING 8 MASSPORT 2

The team sponsored by Deco Leasing Systems played a great game. Scorers were: Patrick Morris, David Zybor, Katelyn Evans, Josann George, Jacob Orchard and Evion McBride. Anna Stefanov did an awesome job in net. Emericjano McBride and Joey Morris did a great job bringing the ball down the field. David Rans was dynamic on defense. The Massport team had two goals kicked in. Nolan Rooney and Jake Rooney did a good job sharing the goaltending duties. James Lydon and Emm Carey played a good offensive game while Natalie Markarian and Holly Parece were working the defense. At the time of print no score sheets were available for the teams sponsored by Iron Workers Local #7 and Yankee Bus Lines.



Southie players warming up at Murphy Rink for their games in the Mayor's Cup Tournament.

South Boston Youth Hockey partners with Positive Coaching Alliance SOUTH BOSTON TODAY staff report

Whether you've lived here for more than 4 generations or 4 months, you can't help but know that South Boston has youth sports programs that make most organizations in other towns envious. With a good number of eager kids to play a variety of sports and willing adults to coach and give guidance, this neighborhood has sent its squads of fine young athletes to compete in the most prestigious competitions, contests and tournaments in the country and beyond. And it's not just the travelling teams that impress.

Those that stay and play local have the ability to put on a display that can keep even the most diehard sports fans entertained and happy.

Whether it's Little League or Babe Ruth Baseball, Pop Warner Football, CYO Basketball, Boys and Girls Club teams, Soccer, Lacrosse, Swimming, Boxing, Volleyball or Cheerleading, the young people in this community have always had opportunities and have been able to compete with the best anywhere. When you combine the raw talent that exists among local youth and the adult volunteers, South Boston's Youth Programs have often been called some

of the finest in the nation.

Prominent among this town's magnificent athletes have been its hockey players. Several of whom have gone on to play in the NHL. All of them got their start as members of the South Boston Youth Hockey League. And as many of you know, this year, the league has gone through some changes. A bit of restructuring and some reorganizing but still the top rate program that both locals and non-locals have come to expect.

This year SBYHL, in addition to providing fantastic playing opportunities both for home and away teams, it has

partnered with The 'Positive Coaching Alliance' (PCA), which is a youth sports and leadership organization. This program provides training to parents and coaches to help them improve athletic performance and life achievements through research based tools. Training for coaches is designed to develop a double goal coach, who strives to win while also pursuing the more important goal of life lessons through sports. 70% of youth athletes drop out of organized sports by the time they are 13, so training coaches on effective techniques to make sports fun again, improve performance and learn lessons valuable off the rink makes coaching a lot more rewarding.

This program also provides training for parents of youth athletes. Coaching from the sidelines, criticizing athletes and coach performances



after the game and excessive focus on winning today versus developing skills for tomorrow are proven to lower performance and participation. PCA teaches parents how to help focus their efforts on important life lessons like overcoming challenges allowing coaches and the athletes to focus on competing.

“We believe this program will provide big benefits for all of us” stated SBYHL spokesman Dana Seero. “This is not a ‘Feel Good’ program” continued Seero.” It was developed at Stanford University to develop athletic performance.” Coaching kids is different from coaching adults. Now we can all learn from the best techniques, benefitting players, coaches, parents and the community.”

For more information on the South Boston Youth Hockey League log onto www.sbyhl.org or contact at sbyhl@yahoo.com for more info on the PCA go to <http://newengland.positivecoach.org/>.

Publishers note: The South Boston Youth Hockey League will be holding a reunion, honoring Teddy Cunniff on Saturday, November 30th, at Carson Place – 7-Midnight. There will be live music, raffles, prizes and much more. Follow South Boston Today for more info on the reunion as the date approaches.



Jack Brosnihan one of the tournament referees.

CONTINUED FROM page 6

Sal LaMattina, City Councilor from East Boston chairs the City, Neighborhood Services & Veterans Affairs Committee which oversees the ordinance. Due to significant opposition the City Council scheduled a public hearing for mid-September which was suddenly cancelled. Councilor Charles Yancey originally voted for the measure is now opposed and has spearheaded the repeal effort. Yancey said of Bryan Glasscock, Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department’s

sudden change of schedule “I find it somewhat disturbing that the reason he gave for canceling the hearing is that one member of the administrative staff could not attend.” A rescheduled hearing on September 23, 2013 had heavy turnout with more than 200 small business owners packing City Council chambers.

