



A Call To Hashtags!

When a South Boston neighbor has an opportunity, and is a deserving candidate for advancement, we always step up. Well, now is a good time. Cam Askew of South Boston has proven himself both on and off of the ice. In the hope of playing in the NHL, Cam is honing his skills in the Quebec Major Hockey League for the Shawinigan Cataractes.

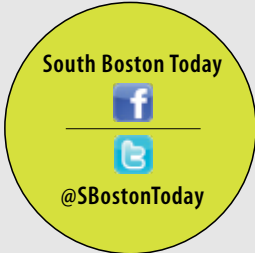
The QMHL is hosting the third annual QSocial Hashtag voting campaign where fans will be able to use hashtags on social media to vote for players from #QNation.

Cam’s hashtag is #AskewQSocial. Voting will close April 4th. Nominees

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EDITORIAL

Tom McGrath



The announcement by South Boston Citizens Association President Tom McGrath that he will be stepping down from the position that he has held for so long and handled so well was a surprise to many, but understandable too. Factoring in all his tasks, especially during the month of March, people wonder when he has time to sleep. Tom is one of those true South Boston activists, who epitomize everything that is positive about living in this com-

munity. He's a volunteer like so many who have come before him that gives his heart and soul to helping his neighbors, especially the youth.


For years, he has been one of the driving forces dedicated to making our Youth Hockey and Pop Warner Football programs some of the finest organizations that can be found anywhere. Always there to help a good cause, he is passionate when it comes to assisting whenever there is a need. This good guy, who works

full time, is an outstanding family man, and still makes time to give of himself his neighbors will be hard to replace as president of SBCA. But like Tom, there are others who will step up and carry on, because this neighborhood is blessed with an abundance of dedicated volunteers also willing to do their part and for that this town is grateful.

Thank you, Tom McGrath, for all you have done and knowing you as we do will most likely continue to do on our behalf.

"Man gives you the award but God gives you the reward" - Denzel Washington

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Publisher
John Ciccone

Editor In Chief
Brian R. Mahoney

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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The Information Center



Heroin Dealers And The Penalties They Should Face?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

It's a lot more fun writing columns that contain positive subjects or topics that can make us all laugh. It's too bad that everything in the real world could not be upbeat and pleasant. Sometimes, you just have to talk about things that are not so nice or down right sad. But you can't really hope to solve problems, if you're not even willing to speak about them. This week is just one of those weeks.

I received a call from an old friend, a former South Boston resident, who long ago moved to a small Cape Cod town because she, like some others, was tired of city life and wanted a change. She said it was her family's wish to attempt to escape some of the crime and drugs that often occur, when so many people are "crammed too close to one another". When she

called, she wasn't happy and just wanted to talk and maybe vent a little. You see, a teenage member of her family recently died from a heroin over dose and she was understandably shocked, depressed and devastated that her family just lost one of their own at so young an age. She asked me if I had any answers on what could be done to help eradicate the scourge of drug abuse by so many young people, particularly those hooked on heroin. I told her I wish I did have the answer but of course, I do not. It's a tough one.

The question was then asked if I thought that the dealers who push their poison should be convicted of murder, if the drugs they sold caused people to die. I thought about it for about half a second then answered yes, I think they should be

or at the very least tried for murder in the 2nd degree.

South Boston has seen far too many of its young residents fall victim to the scourge of dangerous drugs, including heroin. Quiet rural states like Vermont, Maine and now even New Hampshire are experiencing the same type of epidemic and losing their young people just as South Boston has. Every state in the country has also seen a dramatic rise over the last decade.

The way I see it, those who have become addicted to this poison need treatment but those who are bringing it into the country, as well as those who deal it on the streets should be imprisoned with a maximum sentence. And as was stated, anyone who is found guilty of dealing heroin to someone, who died because of it,

should be tried for murder and also be given the maximum sentence possible. Some killers use knives, others use a gun, but dealers of heroin use the poison they sell to take a life.

Police sources on both the federal and local levels have confirmed that, for years, much of these drugs have been pouring over the Mexican border into our country, pushed by the cartels. This being one of the many negative results of having lax border security under the Obama Administration. Everybody knows this whether they choose to admit it or not. The U.S. Border Patrol, thanks to the outcome of the 2016 presidential election has finally been given the ok to do its job like it should be done. With the backing of new Homeland Security leadership, there is a major effort by Border Patrol agents showing positive results in the effort to stop or, at the least, significantly slow down the flow of dangerous drugs coming in to the United States. The era of 'catch and release' has finally come to an end on our border, which makes it more difficult for criminals to come here and make our cities and towns less safe.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Window Into The State House

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

Another sales-tax referendum?

From Michael Norton at SHNS: "There may be a major tax cut competing with the significant tax increase that's already being prepared for the 2018 ballot in Massachusetts. Retailers have conducted polling and are encouraged by results suggesting Massachusetts residents are receptive to reducing the state sales tax, which was raised to 6.25 percent from 5 percent during a 2009 push led by House Speaker Robert DeLeo. 'At this point all options are open,' Retailers Association of Massachusetts President Jon Hurst told the News Service."

If you recall, voters rejected a statewide referendum in 2010 that

would have slashed the sales tax to 3 percent, but retailers think a less draconian measure might pass muster with voters in 2018.

Ew, icky and gross: Fishing opioid needles from Merrimack River

File this under 'ew,' 'icky' and 'gross': An environmental group that last year pulled 1,000 used hypodermic needles from the Merrimack River is asking for enhanced financial support from the communities along the river, Mike LaBella of the Eagle-Tribune reports. The Clean River Project last year deployed five booms to filter debris and this year wants to install as many as 25 of the floating barriers to retrieve dangerous medical waste

the group believes is directly tied to the region's opioid crisis.

Eagle-Tribune

The Marijuana Industrial Support Services Complex

From a Swiss provider of cigarette-tax stamp services to contractors lusting to build new marijuana greenhouses, dozens of industries are gearing up to get a piece of the action once the state allows the retail sale and commercial growth of pot to proceed in Massachusetts, reports the Globe's Joshua Miller.

