

City Councilors Campbell And Wu Causing Controversies

What a month at Boston City Hall. New Councilors Ed Flynn and Lydia Edwards were sworn in. Mayor Walsh began his second term as mayor. Andrea Campbell replaced Michelle Wu as President of the City Council, and then all heck broke loose.

First Michelle Wu proposes a series of hearings to explore the addition of a parking permit fee, a citywide permit program and visitor passes, as means of paying for transportation and related improvements, as well as attempting to manage the

CONTINUED ON page 6

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EDITORIAL

The Tax Collector Cometh - Again?

They call it a 'fee', but when used in this context, it's just another tax – pure and simple.

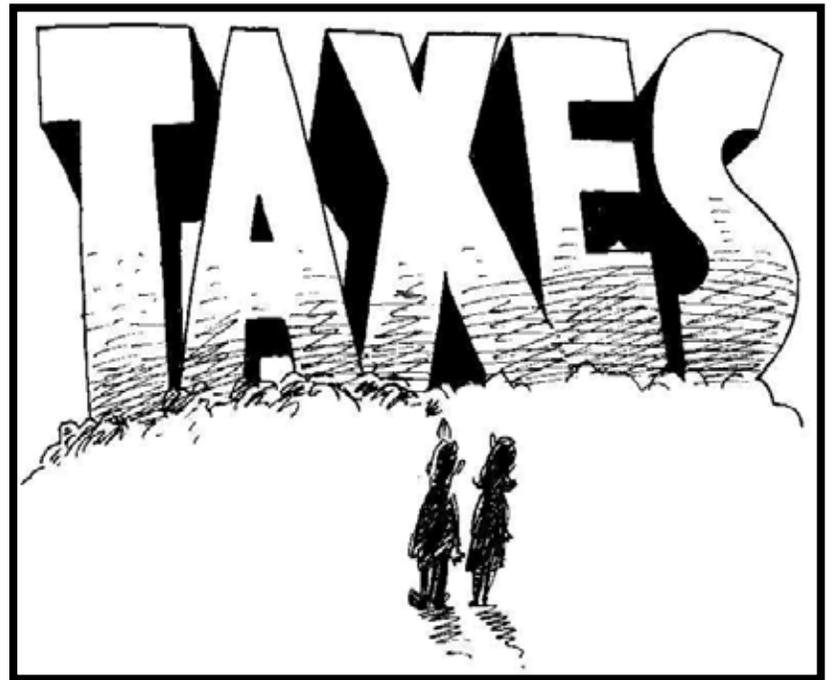
As if Bostonians are not already paying through the nose trying to make ends meet living in this city, while struggling to support their families, with the never ending, clever and oh so creative ways conjured up to take more money out of the pockets of residents. We now have a Boston City Councilor,

Michelle Wu, who wants to seriously look into charging people for parking their cars on the streets that they already pay taxes to maintain. Yes, some now want to charge a 'fee' for those resident parking permits. Will enough ever be enough?

Experience tells us the answer to that question is probably no. Seeing this latest proposal to treat already beleaguered taxpayers like they are ATM

machines reminds many of the words in an old Beatle's song called 'Tax Man'.

The chorus goes like this: If you drive a car I'll tax the street, if you try to sit, I'll tax the seat. If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat, if you take a walk, I'll tax your feet". We think some in policy making positions in this city and across the state know those words well and believe it's their purpose in life to follow them faithfully.



"Government was intended to secure the rights and freedom of the people; it wasn't intended to be all things to all people" – Ambassador Nikki Haley

Letter to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR,

The idea for charging Boston residents for neighborhood parking stickers is not as outlandish as when you first hear this idea, but I do believe before we start tweaking with these parking stickers we should do a comprehensive parking study citywide.

For instance, Boston's North End according to city officials has issued 3,602 residential parking permits but has fewer than 2,000 legal spaces to park. Should the city cap permits handed out to neighborhood residents or just allow a situation where there are 1,400 extra vehicles looking for those 2,000 spaces?

Same goes for each of the city's neighborhoods. If you are a South Boston resident with cousins in Savin Hill, you can't find any parking because your resident sticker is only for South Boston.

City Councilor Michelle Wu reportedly is looking at these resident parking permits and wondering if they should be free or come with a fee. I do like the idea of allowing Boston residents to have the ability to perhaps pay a fee for a citywide resident parking sticker. I currently have an East Boston sticker but when I visit the North End or Charlestown, I get treated like an out-of-towner. The same is true for any Boston

resident visiting friends in East Boston.

Parking is not a right found in the Bill of Rights. It is always first come, first serve. I like having a free East Boston parking sticker, but I would gladly pay a nominal fee to park in any Boston neighborhood because I am a citizen of Boston and not just East Boston.