Many landlords fear this is a covert measure aimed at implementing rent control. La Mattina concedes that the new mayor could decide to repeal the program should the Menino administration plow ahead.

A Superior Court Case is pending in Red Wing, MN (Robert McCaughtry v. City of Red Wing) arguing the constitutionality of a Minnesota apartment inspection program citing the government must have probable cause prior to searching, inspecting or entering private premises in adherence to the Fourth Amendment of the US Constitution. Shouldn’t the new mayoral administration determine such broadly sweeping legislation with substantive opposition and real questions of legality? Seems like a good idea to us.



Pop Warner C-Team Game Recap

It was South Boston vs. Medway in Pop Warner home games last Saturday. In a recap of the C Team game, Medway started off with two rushing touchdowns in the first quarter. In the second quarter, Southie's Morgan Curtis made a 60 yard kick return to bring the score to 14-7. Medway started the 2nd half with a

25 yard touchdown pass and extra points to make it 22-7 Medway. A 15 yard rushing touchdown by Curtis brought the score to 22-14 and Southie was in striking distance. Then Southie came on strong with a drive on a TD pass from Curtis to Nathan Martin bringing the score to 22-20 with Medway still in the lead.

Fourth quarter saw an interception by Thomas Donahue. With just 2 minutes left in the game, South Boston scored with a 20 yard pass from Morgan Curtis to Nathan Martin plus the extra point giving the Southie team the lead for the first time. But Medway came back to score soon after making the final score 28-27.

Though they came up a bit short, every player on the field that day gave an outstanding performance and made the home town crowd proud. The players also wore pink bands to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Congratulations to all for games well played and a display of good sportsmanship.

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“Mindset Is To Win”: The Time Is Now To Pay Talib

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Conor Ryan

Well, Patriots fans, it's certainly been an interesting start to the season, hasn't it? Despite dealing with key injuries and an overhauled wide receiver group, the Patriots are still on top in the AFC East with a 4-1 record and have received contributions from a collection of new and/or improved returning players. While a majority

of Patriots players have stepped up this season, the biggest impact on this team has been provided by cornerback Aqib Talib, who has elevated himself from a capable secondary player to a shutdown corner with a legitimate chance of winning the Defensive Player of the Year award.

While Talib has been nothing short of spectacular this season and

has had an instant impact on the rest of the New England defense, there could be trouble brewing down the road, as Talib is set to be a free agent at the end of this season. Based on his performance this season, as well as his influence on the Patriots defensive unit as a whole, Talib is the one player that New England cannot afford to lose. Acquired on Nov. 1, 2012 in a trade

with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Talib stepped in and immediately made an impact, as the New England defense only allowed more than 20 points in two of their last seven games last season.

This season, with an entire offseason to further study the Patriots defensive schemes, Talib has been even better, and it's shown in the team's defensive stats this season. Through the first five games of the regular season last year, the Patriots defense allowed 281.5 passing yards per game. This season, they have only allowed 228.6 yards per game and have only allowed 14 points per game.

While his impact on the team's defensive unit as a whole has been impressive, Talib has also put up incredible individual numbers. His four interceptions are tied with Buffalo's Kiko Alonso and Tennessee's Alterraun Verner for tops in the league while Talib has also shut down standout wide receivers such as Vincent Jackson, Julio Jones, and A.J. Green over the first five weeks of the season.

Simply put, Talib has been outstanding this season, and has been the best Patriots cornerback since Ty Law. (Sorry Asante Samuel fans.) However, there is dilemma brewing, as Talib is a free agent at the end of the season is expected to break the bank with a shiny new contract. There can be no excuses; the Patriots need to do everything in their power to resign the 27-year-old cornerback.

Not only has Talib taken on the role as shutdown corner, a position that the Patriots have been searching for what seems like almost a decade now, but also Talib has been able to transform this defensive unit from a laughing stock into a feared and cohesive unit. The Patriots have shown at times to be apprehensive about inking players to big contracts (look at Wes Welker and Richard Seymour for examples), but simply put, with their window to win slowly closing, the Patriots need Talib's skill and swagger if they want to continue to build a defense that could help the team win their fourth Super Bowl title.