Boston Globe

Here comes online gambling (not to be confused with online Lottery)

The Globe's Sean Murphy reports on very tentative, very preliminary talk by some state officials about allowing heavily regulated and taxed online gambling in Massachusetts, a move that would make the commonwealth one of only four states to permit online gambling. But any such move is expected to meet fierce opposition from anti-gambling activists and the three already licensed casinos in the state, Murphy reports.

Boston Globe

'We're going to be living with Obamacare for the foreseeable future'

Who ever thought a major Republican figure would mutter such words? But House Speaker Paul Ryan did mutter those words after last Friday's spectacular GOP failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act — and there's a lot of people in Massachusetts mighty happy about that failure, from Gov. Charlie Baker, who described the bill's defeat as "good news," to the Massachusetts Medical Society, reports Martha Bebinger at WBUR. She has a good round-up of local reactions.

McGovern's great Snidely Whiplash reference

The Quote of the Day, and perhaps Quote of the Week, goes to U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern on the elimination of a minimum-benefits clause

in the failed Republican health-care plan, via the NYT (scroll down):

"It's so cartoonishly malicious that I can picture someone twirling their mustache as they drafted it in their secret Capitol lair last night."

Who knew McGovern was a fellow fan of Dudley Do-Right, the archenemy of the mustache-twirling evil-doer of all mustache-twirling evil-doers, Snidely Whiplash? Or at least we assume he was referring to Snidely

Warren: Republicans still 'hell-bent' on killing ObamaCare

Though Republicans couldn't muster the votes on Friday to gut the Affordable Care Act, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is warning that the GOP is still "hell-bent" on killing off ObamaCare and will try "again and again" to dismantle the health-care program, reports Jim Haddadin at Wicked Local.

Scammers pose as troopers on hoax calls

A series of recent calls allegedly from police telling people they had a warrant out for their arrest were and are flat-out hoaxes, according to State Police, who are warning the public not to fall for the blatant scams, reports Scott Croteau at MassLive. "The phone number shows up on the caller identification as the South Boston barracks," Croteau writes. "When people answered the call, they were told to wait to speak to an officer regarding a complaint or warrant issued against them. An 'officer' then got on the phone and told the call recipients that they could meet police at a local shopping center and resolve the matter by paying police."

Sanctuary city blowback

Some municipal officials are pushing back against activists calling for sanctuary-city designations in their communities, saying such declarations are "meaningless, divisive

Continued on page 11

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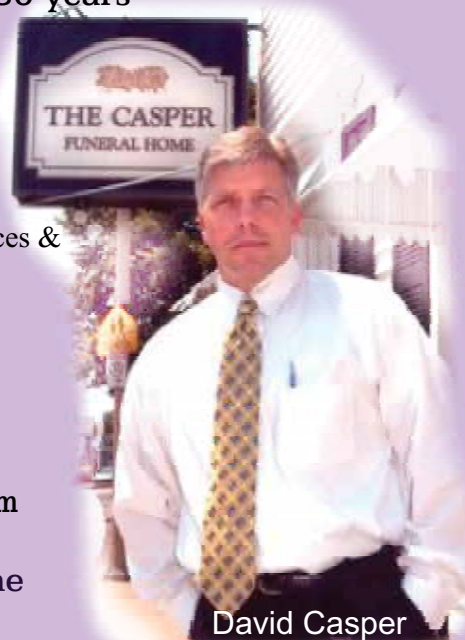
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REP. COLLINS AND COLLEAGUES PASS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Investments made for families of first responders, DCF, and behavioral health issues

Representative Nick Collins joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to pass a supplemental budget that makes crucial investments to support the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents including children, the elderly, the homeless, those with mental health issues, and the families of first responders. The bill doubles the benefits for families of those killed in the line of duty, bringing the total to \$300,000 to provide support.

The Legislature continues to provide record-level funding to confront the behavioral health and substance addiction challenges plaguing

Massachusetts. This legislation invests more than \$2.8 million for the Department of Mental Health. It also provides support in numerous ways to help vulnerable populations including:

- \$5.2 million for the Department of Children and Families;
- Nearly \$11 million for the Department of Developmental Services which will help than 464 individuals;
- \$4.5 million for the Department of Elder Affairs;
- \$21 million for emergency homelessness assistance;
- More than \$31 million to provide legal representation for those who cannot afford it including youths and those with mental health problems.

"I am proud to prioritize support for our most vulnerable in this Commonwealth.

Whether it is children in need, elderly who require support services, homeless who need emergency assistance, those struggling with mental health and addiction, or the families who have lost their loved ones in the line of duty, it is our duty as policymakers to fight for their wellbeing" said State Representative Nick Collins (D-South Boston). "Massachusetts will continue to be a national leader on these issues in a time of uncertainty on the national stage."

The legislation was signed by the Governor.



MAYOR ANNOUNCES FIRST PRICE CHANGE FOR SEAPORT PARKING METERS

decisions about how much parking should cost. As part of Go Boston 2030, our overall transportation plan, innovative solutions like the Performance Parking Pilot will continue to improve how our residents and visitors travel in Boston."

Rates for approximately 550 metered parking spaces on 40 blocks in the Seaport will change on April 3, 2017. This rate change is based on sensor data that allows the City to monitor average occupancy per meter space and block. High-demand blocks will increase by 50 cents, while lower occupied blocks decrease by 50 cents. The minimum price will be \$1 per hour, and the maximum price will be \$2 per hour during this phase of the pilot. Prices will vary by four time bands (weekdays 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.; 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. and all day Saturday). Prices will be posted on meters and are available in a searchable map online. Parking on Sunday is and will continue to be free.

With this first price change, over half of the total meter hours in any given week will drop by 50 cents to \$1.00 per hour. A quarter of the total meter hours in the Seaport will

stay at the current rate of \$1.50 per hour, and another quarter of the total meter hours a week in the Seaport will rise to \$2 per hour.

During the Seaport pilot, prices will be adjusted every two months, and will remain consistent in two-month increments. Prices stabilize when occupancy reaches the target of about one space open per block. This is the first demand-responsive pricing change during the pilot, which began in January and will run through the end of 2017.

The end result of the pilot will be to open up more short-term curbside parking opportunities. Over time, the goal is to have each block priced in a way that makes finding a spot easier on all blocks. These rate changes demonstrate that it is easier to find parking on some blocks at different times of day. Frequent visitors to the Seaport are encouraged to check the meter rates posted the Boston.gov website to determine cheaper blocks to park on.