I am concerned that it sounds like a money grab but as long as Boston residents are served, sometimes things come with a cost. Better than parking in an expensive garage, isn't it.

Sincerely,
SAL GIARRATANI
East Boston

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The Information Center



Now it's Sandwiches Causing 'Climate Change'

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

“And the Grammy goes to...Just kidding, no one cares”. This was a meme that went viral on social media last Monday in response to the 2018 Grammy (music awards). These ten words seem to define the continuous drop in popularity that has been happening to so many of the glitzy award shows. They have been taken over by egotistical self-absorbed ‘celebrities’, using the forum as a soapbox to preach their brand of politics as they chastise everyone and everything they disagree with, especially Middle America.

That these shows have now turned into Trump-bashing hate fests has only increased the speed

by which viewers are tuning out. As the numbers came in, much to the shock of those performers who were convinced that the public hangs on every word they utter, it was learned that this year's Grammy Awards ratings were even worse than 2017 which reached yet another low. The fact that the 2018 ratings saw an additional drop off of 20% even from last year should send a message to the insufferable scolds on stage, who believe it's their duty to tell the rest of us how to live our lives.

I know, I've mentioned this topic before and this is not to criticize those who still tune into these shows. I personally wouldn't watch them if my eye

lids were glued open and taped to the video screen. It's a personal choice and everyone has the right to their own views on this. No, this is just to express the satisfaction it brings to so many of us to witness the self-righteous falling from their teetering pedestals.

Moving on to 'Climate Change' again: The gathering of world leaders in Davos, Switzerland last week brought together many of those who pledge themselves and tried to pledge American taxpayer money to stopping what they call man-made Global Warming. It was reported that they arrived at the conference in more than 1000 fossil fuel guzzling, pollution spewing private jets. Many of these jets carried

but 2 or 3 passengers. So, it kind of makes it hard to take these people seriously.

But the latest thing to come out of England is that there is yet another cause of Climate Change - sandwiches. And the worst culprits of all are breakfast sandwiches. This is according to 'scientists' at the University of Manchester in England. This is almost too ridiculous to believe, so I invite you to go to your favorite search engine and look it up for yourselves. Yet, as comical as this sounds, it still can't compare to the scoffing that followed several years back when the British Parliament actually took up the topic and attempted to pass a resolution

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.

Trump delivers a non-Twitter style State of the Union address

Sure, the normally combative President Donald Trump last night called for national unity and bipartisan action on overhauling the immigration system and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure, as dutifully reported by the New York Times and the Washington Post.

But the real story, as we all know, is that his address last night was distinctly more presidential than his usual barrage of bombastic presidential tweets – and that's why we liked Matt Viser's analysis at the Globe, where Viser notes that the "stylistic image" conveyed by the president last night was "starkly different from the reality of his first year in office." But it's not

just about style. It's about his whole approach to the presidency ... until last night. The Boston Herald has more on the speech. WGBH has the full video of the address.

Legislative leaders rip Eversource over solar charges

From Bruce Mohl at Commonwealth magazine: "House and Senate energy leaders made clear on Tuesday that they aren't happy with the way Eversource Energy and state regulators have implemented legislation requiring homeowners with solar installations on their property to be charged for their use of the power grid."

So how did Kennedy do last night?

Unless you consider what appeared

to be a little drool coming out of the side of his mouth an unmitigated disaster, as Politico reports, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III's Democratic response to the president's speech last night appeared to go OK. Among other things, he attacked President Trump's first year in office and bemoaned the "fault lines of a fractured country," as reported by Liz Goodwin at the Globe and O'Ryan Johnson at the Herald. There was one local critic of Kennedy's speech: The Herald's Joe Battenfeld, who says Trump looked presidential while Kennedy "looked like he was running for student council." You decide. WGBH also has the full video of Kennedy's response.

One thing is clear: They're bursting with pride in Fall River, where Kennedy delivered his response at the Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School, reports Will Richmond at the Herald News.

Dems fighting Dems (again): Pressley to challenge Capuano for U.S. House seat

Forget about running for Linda Dorcea Forry's now-open state Senate seat. Ayanna Pressley has her sights set on another prize. From Benjamin Swasey at WBUR: "The first-ever woman of color on the Boston City Council is now seeking higher office — and taking on a fellow progressive in the process. Councilor Ayanna Pressley will run for Congress, challenging longtime U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano in the Democratic primary, she announced Tuesday."

Besides their age, gender and racial differences, we're not quite sure what the big political distinction is between the two, nor what this much-quoted battle cry from Pressley means: "This district and these times demand more than an ally, they demand an advocate and a champion." Spencer Buell at Boston Magazine has more.