Why the Bruins Power Play Will Improve this Season

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

It's no secret that the Bruins have many strengths which make them one of the best teams in the National Hockey League. There has, however, been one very apparent weakness for this Bruins team since they became a factor in the NHL again in 2008, accompanied with the departure of Marc Savard in 2009: their power play has stunk. The Bruins power play was ranked 26th in the short 2012 season, they only scored 18 times on the power play last year in 48 games (they scored 131 goals total on the year). In 2011, they were ranked 15th on the man advantage (17.2% effective); in 2010 they were ranked 20th (16.2%), and in 2009 they were ranked 23rd (16.6%). The last time Marc Savard wore the B's sweater for a full season was 2008, that

year, the Bruins were ranked 4th on the power play (23.6% effective).

Can the Bruins get back to the point where they are scoring on nearly 1 out of every 4 power plays? It would seem they are trending in that direction with some of the personnel they've added to the roster. They went 8 of 44 in the postseason last year (up to 18.2%) and looked particularly strong against the Rangers (after added Torey Krug at the blue line). They scored on 9 of 27 on the power play this preseason (33.3% - although you can place too much value to what happens in the preseason).

The Bruins, over the past half decade, have been better off playing 5 on 5 hockey - which is mind-boggling to most avid Bruins fans, because they are consistently among the top teams in the league

in the plus-minus category, and their offense has produced plenty of goals. What's new about the power play this year? Jarome Iginla, the first power play unit is a nightmare for the opposition to defend. They have so much more motion happening now, where in the past they would seem to be stuck in one position on the ice moving the puck around, there is no constant motion from all five players on the man advantage. The five players will have plenty to do with the success of the B's power play this year.

First, add Jarome Iginla to the mix. This guy has proven over nearly two decades that he is a top sniper in the league. He's made a living scoring goals on the power play, and now he's got a guy like David Krecji setting him up. Krecji is one of the few puck "magicians"

out there in the NHL, there are not many better at slowing the play down and find space for his wingers - and a great winger like Jarome Iginla, who know how to finish off a play by putting the puck in the back of the net, will be salivating with some of the looks he's going to get this season on the power play. Don't forget, on the other side, left-winger Milan Lucic is another guy who creates space for his line-mates, his intimidating presence causes huge problems for the opposing defense. He's a guy that can create unforced turnovers just by being on the ice. Not to mention, he's got a pretty lethal shot himself (as we saw on his goal in the season opener against the Lightning).

Perhaps the most intriguing part of the Bruins new-look power play is what they're doing with their

defense. Torey Krug joined the Bruins in round 2 of the postseason this summer, and all he did was light up perhaps the best goalie on the planet in Henrik Lundqvist, for 4 goals in his first 5 games as an NHL player. This season, he looks that much more experienced. He has a quick release, but his shot is heavy, and most importantly, it's accurate. Krug scored his first goal of the season on Saturday against Detroit, on a bomb from the blue line while the Bruins had the man advantage. Bruins fans are going to love Torey Krug, because one thing he does that B's fans haven't seen for a while is pull the trigger when he gets the opportunity. He puts the puck on net with a purpose.

That leads to the final key to the Bruins first power play unit. Zdeno Chara, known for his record breaking hardest shot (clocked up past 108mph), may have found a new home on the B's man advantage, and surprisingly, it's not at the point where he can unload that slap shot of his, it's at the front of the net, where he's using his record breaking height (at 6'9" Chara is the tallest player in league history) to screen the goaltender. Goalies cannot see past him, and the opposing defense cannot move him from the front of the net. It is going to be an absolute nightmare for opponents to plan how to defend big Z down low on the power play. The concern with having Chara play in front of the net is the possibility that he could sustain an injury battling in front. The last the Bruins need is their captain sitting out for any chunk of the season.

The Bruins have 2 power play goals on 7 attempts in two games thus far in the regular season, it's a small sample, but it's right on track to score 1 out of every 4 attempts. The Bruins power play will feature Zdeno Chara parked in front of opposing goaltenders while Torey Krug, Jarome Iginla, Milan Lucic, and David Krejci are all buzzing around the offensive zone. This first unit is sure to be a lethal force, should they remain together and healthy all season long.

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com





MLB Postseason Has a Different Look

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard



It's October and the MLB Postseason is heating up. This season there were no shortages of surprise postseason appearances in both the American and National League. The Oakland Athletics, The Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Boston Red Sox are three teams that nobody expected to be playing this time of the year. It's always great when an underdog battles through the regular season to grab hold of a little postseason glory, but do any of these teams have what it takes to win a World Series?