"The goal of Performance Parking is for Boston drivers to park easier and circle less," said Chris Osgood, Chief of Streets. "These new rates

are expected to signal to drivers blocks where it's easier to find a parking space, cutting down on the time it takes to find a parking spot and reducing congestion on our streets and emissions in our air."

"Distracted driving was involved in nearly one in five traffic crashes in 2013 according to the CDC," said Gina N. Fiandaca, Commissioner of the Boston Transportation Department. "Up to 30 percent of street traffic is made up of drivers who may be distracted while searching for on-street parking. Varying meter rates to open up parking spaces is expected to cut down on distracted drivers looking for parking and help to achieve Boston's Vision Zero traffic safety goals."

The pilot, which also includes a fixed price change in the Back Bay, will run through the end of 2017, and maps with detailed boundaries and prices of the two pilot areas can be found on Boston.gov. In addition, parking prices will be posted on meters and the City's Park Boston app. Residents are encouraged to share feedback on the pilot through performanceparking@boston.gov.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM), the Boston Transportation Department (BTD) and the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) today announced the first demand-responsive price change of the Performance Parking Pilot. A majority of metered hours in the Seaport pilot area will drop to \$1.00 an hour, lowered from the pilot's initial \$1.50 hourly fee.

"The City began our parking meter pilot to make navigating our streets more efficient and less congested for all drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians," said Mayor Walsh. "This price change is a result of tracking peak parking times, which allows us to make smarter

Lynch Nominates Benjamin O'Brien As West Point Appointee



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (D-Boston) recently announced the nomination of Benjamin O'Brien of South Boston for appointment to the United States Military Academy. Benjamin, the son of Holly and Steve O'Brien, is a senior at Boston Collegiate Charter School.

As part of his congressional duties, Congressman Lynch nominates exemplary candidates to the United States service academies each year. "These men and women are the best of the best and I am proud of their desire to serve our great nation. The academies graduate leaders who will guide our country into the future and the young people who attend the academies are entrusted with the greatest responsibility – to serve

and protect the United States of America," said Congressman Lynch.

"Benjamin was highly recommended by his teachers at Boston Collegiate Charter School. He is a remarkable young man and we are fortunate that young people like Benjamin are committed to serving our nation," said Congressman Lynch.

Congressman Lynch and his congressional liaison to the United States Service Academies, Bob Fowkes, examined each candidate's record of academic, athletic, and service achievements in addition to evaluating letters of recommendation. After an extensive review process and a personal interview, Benjamin was selected as someone whose scholastic record

and community contributions elevated him to the top of a list of well-qualified candidates.

Congressman Lynch added, "There were many impressive candidates this year for the United States Military Academy. Benjamin stood out as a young man of keen intelligence and strong character. He is a wonderful reflection of his parents, Holly and Steve. The O'Brien family, the city of Boston, and the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts should be proud of Benjamin in this achievement."

Students interested in attending one of the United States Service Academies should contact Bob Fowkes in Congressman Lynch's Boston office at (617) 428-2000.



April Means Street Sweeping, Tickets and Tows

If you live in Boston, April 1st means that winter is over. It's also more than just a day to play pranks on our family and friends. Because along with the '1st' being April Fool's Day, it also signals the beginning of street sweeping and that ever-looming potential for a costly ticket and even a very expensive tow for those who must park a vehicle on the street.

This year the 'first' is on a Saturday, so most of us at least don't have to worry. But check

the signs on your block to be sure you know the day and the time you must not park as well as for which side of the street is to be cleaned.

Though residents may think they know exactly which day and what time the sweepers are scheduled to come by, you can't always go by the previous year. In the past, on some blocks at least, the days have been changed, so it's always wise to give the signs a check just in case.

There are the pros and cons of

any program and street sweeping is no exception. It's not pleasant to come out in the morning and find your car, SUV or pickup ticketed and even worse if it's not there at all because it has fallen victim to a tow truck. This experience often results in loudly expressed colorful language being shouted within earshot of school children, as far away as several blocks. The price of both ticket and tow combined can cost you quite a bit of cash that you'd much rather spend on something else – anything else really. That's the negative. The positive is the streets, which can get pretty messy, look much better after the sweepers go by. Just think of what they'd look like if they were never swept at all.

So, do what you have to do to remember when to move your vehicle. Mark it on your wall calendar, set your smart phone to remind you with a message or do it the old fashioned way and write yourself a note and stick it on the refrigerator. And just one more thing- a request really, the city sweeping machines only clean the streets. It would be nice if everyone pitched in and kept their stairs and the sidewalks in front of their homes swept too. A few minutes with a broom will keep the town looking nice.

John Ciccone continued from page 3

And this brings me to the topic of 'Sanctuary Cities'. If criminal illegal aliens know there are places they can go and be safe from law enforcement it stands to reason that they will head directly to those places if they are able to slip over the border. When New York City Mayor Bill DiBlasio says sanctuary cities protect us against terrorism and crime he shows himself to be the ideological nitwit that he was always suspected of being. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has given what is probably one of his final warnings to those sanctuary cities that the feds will cut off funding to any city that harbors illegals. Sessions intends to do everything he has to within his considerable authority to keep Americans safe, because that's his job and hopefully he will be successful in his efforts.

It was a heart breaker to receive that call from my friend, who's still in mourning at the loss of her nephew. We can only hope and pray that this all comes to a halt as soon as possible. These efforts of Attorney General Sessions and, yes, President Trump as well should be applauded, not demonized.

That saying "If even one life can be saved by the actions we take it will be worth the effort". Well, if this long overdue crack down is successful and not hindered by certain officials pandering to the demands of the open borders crowd, there could be many thousands of lives that are saved. This is the minimum our country should be doing on behalf of the youth of America. No family should ever again have to grieve because we weren't willing to do whatever it takes to put an end to this.



Hundreds Turn Out to Support Ed Flynn's Campaign for City Council

Congressman Lynch, Rep. Collins, Councilor Flaherty lead support

More than 400 supporters turned out at Capo Restaurant on West Broadway in South Boston to support Ed Flynn's campaign for Boston City Council, District 2.