State pension fund saw impressive 17.7 percent gain on investments last year

Not bad. From SHNS's Michael Norton at the BBJ: "A ripe investment environment in 2017 helped the state pension fund put a \$11.1 billion dent in the state's unfunded liability. The Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) ended the year with a 17.7 percent gain, beating the so-called core benchmark, which rose by 14.9 percent."

Is Partners trying to game the GIC system via Neighborhood Health?

As lawmakers today prepare to grill Group Insurance Commission officials about a controversial proposal to change public employees' health plans, Paul Hattis, an associate professor of at the Tufts University School of Medicine, says he's glad the new rules will likely be rescinded. But he has some issues he thinks the GIC still needs to address, including whether Partners HealthCare effectively gamed the GIC system via insurance prices quoted by its Neighborhood Health Plan subsidiary.

Region already feeling impact of big Amazon-JPMorgan-Warren Buffett health-care move

Speaking of health-care issues: Shortly after Amazon, JP Morgan and Berkshire Hathaway (aka Warren Buffett) announced yesterday that they were forming a new company aimed at reining in health-care costs for their U.S. employees, the shares of CVS Health, which wants to get into the insurance business, and other health care companies tanked, as Mark Reilly at the BBJ reports.

But let's look further into the future: What if the cost-cut scheme works and Amazon opens a second headquarters in Boston with 50,000 workers and then starts putting the price squeeze on MGH, Brigham's & continued on page 5

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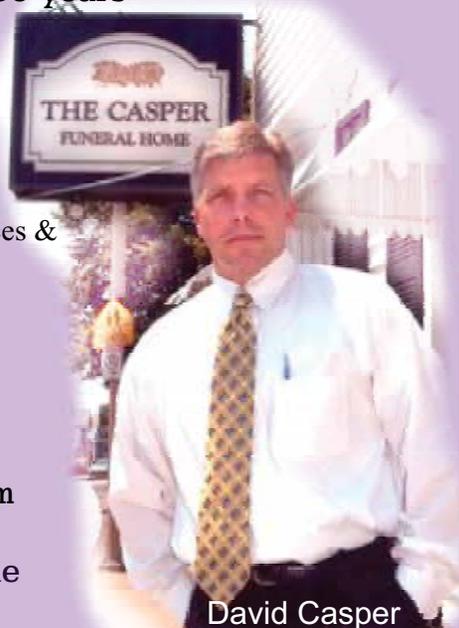
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Tom McGrath Returns as SBCA President



Nick Collins & Tom McGrath

The South Boston Citizens' Association has announced that Tom McGrath, who stepped down from the presidency of the Association at the close of its 2017 Evacuation Day events, is returning to act as interim president for the foreseeable future.

"Last March I made my farewell speech at the Evacuation Day Banquet," McGrath said, "not knowing that the challenges presented by the time required for planning all

of the Association's annual events would make it impossible to have a new president in place for 2018. There are many dedicated and capable members who are interested in the position, but current commitments have prevented them from being able to assume the duties at this time. So, I'm back for this year to work with all our great volunteers to celebrate another Evacuation Day season of community events."

McGrath said that he will con-

tinue to act as president through the 2018 Evacuation Day activities, scheduled to begin on March 3rd and to culminate with the Association's 138th Historical Exercises, to be held on Saturday, March 17th at Dorchester Heights. In conjunction with his return as president, McGrath announced that the 2018 Evacuation Day General Chairman will be none other than State Representative Nick Collins.

McGrath Announces Rep. Nick Collins As 2018 Evacuation Day General Chairman



the 138th Annual Evacuation Day Banquet at the South Boston Convention Center, on Friday, March 16th, and closing with the Memorial Mass (9AM) followed by the Historical Exercises at Dorchester Heights Monument on Saturday, March 17th.

Nick Collins was born and raised in South Boston with five siblings. He is a graduate Boston Latin School and The Gunnery prep school in Connecticut, where he played hockey. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business management from Babson College.

He was first elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives seat for the 4th Suffolk District in 2010. He has served on a variety of committees, including the Joint Ways & Means Committee and the House Committee on Personnel and Administration, the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, and the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

He has also served as chair of the Boston Legislative Delegation.

"The executive board and I look forward to working with Representative Collins, to ensure once again the success of this unique community celebration, the commemoration of the British evacuation of Boston in 1776," said McGrath. "Everyone is aware of his commitment and genuine devotion to the community of South Boston, with the documentary that he and his friends produced and unveiled at the 2010 banquet. Nick is a lifelong resident and active member of the SBCA his entire adult life. His dedication to the South Boston Citizens' Association and the neighborhood of South Boston will make him stronger throughout his life and political career. We are honored to list him as a member, and even prouder to name him this year's General Chairman."

McGrath also stated "I have known Nick since his Little League

and Youth Hockey days and now I continue to work with him on many community issues, most recently regarding the \$6 Million that he was able to appropriate for the renovations to the Murphy Rink.