The Oakland A's are an underdog team. Make no mistake, despite their postseason appearance last October (their first playoff appearance since 2006), many believed the 2012 Athletics caught lightning in a bottle. But the A's came back this year to prove last season was no joke. Oakland has solid pitching. They don't have big names on offense apart from Yoenis Cespedes, who represented the A's at the Home Run Derby this year. They get production up and down their lineup.

Not one hitter on the Athletics reached 100 RBI this season; however they got 93 RBI from 27 year old third-baseman Josh Donaldson, 87 RBI from first-baseman Brandon Moss (who led the team with 30HR), 80 RBI from left-fielder Yoenis Cespedes, and another 79 RBI from short stop Jed Lowrie. Some of the A's divisional opponents (the Houston Astros) and an easy late season

schedule helped the Athletics gain home field advantage over the Detroit Tigers, the team that knocked the A's out of the postseason last year 3-2 in the ALDS.

The Athletics managed to put together a great game on Monday. The A's took Detroit pitcher Anibal Sanchez deep three times en route to victory (Sanchez gave up fewer home runs per batter than any starter in the league this season). Right fielder Josh Reddick hit a solo shot, Brandon Moss was 1 for 7 in the series before he hit a bomb to right field in game 3 to break a 3-3 tie, and Seth Smith added another homer for good-measure, which ended Sanchez's night. The A's chip away at the plate, grinding out at-bats, and wearing down their opponents' pitchers. The Athletics won game 3 on the road against the Tigers, the final score was 6-3, to take a 2-1 series lead in the ALDS.

Catcher Stephen Vogt is a perfect example of someone who produces for the Athletics when no one else saw a place for him. Vogt was 0-25 starting the season off last summer with the Tampa Bay Rays. After being released, the A's picked up his contract for \$150,000. He started 0-12 before getting his first major league hit this summer, it was a home run. Last Saturday, Vogt singled home the game winning run in the 9th inning of a 1-0 victory in game 2 over Detroit. He also caught 8 scoreless innings for rookie Sonny Gray, who out-dueled perennial Cy

Young contestant, Justin Verlander.

When he started game 2 on Saturday, Sonny Gray had only pitched 12 games in the majors, for a total of 64 innings-pitched. Justin Verlander had pitched 266 games and 1,772 innings. During the game, Gray only surrendered four hits - three of which were infield singles - and struck out nine batters. The A's win games when all reason is against them. Forget looking good on paper, this team looks good on the baseball diamond - and that makes them a confident, dangerous, and fun team to watch throughout the playoffs. They have a chance to eliminate the Tigers on Tuesday, October 8th, at 5PM - game 5 would take place in Oakland on Thursday, October 10th, at 9PM.

The Red Sox are taking on the Rays in the ALDS. The Rays might be surprising to some, but to those who have followed the team the past half-decade, it's no surprise at all (they have had postseason appearances in 4 of the last 6 seasons). The Rays have a deep starting pitching rotation, solid defense, and plenty of players that can spark the offense. On the other side, the Red Sox have won two World Series in the past decade, but after a massive collapse saw Terry Francona run out of town, no one thought the Sox would be back this quickly or in the fashion which they have returned, as the top team in the American League.

The Red Sox are the real surprise in the AL East. Some may forget, or may

not want to remember that the Sox haven't had a postseason berth since they were swept out of the ALDS by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in 2009. That was a team with Jason Varitek, Mike Lowell, Kevin Youkilis, Jason Bay, and J.D. Drew. The pitching staff consisted of Josh Beckett, Brad Penny, Tim Wakefield, Daisuke Matsuzaka, and a closer by the name of Jonathan Papelbon. The following season was a year the Sox used to rebuild, they failed to reach the playoffs in 2010.

Then in 2011, the Sox decided to put together what many deemed to be one of the best Red Sox teams of all time - the big offseason acquisitions being Adrian Gonzalez and Carl Crawford. That season, the Red Sox had a nine-game lead in the American League Wild Card race with just 24 games left to play. Needless to say, after 24 games and a whole lot of "fried chicken and beer", it was the Tampa Bay Rays clinching the American League Wild Card spot, not the Red Sox. It did not get better following a clubhouse overhaul and the departure of Terry Francona, in 2012, the Red Sox went 69-93, and came in last place in their division.