"I'm so humbled by the support I've received," Flynn said. "It was incredible to see so many friends and supporters, both new and old, and have conversations about what's important to the district – great schools, safe streets, programming and support for our veterans and seniors, transportation and parking that work for our neighborhoods, and responsive constituent services. As City Councilor, I will work hard to represent every resident of District 2 and be a strong voice for you at City Hall."

Flynn was introduced by City Councilor At-Large Michael

Flaherty, Suffolk County SJC Clerk Maura Doyle, and South Boston resident Kathy Lafferty.

"Ed will be a tireless advocate for our neighborhood and this district," Flaherty said. "He has done the hard work in the neighborhoods, with our veterans, and in our schools, and he knows what it takes to lead our city as we grow and thrive. I was honored to march with him in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and I'll be honored to serve with him on the Boston City Council."

Also at the event were former Mayor and Ambassador to the Vatican Raymond Flynn, State Representative Nick Collins, City Councilor At-Large Annisssa Essaibi-George, State Senators James Timilty and Walter Timilty, former City Councilor and mayoral candidate John Connolly, MassHousing director and state

veterans services coordinator Thomas Lyons, and former Lt. Gov. Tim Murray. Congressman Stephen F. Lynch, who has endorsed Flynn, was in Washington, DC for congressional hearings, but his aides attended the event.

"Having known Ed Flynn for many years, I'm proud to throw my support behind him, because I know he's the right person to lead our district," said Rep. Collins. "Whether it's connecting neighbors to recovery services, helping veterans find housing, standing up for the community on development issues, or organizing a local community event, Ed is there us. He has been his whole life, and he will be for many years to come."

Flynn is a lifelong resident of South Boston, where he has been deeply involved as a youth sports

coach, veteran's advocate, and community activist. In addition to being an active Josiah Quincy School parent, Flynn is a member of the Cityside Neighborhood Association, South Boston Citizens' Association, VFW Fitzgerald Post, and the Ward 7 Democratic Committee.

Flynn served on active duty in the Persian Gulf on two deployments, and overseas in the Navy Reserves, helping to coordinate disaster relief in Haiti. He formerly worked for the U.S. Department of Labor in the Clinton Administration, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, and the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Flynn and his wife, Kristen, live in South Boston with their two children, Caroline and Stephen.



The 15th Annual Taste of South Boston on Sunday April 2

The South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation (South Boston NDC) will hold its 15th Annual Taste of South Boston on Sunday April 2, 2017, from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Seaport Hotel. This event has become one of the city's premier food events, enjoyed by 500 attendees. For an entrance fee of \$70 in advance (\$75 at the door), attendees can sample food and beverage offerings from 30 of

South Boston's top restaurants while enjoying live jazz music and bidding on outstanding silent auction items and raffles.

This year's event boasts a large number of participating restaurants from the traditional South Boston neighborhood, the South Boston Waterfront and the Fort Point areas, including newcomers: Babbo Pizzeria e Enoteca, Blue Dragon, Capo, La Casa de Pedro, and Roza Lyons. Returning again this year are: American Provisions, Coppersmith,

Cranberry Café, Empire, Joseph's Bakery, the Juice Box, Legal Harborside, Lincoln Tavern & Restaurant, Local 149, Loco Taqueria and Oyster Bar, Lucky's Lounge, The Maiden, Miam Miam Macaronerie, No Name Restaurant, Stephi's in Southie, The Spirit of Boston, Sweet Tooth Boston, Tamo Bistro & Bar, Temazcal Cantina, Tony C's and Worden Hall. Al's Liquors will again be serving up sampling of several varieties of outstanding wines, and Harpoon Brewery will be pouring samples of their latest brews.

The Taste of South Boston is the annual fundraiser for South Boston Neighborhood Development

Corporation (South Boston NDC). South Boston NDC is a recognized 501(c)(3) non profit organization that has successfully developed over 200 units of affordable housing in the community. In 2016, SBNDP completed Patriot Homes, 24 affordable apartments for Veterans. In 2017, we will begin construction on 206 West Broadway, 16 affordable apartments of workforce housing.

Proceeds from the evening's event support the South Boston NDC's mission to provide affordable housing for working people, families, elderly and veterans in the community. South Boston NDC also provides support to the South Boston Street Festival and Christmas Stroll, Southie Trees and the South Boston Farmers' Market. Your support will help us to continue to provide affordable housing and economic opportunities in the neighborhood.

Transportation is available compliments of the Southie Shuttle 617-268-4110. Tickets can be purchased online at: www.tasteofsouthboston.com or at the office of South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation, 365 West Broadway, South Boston. For general inquiries, email us at: info@tasteofsouthboston.com or call 617-268-9610.



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Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
28 Woodward St UNIT 1 Condo	\$855,000	2/27/17	4	2.5	1475
858 East Second St UNIT 6 Condo	\$805,000	2/28/17	5	2	1231
47 Gates St UNIT 2 Condo	\$749,000	2/28/17	4	2	1003
190 West Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$685,000	2/28/17	4	2	908
9 G Street Single Family	\$675,000	2/28/17	5	1.5	1190
440 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$667,500	2/28/17	6	2	1111
560 East Eighth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$610,000	2/27/17	5	2	1012
743 East Fourth St UNIT 301 Condo	\$605,500	2/28/17	6	2	1087
68 I St UNIT 1 Condo	\$543,000	2/28/17	4	1	956
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Boston Bruin Gary Doak: *A True Friend of South Boston*

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

Some sad news came out of the sports world over the weekend, particularly professional hockey, as the passing of former Boston Bruin's great Gary Doak was announced. He died after a long and difficult bout with cancer at the age of 71. Many current and former South Bostonians were especially saddened by the news as, over the years, Gary made many close friends in the community that he took a liking to from his very first visit.