While the citizens of South Boston see the three weeks of celebration with each year's Evacuation Day celebration, there are another 12-15 weeks of preparation to put it all together. Nick works side by side with other dedicated SBCA members in those hectic weeks, licking stamps, making phone calls and doing whatever it takes. The Association this year will once again sponsor a full roster of civic and sporting events over a three-week period. The full schedule of events, as well as the identities of the 2018 Henry Knox Award, John W. McCormack Public Service Award, The John "Joe" Moakley and James "Jim" Kelly/ Margaret Flaherty Shamrock Community Service awards, will be announced in the coming weeks.

Window Into The State House

continued from page 4

Women's, Beth Israel, Tufts Medical, etc.? You get the idea. So this could be big. But first the new company's business plan has to work – and we're not so sure it will. Even without details, it sounds pretty far-fetched. The New York Times has more.

County's bill to guard inmate at prison

hospital approaches \$2 million

One more post on health-care prices (and it's a whopper): Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger's office has spent nearly \$2 million to provide around-the-clock guards for an inmate who has been in a state prison hospital since he was shot trying to escape in 2013, Julie Manganis of the Salem News reports. The inmate has not yet been medically cleared to stand trial on

charges connected to the escape.

The latest turn in state's bizarre energy politics: Russian LNG

The Russians are not only coming, they've already arrived, in the form of a giant tanker of liquefied natural gas that's been unloaded in Everett over the past few days – and some of the gas is coming from a Russian company under US sanctions, the Globe's Jon Chesto

reports. From a Boston Globe editorial this morning: "As an unintended result of restrictive shipping laws on the federal level, combined with efforts by local officials to block gas pipelines, Bay State customers will now instead burn gas extracted from the delicate Arctic ecosystem by a firm linked to one of Vladimir Putin's cronies." That pretty much summarizes our energy policies of late: Dumb and getting dumber.



Gavin Foundation Quincy Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Where/When:

Monday, February 12, 2018
Press Conference and Presentation
4:00 pm; Reception to follow 4:30
Quincy City Hall City Council
Chamber
1305 Hancock St. Quincy, MA 02169
For More Information Contact:
Susan Bradley, Development Director
Gavin Foundation, 675 East 4th

Street, South Boston, MA 02127
(o) 857-496-7338 (m) 781-258-7478
SusanBradley@GavinFoundation.org

What:

In 2015, the Gavin Foundation established a rehabilitation facility in Quincy providing acute treatment services, including medically monitored detoxification, and clinical support services to individuals taking their first steps toward sobriety. Initially a partnership with Phoenix House, in December 2017 the Gavin Foundation took full ownership of the 64-bed ATS/CSS facility. In honor of the transition, we will hold a ceremonial ribbon-cutting in Council Chambers at Quincy City Hall.

Who:

Speakers will include Congressman Stephen P. Lynch, Quincy Mayor Thomas P. Koch and Gavin Foundation President/CEO John P. McGahan. Guests will include City of Quincy Council

members and staff, board members from the Gavin Foundation, staff of Gavin Quincy ATC/CSS, program participants and guests. Press are invited to attend.

Why:

In 2015, the Gavin Foundation established a rehabilitation facility in Quincy providing acute treatment services, including medically monitored detoxification, and clinical support services to individuals taking their first steps toward sobriety. On completion of the program clients are guided on the next steps toward sustained recovery. Mayor Koch was instrumental in bringing this state-of-the-art healthcare facility to Quincy. Initially a partnership with Phoenix House, in December 2017 we took full ownership of the program and we are most grateful for the support received from the City of Quincy, Thomas P. Koch, Mayor. Mayor Koch and his team

has been working with us to ensure a seamless transition of services. They understand the importance of the treatment center and its benefit to a community hit hard by the opioid epidemic. We are thankful to Mayor Koch for his support of our organization and his commitment to finding solutions that help rebuild and reunite families dealing with addiction.

The Gavin Foundation is a nonprofit agency providing comprehensive adult, youth and community substance abuse education, prevention and treatment programs. The Gavin Foundation offers a continuum of care to individuals, support services to their families, and programs to increase community awareness and acceptance regarding addiction and recovery. Established in South Boston in 1963, we now serve over 10,000 individuals from the Greater Boston area each year.

City Councilors...

continued from front page

current parking crunch facing every neighborhood. Most cities and towns charge permit fees, but as one resident mentioned, "The city has a parking enforcement army that could ramp up their efforts to fine scofflaws already." The notion of additional fees, while based on a practical approach to addressing a chronic problem, is being viewed as another policy that burdens the taxpayer.

Taken by itself, the permit issue, while causing a mixed reaction, is at least a reasonable proposition to consider and take public comment on. However, along comes the idea being proposed by Council President Andrea Campbell of allowing non-citizens to vote in Boston's municipal elections — possibly including illegal immigrants — and she's planning to hold a hearing on the issue.