The 69-93 record marked the worst season this franchise had seen since 1965, when the team went 62-100. Bobby Valentine's 2012 Red Sox were a total mess, and nobody expected them to come out of the basement the way they did in 2013. John Farrell took over as the Manager



- a guy that General Manager Ben Cherington has always wanted in the dugout. Cherington should be credited with reconstructing a Red Sox team that had plenty of holes entering the 2013 season. He brought in Shane Victorino, Mike Napoli, Johnny Gomes, Stephen Drew, and Koji Uehara this past offseason - all of whom have been productive members of the Red Sox lineup.

During the season, he brought in David Ross to provide needed depth at the catching position, and just before the trade deadline, he acquired Jake Peavy from Detroit for the young short stop prospect Jose Iglesias, strengthening the starting rotation. The Red Sox also have their core intact - Sox fans should be happy that when the smoke cleared away from the rubble that was this team for the past three seasons, that Dustin

Pedroia, David Ortiz, Jacobo Ellsbury, John Lester, Clay Buchholz, and even John Lackey are still around leading the way in Boston.

The Red Sox are a team that has a real shot to make it to the World Series, as they have a pretty complete lineup and deep starting pitching. They have a chance to close out the Rays after Tampa forced a game 4 off a walk-off homer by Jose Lobaton in the bottom of the 9th inning on Monday. Game 4 will take place Tuesday October 8th at 8:30PM, if necessary, game 5 will take place at Fenway Park on Thursday, October 10th at 5:30PM

The Pittsburgh Pirates, however, are the surprise team of the season. The Pirates are a team that, as a franchise, hasn't been to the postseason in 21 years (their last appearance being in 1992). To put that into perspective, the Yankees have been to the postseason

17 times since the last time Pittsburgh played in October (another reason this postseason may seem strange - the Yankees are not a part of it). As a result, the Pirates have the loudest crowd in the playoffs. The Pirates have responded against St. Louis, who have been to the postseason 4 of the last 5 seasons, including a World Series victory in 2011. The Cardinals are a team with more experience than the Pirates, but it hasn't mattered to this point.

How did the Pirates go from being a team that was consistently at the bottom of the standings to a legitimate postseason threat? They're not stacked, but they have plenty of guys who get the job done. It may have all started when the franchise drafted Andrew McCutchen 11th overall in the first round of the 2005 amateur draft, but really the on field-improvement began after McCutchen made his major league debut in 2009. His best season to this point in his career statistically was the 2012 season, where he hit .327 with 31HR and 96RBI. The Pirates had an abysmal 2010, when they went 57-105 and were looking up at the rest of the majors.

Since, the winning percentage has increased every season, in 2011 the Pirates went 72-90 (.444 winning %), in 2012 they went 79-83 (.488 winning percentage). This season was different, the team had a winning attitude. McCutchen hit .317 with 21 home-runs and 84 RBI. They're also getting a bit more power from Pedro Alvarez, who is hitting .233 with 36 home runs and 100 RBI. The team made a big jump this year by going 94-68 (a winning % of .580) and

earned themselves a trip to the NL Wild Card Series, where they beat the Cincinnati Reds in the one-game playoff, 6-2 was the final.

By the way, the Pirates pitching isn't too shabby either. A revitalized Francisco Liriano is leading the way for a young Pirates team. On top of providing veteran experience, he's providing some sick pitching, with a hard fast ball and a slider that has had hitters swinging and missing all season long (that slider is his go-to 2-strike pitch). Some may have forgotten about Liriano, as he hasn't been healthy, and as a result, hasn't pitched for an ERA under 5.00 or a winning record since he went 14-10 for the Minnesota Twins in 2010. This season, Liriano is 16-8 with a 3.02 ERA, his best numbers since going 12-3 with a 2.16 ERA for the Twins way back in 2006. Liriano may seem old in the Major Leagues, but he won't turn 30 until the 26th of October this year.

The Pirates are hanging in there with the Cardinals, despite losing a tightly contested game 4 in St. Louis 2-1 on Monday, they have a chance to advance to the NLCS against the winner of the Dodgers/Braves series, and game 5 will be played Wednesday October 9th, at 5PM in St. Louis.

The teams nobody expected to make it can leave the biggest impact on a season. Each of these surprise postseason births can amount to an exhilarating championship run. Look for one of these teams to leave their mark this October - and expect the A's, the Red Sox, and the Pirates to be playing baseball in the fall for the foreseeable future.

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com

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