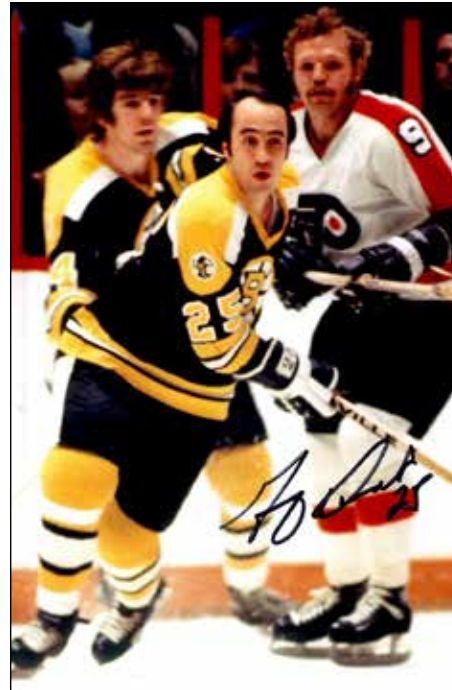
'25' was his number and by every account he was an outstanding defenseman during his two stints with the Bruins. He was part of the team during the 1965-1966 season, took a leave for a bit then came back and played from 1969 right through 1981 before finally retiring. And of course, Gary Doak was part of the 1969-1970 season that saw the B's bring the Stanley Cup to Boston playing with other greats like Phil Esposito and the legendary Bobby Orr.

Gary learned to skate and play hockey on the frozen ponds of Canada as a young boy, as do so many other Canadian hockey greats even to this day. He honed his skills and the scouts snapped him up, as soon as they saw his

remarkable abilities on the ice. He was a natural.

In later years, Gary Doak was hired by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to head up the agency's recreation facilities and sports programming and served under then commissioner David Balfour. The two men were great friends prior to that and did much to bring big improvements to DCR during their time there.

As recreation director, Gary Doak's duties brought him to South Boston on a regular basis where, along with Commissioner Balfour, he was helpful with ideas for improvements to the Murphy Skating Rink, the neighborhood's beaches and parks and all things having to do with recreation and programming. It was during this time that he had formed many close bonds and lasting friendships with Southie's various youth sports organizations including coaches, parents and of course the young players themselves. He would constantly be asked to sign his autograph not only by the parents and grandparents of local youths, who used to love watching him play during his days with the Bruins, but also by the youth. They may not have even been born during his time with the NHL, but would



hear stories of his great skills from talk around the dinner table. He never refused an autograph and always gave it with a smile and a 'thank you'. He was a true gentleman.

It wasn't unusual to see Gary Doak taking a walk with his children around Castle Island or making a trip from his home in Saugus to watch a little league game at Moakley Field or a house league youth hockey game on his day off down at the 'Murphy'. He really did enjoy spending time in South Boston and mingling with the locals where he felt so comfortable and was among good friends.

It's important to know that Gary Doak's time on skates and wearing the black and gold jersey of a Boston Bruin didn't end when he retired from being a



regular NHL player. He continued playing in charity games with the Bruin's Alumni organization which raised money for all sorts of worthy causes and charities. That's the type of man Gary was. Another Bruin's great, Cam Neely, in response to the death of his friend said the following: "It's a sad day for the sport of hockey. Gary did so much for the organization, even after he retired. He was always available to help others."

The great Gary Doak will be missed by hockey fans everywhere and certainly by the many friends he made in South Boston – one of his favorite places. Rest in Peace Gary Doak and thank you for all the work you did, while walking among us, and, for your friendship.

A Call To Hashtags! continued from front page

were chosen based on the following.

- Social Media Activity in support of the player's team and the league throughout the season.

- Recommendations from #QNation Staff, Fans and Teammates based their perception of the player's interaction and positive involvement with fans and his other players.

Even our Mayor Marty Walsh has weighed in:

Mayor Marty Walsh @marty_walsh So proud of Boston's own @CamAskew19 who plays some serious hockey for the Shawinigan Cata-

ractes in the @QMJHL! #AskewQ-Social #QNation

Here is more about Cam Askew.

At 14 years old, he made a verbal commitment to Northeastern University, and then as he began to grow and other colleges took an interest, he started having the second thoughts that a teenager should have. The big question – what is the best route to the NHL.

He was a standout at St. Sebastian's High School and then moved on to Cushing Academy. As he grew to 6'3" and a little over 200 lbs, he changed his mind for the 1st time and committed to Boston Universi-

ty, where during the 2012-13 season, he scored 36 points in 32 games.

According to hockey news reports, by the time the 2013 QMJHL Entry Draft approached, it was widely known that he would be playing junior hockey and not going to either Massachusetts schools. "It's kind of tough when you're 14 or 15 to plan out that much of your life.", Askew stated. He was then selected 11th overall in that draft by the Drummondville Voltigurs.

In 2015, He was ranked 79th among North American skaters on Central Scouting's season midterm rankings.

In the QMJHL winter draft the past

January, Cam was traded to his current team from the Moncton Wildcats. It was stated at the time by the hockeywriters.com reporter that "Askew is a big right-shot centreman who has a good chance of returning to Shawinigan as an overage force next season. The 19-year-old has 29 points in 32 games this year and has amassed 153 points in 228 career regular season games with Moncton and Drummondville. He's also registered 14 points in 43 playoff games."

So, opportunity knocks for Cam. Let's show him that South Boston has his back.

Vote #AskewQSocial now until April 4!

Medicine Wheel Productions presents Hand in Hand at the Cyclorama

Today Medicine Wheel Productions (MWP) kicked off the exhibition of its most recent Hand In Hand project at the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts in the South End. MWP creates Hand in Hand projects with the hope of mending divisions, as well as improving health and safety in communities through the creation of common experiences.

The exhibition is the result of a Hand in Hand project that brought Boston Police Department officers and young community members together for an all-day workshop. Each participating young person was paired with a police officer for the day. The young people and police officers were guided through mediation, shared a meal together, and expressed themselves as individuals and as pairs through works of art. The

pairs were given a tutorial on molding and casting their hands and later the casts received an aged bronze patina. Participants also posed for individual and partner portraits, and the workshop closed with everyone being encouraged to reflect on their experiences by writing a facilitated “I Am” poem, sharing insights and experiences.

The work explores and challenges the capacity to humanize “the other” in our lives, and hopefully provides a deeper understanding of our commonalities. Recordings of the poems and the bronze hands are on display at the exhibit. Approximately 200 Boston youth participated in MWP’s Hand in Hand project.

This exhibit is free and open to the public 10am to 7pm Tuesday and 10am to 2 pm Wednesday.