As reported in the Boston Herald, Campbell said, "I want to have conversations about how noncitizens can fully participate and come out of the shadows to do so. These residents generate millions in taxes coming from folks who are identified as undocumented, DACA, legal permanent residents as well as having green cards. We should be open-minded and keep it open as to how

they could participate."

Only U.S. citizens can vote in federal elections, but that restriction can be waived in state and municipal election laws, according to Ivan Espinoza-Madrugal of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice. Several towns in Maryland already allow noncitizen voting, including Takoma Park.

"It's an effort to deliberately blur the difference between citizens and legal immigrants and illegal immigrants. ... The possibility of including people here illegally is going to be seen as even more outrageous," said Jessica Vaughan, director of policy for the Center of Immigration Studies, which supports enforcement of immigration laws. "It's devaluing citizenship."

Not only is this proposal being viewed as radical on its face, but it will also test the influence of the progressive left movement citywide. As Democrats, City Councilors will likely have another progressive wing of the party litmus test to contend with. During the 2017 Mayoral election, Mayor Walsh had been challenged by former city councilor Tito Jackson on his efforts to improve race relations in Boston. Many are now concerned that the debate that will ensue from Campbell's proposition will create another trigger point on this unpredictable and misheard issue.

Ciccione

continued from page 3

telling people they should stop eating beans because of the well-known after effect of consuming that product and the impact they insisted it had on the atmosphere. Yup, you might want to look that one up too. Said an embarrassed British sailor in the Royal Navy to an American reporter, "Europe is turning into the Theatre of the Absurd".

To Nancy Pelosi, getting a bonus of a thousand dollars from your employer sounds like insignificant crumbs. She made this clear recently when major companies began announcing that they would be passing out the \$1000 bonuses to their employees thanks to the recent tax reform package. She was furious. This confirmed, yet again, how out of touch so many in Washington really are. In many places, the

tax cuts have already begun to take effect. In fact, several of our South Boston neighbors have posted on social media that they are pretty darned happy with the extra \$30, \$40, \$50 and more they just started getting in their paychecks each week because of less taxes being taken out. Now to Pelosi and Schumer and the like, the fact that people anywhere in America are actually having their taxes CUT instead of raised is the cause of anxiety attacks. And when they see the unemployment rate drop to an 18-year low among minorities as well as whites, instead of being happy that the economy is roaring back and people are doing better, they are worried that their prospects for the next election keep dimming. Their priorities are apparent and do not lie with American citizens. This should no longer be a surprise to anyone.



Councilor Flynn Named Chair of Key Committee

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn was named as Chair of the Committee of City, Neighborhood Services and Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. This committee provides oversight of the delivery of municipal services to the city's residents and neighborhoods including the activities of communication, energy and water service providers.

The committee also oversees city departments such as the Inspectional Services Department, the Library Department, the Office of Neighborhood Services, the Public Works Department, the Transportation Department, Boston Water and Sewer Commission, the Office of Cable

Communications, Office of the Parking Clerk, Office of Civil Rights, the Commission of Person with Disabilities, the Veterans Services Department, the Veterans Grave Division of the Parks Department, the Office of New Urban Mechanics, and the Department of Innovation and Technology. Moreover, the committee concerns itself with city programs for veterans and their families.

"I am honored to serve as Chair of the City, Neighborhood Services and Veterans & Military Affairs Committee. This committee oversees our dedicated city employees, including those in the Public works Department who work hard to keep

our streets clean and clear of snow. It will review programs that are implemented by the excellent staff working with our disability community. The committee will concern itself with those basic city services that our residents expect from their local government. In addition, we will review programs available for Veterans and Military families."

Flynn said, "I am also honored to be named Vice Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights. Councilor Zakim is serving as the Chair of this Committee and I am eager to work with him. I am confident that our efforts will reflect my belief in respect and dignity for all."

Councilor Flynn Seeks Strong AirBnB Regulation

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn announced this week that he is eager to begin discussions regarding Mayor Walsh's recently filed ordinance on short term-rental platforms in the City of Boston. Flynn praised Mayor Walsh for his actions to address the issues related to short-term rentals, which impact neighborhoods throughout the city. Boston must look to close any potential loopholes and ensure this ordinance protects our neighborhoods from large corporations depleting our housing stock.

Specifically, Flynn will look closely at the "investor unit" classification, noting other cities like

Nashville have voted to eliminate the entry of new investors, as well as setting a timetable for current investors to exit the market. Moreover, Flynn will study whether the 90-day limit on rentals is appropriate.