Schedule of Special Events:

Tuesday: 5:30 - 7pm, The South

Boston Community Health Center and Medicine Wheel Productions host a Youth/Adult Community Dialogue about Violence Prevention as part of the Health Center’s “Let’s Talk” Initiative. Officers from both South Boston’s C6 and the South End’s D4 will participate along with youth from throughout Boston.

Wednesday: 10 - 11am, Residents of the Cushing House Boys Program will meet with Boston Drug enforcement officers and reflect on their experiences.

Wednesday: 11am - 12pm, Boston Police Department officers from Area D4 will host a “Coffee with a Cop Hour” at the Hand in Hand exhibit to engage with the South End Community.

Wednesday: 6 - 9pm, Medicine Wheel Productions’ annual Turning the Wheel Gala will honor Mayor Martin J. Walsh, State Senator Linda Darcena Forry, Boston

Police Commissioner William Evans, Boston Police Deputy Superintendent Nora Baston and various Medicine Wheel youth and alumni. To purchase tickets, visit <http://mwponline.org/wordpress/donate/>

Medicine Wheel Productions is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to art as public service. We develop and implement sustainable public art projects that speak to the needs of individuals, specific communities and to the public at large, primarily in the Boston area. All of our projects invite people to an awareness that comes by creating together and a realization of who we are for ourselves and who we can be for one another.

For more information about Medicine Wheel Productions and the Hand in Hand Project, contact Michael Dowling (617) 872-6065.

Window into the State House continued from page 4

and a threat to critical federal funds,” writes the Herald’s Hillary Chabot. “I am not going to allow the right and the left to have a fistfight in downtown Melrose over something that operationally means nothing,” said Melrose Mayor Rob Dolan, a Democrat, about sanctuary city status in his city.

Separately, hundreds of activists are planning to protest in Boston today the detention of two Vermont immigration advocates “who have won the support of the state’s congressional delegation and thousands who have signed petitions on their behalf,” reports the Globe’s Milton Valencia.

Black and Latino lawmakers present their Beacon Hill goals

After the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus held a constituent listening tour in Springfield, Roxbury and Lawrence, a consensus agenda has emerged around four main issues: economic development, criminal justice, public health

and housing, reports Shira Schoenberg.

‘Let’s Dismantle the Massachusetts House of Representatives’

Boston Magazine’s David Bernstein really doesn’t like House Speaker Robert DeLeo, so much so, he’s advocating the elimination of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. “I’m serious. It’s not a panacea, but switching to a single chamber—a unicameral legislature, instead of the current bicameral arrangement—would be a major positive reform of the legislative process, improving efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness to the public.”

Regulators poised to boost oversight of long-term care insurance – with no rate caps

The Globe’s Deirdre Fernades reports that regulators are getting close to adopting new rules that would increase oversight of skyrocketing long-term care insurance rates in Massachusetts, but the new regs don’t include rate caps, something Attorney General Maura Healey and others support.

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5th	Number Drawn	\$ 100.00
6th	Number Drawn	\$ 100.00
7th	Number Drawn	\$ 100.00



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DRAWING: APRIL 9TH 2017

You may call Sr. Margaret Jackson at
Marian Manor 617-268-3333, for more information.
A numbered Membership ticket will be sent upon
receipt of your \$100.00 donation.

Members are invited to a fun filled Social and Drawing on Sunday
April 9th from 2:00PM - 5:00 PM, at the Seapointe Restaurant
Function Room, 367 East Eighth Street, South Boston, MA.



MAYOR WALSH OPENS SWAN BOATS ON APRIL 15

Mayor Martin J. Walsh will host the first ride of the season on the popular Boston Swan Boats as they open at the Public Garden lagoon on Saturday, April 15, at 11:30 a.m.

“This will be the 141st year the Swan Boats have entertained residents and visitors in the Boston Public Garden,” said Mayor Walsh. “Boston is ready for spring, and it’s a wonderful tradition to join the Paget family and Boston students for the first springtime ride around the Public Garden lagoon.”

This annual rite of spring is made possible thanks to the Paget family, owners and operators of the Swan Boats first launched by Irish immigrant and shipbuilder Robert Paget. Mr. Paget designed the Swan Boats after attending

the opera Lohengrin in New York City. At the end of the opera, the hero crosses a river in a boat drawn by a swan.

Mayor Walsh will be joined on the first ride of the year with students from Boston Public Schools including the Ellis Mendell Elementary School and the Higginson/Lewis K-8 School, both in Roxbury.

The students are drawing pictures of the Swan Boats in art class and their work will be randomly selected from all the drawings created. All of the artwork chosen will then be on display at Boston City Hall.

2017 marks the 141st season for the Swan Boats. The oldest and smallest boat in the fleet just celebrated its 106th season, while

the newest was launched in 1993. The swan on today’s boats is made from either copper or fiberglass, depending on the age of the boat, and encloses a paddle mechanism that is used to foot propel the boat through the water.

Fully loaded, each Swan Boat weighs three tons and carries up to twenty passengers. The Swan Boats are built on oak framed pontoons sheathed in copper just as they were initially constructed in 1877. After being stored in a safe place for the winter, the boats are returned to the Public Garden Lagoon in the spring with Mayor Walsh and his young guests celebrating the first ride of the season.

For more information, please visit the Swan Boats of Boston online at www.swanboats.com or call (617) 522-1966.

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor

Docket No. SU16P2581GD
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

In the interests of
Nolan Anthony Shuman
Of, Minor
Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **11/15/2016** by **Robert F Brennick** of Boston, MA will be held **04/13/2017 08:30AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located at Edward W. Brooke Courthouse **24 New Chardon Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02114**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)

IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above.

If Service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity or whereabouts of an interested party **is not known, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **The South Boston Today, S. Boston, MA** publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and Department of Children and Families may be accomplished by regular first class mail at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

March 27, 2017

Terri Klug Cafazzo, Register of Probate
March 30, 2017



BC High's Choir Sings at St. Patrick Breakfast

BC High student Tim Smyth of South Boston, a member of the Boston College High School Concert Choir, contributed to the festivities on Sunday March 19 with an early morning concert at the Massachusetts Convention Center.

The 42-member choir (41 students and 1 faculty) under the direction of Doctor Marina Rozenberg of Hingham was invited by Senator Linda Dorcea Fenty to greet people as they arrived for the breakfast with a medley of Irish songs.

Among the many songs were: USA's National Anthem, Ireland's National Anthem on Gaeilge (in

Gaelic), Danny Boy, The Wild Mountain Thyme, a Scottish folk song made famous by Joan Baez and Bob Dylan, I am Bound Away, an emotional sea shanty.

Front row (kneeling, left to right): Christian Archibald (Hingham), Nick Brink (Quincy), Thomas Potts (Quincy), Thomas Hamblet (Milton), Scott Czerwinski (Burlington), Kunchok Dingyon (Somerville), An Ngo (Holbrook), Joseph Januszewicz (Brighton), Luc Grenier (Scituate), Kevin Parsons (Braintree), Stephen Recuperio (North Easton), Tim Smyth (South Boston), Dorian Perry-Tillmon (Randolph)

Back row (standing, left to right): Bear Martens (Milton), Nate Robards (Hingham), Justin Rich (Bridgewater), Jared Daigle (Waltham), Jake Martens (Milton), David Narrow (Concord), Nick White (Saugus), Ale Oggiano (Stoughton), Chris Keith (Foxboro), William Moody (Charlestown), Michael Duarte (Arlington), James Conley (Milton), Chris Harrington (Arlington), Gavin DSouza (Marshfield), Cooper Roberts (Milton), JR Branch (Randolph), Keenan Byrne (Milton), James Kester (Wellesley), Wyatt Staton-Todaro (Dedham), Kevin

McDonough (Milton), Ronan O'Hara (Charlestown), Christian Cattaneo (North End), Tomas Sommer (Milton), Joseph Kester (Wellesley), Adam Jennings (Scituate), Dennis Cogan (Milton), James Caulfield (Dorchester), Mr. Eugene Holmes (Roslindale), Quentin McCarron (Cohasset).

Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men founded in 1863. The school enrolls approximately 1500 students from more than 100 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more <http://www.bchigh.edu>

MAYOR'S CUP STREET HOCKEY TOURNAMENT APRIL 18 - 20

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting the 2017 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins on April 18, 19, and 20 during the April public school vacation week.

"The Mayor's Cup tournaments in both street and ice hockey give our

young players the chance to compete for the title of 'Boston's Best' while making new friends from across the city," said Mayor Walsh. "The Boston Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to offer this great sporting event for our student athletes, with support from our sponsors at the Boston Bruins."

Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette. Teams will compete

in two regions in Mite (ages 7 to 8) and Squirt (ages 9 to 10) divisions. Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

Region 1 playoffs will take place Tuesday, April 18, at Fallon Field located at 910 South Street in Roslindale. Region 2 playoffs will take place Wednesday, April 19, at

Garvey Playground located at 340 Neponset Avenue in Dorchester. Winning teams will meet for the finals at Ryan Playground, located at 74 Alford Street in Charlestown, on Thursday, April 20.

To register or for more information, please contact Billy Sittig at billy.sittig@boston.gov or call (617) 961-3082.

CITATION

Docket No. 12P1859

**Commonwealth Of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court****Probate and Family Court****Estate of:** Claire Ann Keefe
Suffolk Division

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by

**Audrey Lamonica-Bartosiak
Of Quincy, MA**

Requesting:

**Authorize the Personal
Representative to distribute
\$10,000.00 each to the devisees
under the decedent's will,
Daniel P. Lamonica
and
Audrey Lamonica- Bartosiak,
individually****You have the right to obtain
a copy of the Petition from
the Petitioner or at the Court.****You have a right to object
to this proceeding. To do so,
you or your attorney must****file a written appearance and
objection at this Court before:****10:00 a.m. on 04/13/2017. This****is NOT a hearing date, but a
deadline by which you must****file a written appearance and
objection if you object to this****proceeding. If you fail to file
a timely written appearance****and objection followed by an
affidavit of objections within****thirty (30) days of the return
day, action may be taken****without further notice to you.****WITNESS, Hon. Armstrong****First Justice of this Court**

March 02, 2017

Terri Klug Cafazzo,

Register of Probate

March 30, 2017**CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Docket No. SU17P0441EA

**Commonwealth Of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court****Probate and Family Court****Estate of:** Thomas Glover**Date of Death: 11/19/2016**

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street,

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of****Will** has been filed by**Catherine Susan Durst of****Staten Island NY**requesting that the Court enter a
formal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested in the
Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

**Catherine Susan Durst of
Staten Island NY**be appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said estate
to serve on the bond in an
unsupervised administration.**IMPORTANT NOTICE****You have the right to obtain
a copy of the Petition from the
Petitioner or at the Court. You****have a right to object to this
proceeding. To do so, you or****your attorney must file a written
appearance and objection at****this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on
the return day of 04/20/2017.****This is NOT a hearing date, but
a deadline by which you must****file a written appearance and
objection if you object to this****proceeding. If you fail to file
a timely written appearance****and objection followed by an
affidavit of objections within****thirty (30) days of the return day,
action may be taken without****further notice to you.****UNSUPERVISED****ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A****Personal Representative
appointed under the MUPC in an****unsupervised administration is
not required to file an inventory****or annual accounts with the
Court. Persons interested in****the estate are entitled to notice
regarding the administration****directly from the Personal
Representative and may****petition the Court in any matter
relating to the estate, including****the distribution of assets and
expenses of administration.****WITNESS, Hon. Joan P Armstrong
First Justice of this Court**

March 10, 2017

Terri Klug Cafazzo, Register of
Probate**March 30, 2017****CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Docket No. SU07P0721VA

**Commonwealth Of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court****Probate and Family Court****Estate of:** James A Moccio**Date of Death: 01/28/2007**