Flynn said, "Mayor Walsh has shown strong leadership in taking this step to address the issues pertaining to short-term rental platforms in Boston. It has become clear that high concentrations of corporate, short-term rentals are increasing costs and driving displacement in our neighborhoods. There are public safety and quality-of-life issues that must be addressed as well."

"We must also focus on absentee landlords skirting the rooming

house laws – essentially creating mini-hotels for profit. These actions gouge the rental market and create a shortage of rents that working people can afford."

Flynn cited data compiled by the Alliance for Downtown Civic Organizations (ADCO), which concluded:

- Chinatown is experiencing the most rapid AirBnB growth – three times that of Boston and 37 percent annual growth.
- Boston's ownership/listing concentration statistics nearly double those of New York and Washington, D.C.
- The number of AirBnB units owned by multi-neighborhood hosts is almost four times the average for other major U.S. cities, stressing the

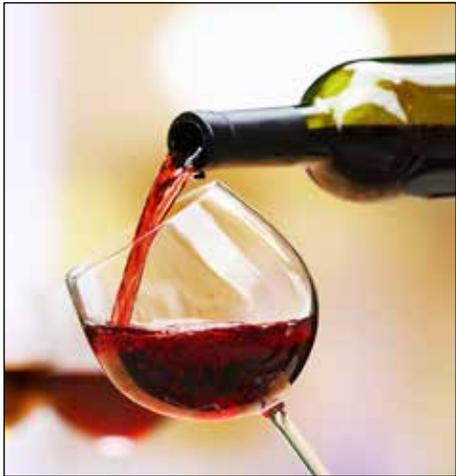
residential fabric of our communities.

Flynn conveyed that he would work closely with his colleagues on the City Council to examine both the "investor unit" classification and the 90-day limit on rentals. In addition, Flynn would look at registration and public safety inspection requirements for the city.

Flynn said, "It is my hope that this regulation will strike the appropriate balance and begin to alleviate the concerns of our residents regarding the rental market, the public safety aspect and quality of life issues that have arisen and maintaining the residential feel of our neighborhoods."



The Wine Guy



This Is It

I remember the night that the Patriots won the Super Bowl in 2001, in what was to become the first of five titles. I was at a party in the Longwood Medical Area and when the game was over, everyone came out of houses and bars and restaurants and just

started hugging and celebrating. Cars couldn't move; when a Boston cop got out of his cruiser to try and clear things up, he got delayed by about twenty people who high-fived him. It was quite a game and quite a night.

I also remember thinking, "I

wish I had a bottle of Champagne." When the game's over on Sunday, don't be caught short; here are some recommendations that cover some sparkling options - a few high-end names, but the majority under thirty bucks.

I want to start with my personal favorite, Veuve Clicquot; the Veuve *Clicquot Brut, NV, Champagne, France, (\$60.00)*, offers a refreshingly smooth and creamy texture with a toasty finish. Not too sweet for the wine connoisseur, but not too dry for the novice. It's a little bit more than the other wines listed here, but it's not as bank-breaking as Cristal or Dom Perignon. In my opinion, it's worth the splurge and a consistent value for the price.

Coming back to the States, *Gruet Blanc de Blancs, NV, New Mexico, (\$16.99)*, is a pleasant surprise. The family was on its way to California, but when they stopped in New Mexico, they stayed. While New Mexico isn't the first place that comes to mind when you think of great wine states, the Gruet Winery has been getting some good buzz lately, particularly for this affordable sparkling wine. Its mature taste has a core of pear, apple and tropical fruit.

Another great Sparkling wine is *Argyle Brut, NV, Willamette, Oregon, (\$27.99)*, one

of the most respected sparkling wines in this country, this champagne features coveted small bubbles and hints of spice, citrus blossoms and toasted brioche. A sophisticated sparkling wine, it's fruity with only a hint of sweetness.

If you like Champagne at all, you've probably heard of (and perhaps had) Cristal. Well, it has an American-made cousin, *Roederer Estate Brut, NV, North Coast, California, (\$21.99)*. This delicious California sparkler starts off toasty and nutty, then reveals flavors of citrus, green apple, and pear. The quality and depth of this Sparkling wine at a price point this low make it one of the top values in the American market.

"Last, but not least", as they say, I'd like to point out a Prosecco whose consistency and quality over the years make it a sure bet to please. *La Marca Prosecco, Brut, NV, Veneto, Italy, (\$14.99)* is a sparkling wine with a pale, golden straw color. Bubbles are full textured and persistent. On the nose, it brings fresh citrus with hints of honey and white flowers. The flavor is fresh and clean, with ripe citrus, lemon, green apple, and touches of grapefruit, minerality, and some toast.

Enjoy the game and the bubbles.

GO PATS!