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street,

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal**
Adjudication of Intestacy**and Appointment of Personal
Representative** has been filed by**Melissa Thompson of Canton MA**requesting that the Court enter a
formal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested in
the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Melissa Thompson of Canton MAbe appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said estate
to serve **Without Surety** on
the bond in an unsupervised
administration.**IMPORTANT NOTICE****You have the right to obtain
a copy of the Petition from the
Petitioner or at the Court. You****have a right to object to this
proceeding. To do so, you or****your attorney must file a written
appearance and objection at****this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on
the return day of 04/13/2017.****This is NOT a hearing date, but
a deadline by which you must****file a written appearance and
objection if you object to this****proceeding. If you fail to file
a timely written appearance****and objection followed by an
affidavit of objections within****thirty (30) days of the return
day, action may be taken****without further notice to you.****UNSUPERVISED****ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A****Personal Representative
appointed under the MUPC in an****unsupervised administration is
not required to file an inventory****or annual accounts with the
Court. Persons interested in****the estate are entitled to notice
regarding the administration****directly from the Personal
Representative and may****petition the Court in any matter
relating to the estate, including****the distribution of assets and
expenses of administration.****WITNESS, Hon. Joan P
Armstrong First Justice of this
Court**

March 09, 2017

Terri Klug Cafazzo, Register of
Probate**March 30, 2017****CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Docket No. SU17P0484EA

**Commonwealth Of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court****Probate and Family Court****Estate of:** Lucille J Innello**Date of Death: 02/09/2017**

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street,

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate**
of Will with Appointment of**Personal Representative** has
been filed by**Rosemarie Marrone of Quincy MA**requesting that the Court enter a
formal Decree and Order and for
such other relief as requested in
the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:

Rosemarie Marrone of Quincy MAbe appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said estate
to serve on the bond in an
unsupervised administration.**IMPORTANT NOTICE****You have the right to obtain
a copy of the Petition from the
Petitioner or at the Court. You****have a right to object to this
proceeding. To do so, you or****your attorney must file a written
appearance and objection at****this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on
the return day of 04/27/2017.****This is NOT a hearing date, but
a deadline by which you must****file a written appearance and
objection if you object to this****proceeding. If you fail to file
a timely written appearance****and objection followed by an
affidavit of objections within****thirty (30) days of the return
day, action may be taken****without further notice to you.****UNSUPERVISED****ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE
MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM
PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A****Personal Representative
appointed under the MUPC in an****unsupervised administration is
not required to file an inventory****or annual accounts with the
Court. Persons interested in****the estate are entitled to notice
regarding the administration****directly from the Personal
Representative and may****petition the Court in any matter
relating to the estate, including****the distribution of assets and
expenses of administration.****WITNESS, Hon. Joan P Armstrong
First Justice of this Court**

March 21, 2017

Terri Klug Cafazzo, Register of
Probate**March 30, 2017**


**Want to see your ad in
South Boston Today?**

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This week,
Danny gives his 2017
MLB predictions:

It's time for another Major League Baseball season. And with Opening Day on Sunday, that means it's also time for my predictions.

But first, let me just say that I'm glad we no longer have to wonder if this is "the year" for the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs won the World Series last year in dramatic fashion, breaking a 108-year championship drought. Good for them. But let's move on.

Back here Boston, the Red Sox are looking to improve on a 2016 in which they were swept in the ALDS by the eventual American League champion Cleveland Indians. Chris Sale's presence will help, but will it be enough to overcome the absence of David Ortiz? We shall soon find out.

Here are my predictions for the 2017 MLB season:

AL East: Boston Red Sox

-I realize this pick might make it look like I'm not doing justice to Big Papi's retirement. And it also might make it look like I'm simply ignoring the multiple pitching injuries that the Sox will open the season with. But I'm trying to give credit to players like Mookie Betts, Xander Bogaerts, and Andrew Benintendi, who represent both the present and the future. Plus, the addition of Sale makes David

Price's injury less of a concern. If I'm wrong, the sneaky play here would be the Baltimore Orioles, but I'm not completely sold on their pitching. The Toronto Blue Jays will feel the effects of losing Edwin Encarnacion, the New York Yankees might be a year or two away, and this will probably be the season in which the Tampa Bay Rays trade Chris Archer.

AL Central: Cleveland Indians

-The reigning American League champs lost Mike Napoli, but they added Encarnacion. And to go along with a rotation that might end up being the best in the AL, I don't see why the Indians can't win 94 games again. I don't see anyone in this division giving Cleveland a true challenge. If their rotation can stay healthy, the Indians will be the best team in the American League, if not the best team in all of Major League Baseball.

AL West: Houston Astros

-The Astros had 84 wins last year and finished third in the division behind the Texas Rangers and Seattle Mariners. But the addition of veteran Carlos Beltran is the perfect move for an Astros team that seems ready to make a playoff run if they can just get back into the tournament. A mix of young,

exciting players with a solid pitching staff will be even better having Beltran in the mix. The guy turns 40 in April, but you wouldn't know it, as he's coming off a season hitting .295 with 29 home runs and 93 RBI. Texas is an obvious contender here. But I think Houston could be one of the most exciting teams in the league in 2017.

AL Wild Cards: Texas Rangers over Baltimore Orioles

NL East: New York Mets

-Putting money on the Mets' rotation to stay healthy doesn't seem like a very wise thing to do, but the reward is just too good to turn down. The Mets' pitching can be devastating, if healthy. And I don't care just how good the defending NL East champion Washington Nationals are. If Matt Harvey, Noah Syndergaard, and Jacob deGrom are available all year, then the Mets will be borderline unstoppable. Keep an eye on starter Zack Wheeler, who missed the last two seasons after Tommy John surgery, is back throwing in the mid-90's. As if the Mets needed another weapon in the rotation.

NL Central: Chicago Cubs

-The Cubs won 103 games last year and won the World Series, and there's truly no reason to pick any other team to win this division a

year later. It's as simple as that.

NL West: San Francisco Giants

-The Giants were a Wild Card team last year with 87 wins, but I'm picking them to win the division and knock off the defending NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers, who finished with 91 wins last year. And the only reason I'm doing that is because of one man: Madison Bumgarner. Keep an eye on the Arizona Diamondbacks though, as Zack Greinke is poised for a bounce-back year.

NL Wild Cards: Los Angeles Dodgers over Washington Nationals

POSTSEASON

ALDS:
-Cleveland Indians over Texas Rangers
-Houston Astros over Boston Red Sox

NLDS:
-Chicago Cubs over Los Angeles Dodgers
-New York Mets over San Francisco Giants

ALCS:
-Cleveland Indians over Houston Astros

NLCS:
-New York Mets over Chicago Cubs

WORLD SERIES:
-Cleveland Indians over New York Mets

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