Talk to The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

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141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 317 Condo	\$1,117,500	12/12/17	4	2	1544
341 E St UNIT 2 Condo	\$1,085,000	12/12/17	6	2	1354
772 East Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$1,015,000	12/8/17	5	2.5	1851
3 Dorchester St UNIT 3G Condo	\$1,012,000	12/8/17	5	2	1581
205 E St UNIT 2-N Condo	\$880,000	12/1/17	4	2	1130
205 E St UNIT 11-N Condo	\$810,985	12/1/17	4	2	1057
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15 Ward St UNIT 3 Condo	\$678,150	12/11/17	6	2	1148
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Sewer Investigations in South Boston to Resume February 5, 2018



Boston Water and Sewer Commission has retained Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to design a Sewer Separation Project in South Boston under BWSC Contract #16-206-003. The goal of the project is to remove as much stormwater as possible from the existing combined sewer system. The scope of the project includes upgrading our sewer and water systems and installing new storm drains to separate the flow from the existing combined sewers.

The initial investigations began in April 2017. See attached image for project area. The project consisted of three tasks, television inspection of existing combined sewers, investigation of existing downspouts and investigations of private drainage systems. The downspout investigation phase has been completed. Work will resume on television inspection and private drainage investigations. It is not expected that this work will affect services to residents in these areas. Work on these phases will include:

Television inspection of our existing sewers, combined sewers and storm drains
Last year we commenced the television inspection of existing combined sewers in the project area. During these investigations some sewers were identified to require extensive cleaning. The contractor has been authorized to commence this cleaning. Most of the cleaning is along Dorchester Avenue. The contractor will utilize a vacator to clean the sewer and then inspect with an internal television camera.

Investigations of private drainage systems
This phase of the project may require dye testing of catch basins and drain manholes in parking areas of private ways and parking lots to determine their point of connection. If it is found that the pipes are connected to the existing sewer, every effort will be made to connect the pipe to a new or existing storm drain.

Additional cleaning will commence on February 5, 2018 under the following conditions:

- Work zone is primarily along Dorchester Avenue between Broadway and Andrew T stations.
 - Permit work hours will be 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.
 - Boston Police will be onsite for traffic management.
 - Construction impacts include: noise, traffic and parking modifications, and general construction disruption. The contractor will be required to minimize impacts to the extent feasible.
- For information on the project contact Irene McSweeney, BWSC Director of Construction at (617)989-7447.



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Council President to Explore Allowing Non-Citizens to Vote

The president of the Boston City Council, Andrea Campbell has said that she has begun looking into the possibility of allowing non-citizens to vote in Boston's municipal elections. She said she plans to call a hearing of the Council on the subject, which she says will not only seek to allow non-citizens here legally to vote. This includes green card holders, but it also floats the idea of giving the vote to non-citizens in the country illegally or 'undocumented immigrants'.

In a story that appeared in the Boston Herald last Tuesday written by Dan Atkinson, Campbell stated the following: "I want to have a conversation about non-citizens being able to fully take part and come out of the shadows to do so. They generate millions in taxes. Undocumented, DACA, legal permanent, Green Card holders, we should be open minded and keep it open as to how they could participate".

The proposed hearing will focus on legal non-citizens getting the

vote, but she wants to also explore the idea of allowing illegals to vote as well.

Federal law prohibits non-citizens from voting in federal or national elections. But as the Herald story pointed out, there are a few states, which do not have laws banning non-citizens from voting in local contests. However, Massachusetts isn't one of them. There have been attempts by other Massachusetts towns such as Amherst and Cambridge to allow what Council President Campbell is suggesting but have so far been unsuccessful because the Massachusetts Constitution clearly states that non-citizen cannot vote – period.

Vocal opposition to Campbell's proposal has started already. Jessica Vaughn, director of policy for the

Center of Immigration Studies stated the following: "This is an insult to citizens. It's beyond me how anyone could argue that the government in Boston should be inviting people here in violation of our laws to participate in civic life and especially reward them with the ability to vote...." Vaughn went on to say "It's a deliberate attempt to blur the difference between citizens and legal immigrants and illegal immigrants. The possibility of including people here illegally is going to be seen as even more outrageous. It's devaluing citizenship."

As of this writing, no final plans or tentative date for a hearing on the matter has been set. If and when a hearing is scheduled, South Boston Today will do a follow-up story and keep our readers informed of the proceedings.

**Brian Wallace and
Glen Frank author
Steve Ross Book
for Little Brown/
Hachette**



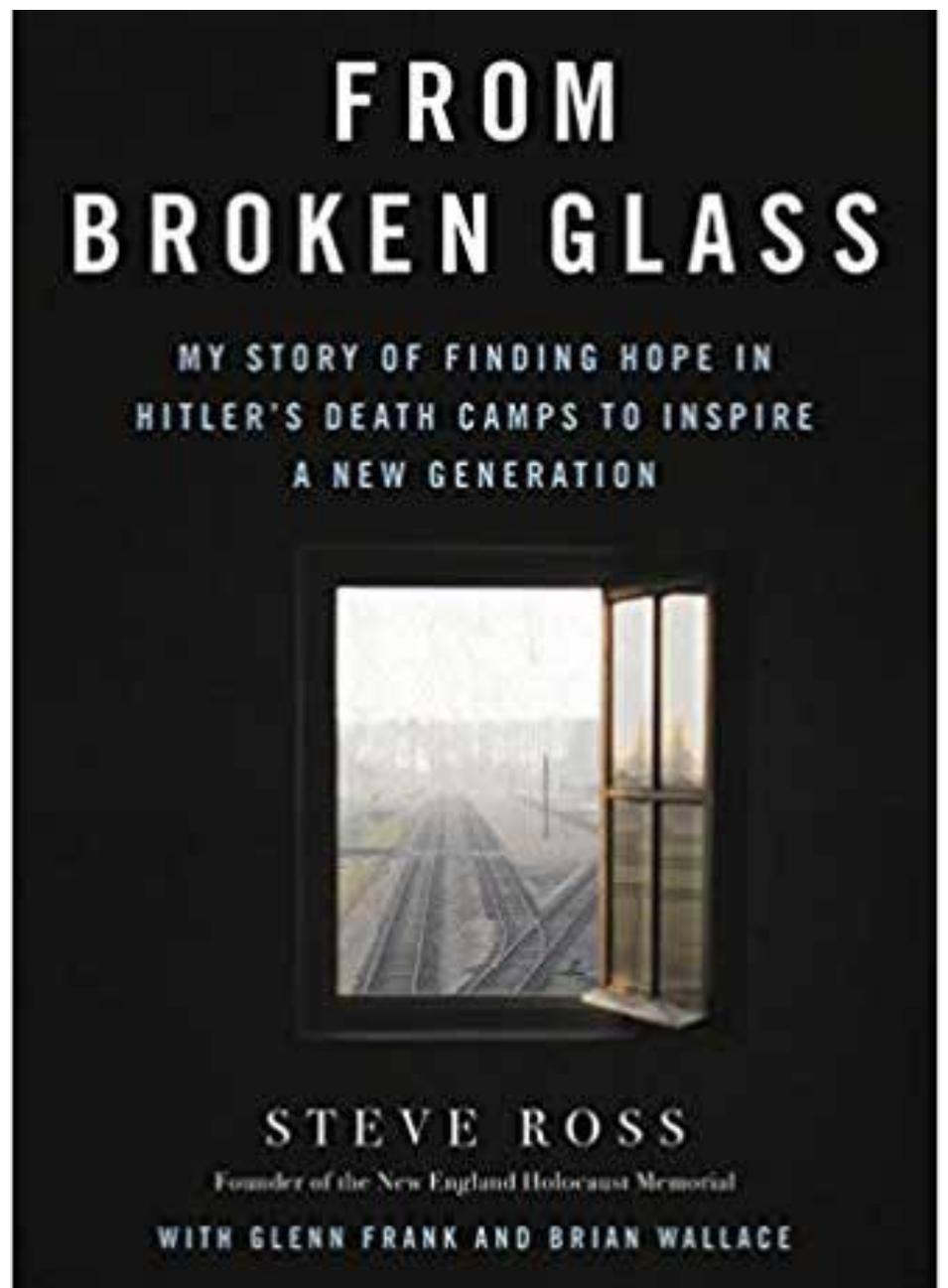
As a young child in Nazi-occupied Poland, Steve Ross (then Smulek Rozentel) endured unspeakable violence and deprivation in ten concentration camps. He lost most of his family to the Holocaust, but through sheer determination and a lot of luck, he survived his brutal ordeal, and went on to emigrate to the United States, where he built a successful career helping ensure that inner-city youth in Boston, Massachusetts could pursue their dreams and never experience suffering like he had. A true testament to the power of human resilience, Steve teaches us how even those who suffer the most can find strength and purpose in the service of others.

In FROM BROKEN GLASS: My Story of Finding Hope in Hitler's Death Camps to Inspire a New Generation (on sale May 15, 2018; Hachette Books; ISBN# 978-0-316-51304-3; \$26.00, with a foreword by former Boston mayor and US Ambassador to the Vatican Ray Flynn), Ross transports readers into

a gripping survival story, as he is repeatedly forced to decide who is telling him the truth or which fateful queue he waits in might be luring him to his death, enduring along the way fear and abuse, hunger and pain. With poignant insight into where we find resilience in the face of human frailty, Ross explores how resourcefulness, determination, and most importantly the help of his fellow prisoners, pulled him through the starvation and slave labor he survived in such notorious death camps as Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Treblinka, Bergen-Belsen, and Dachau.

Ross also shows us how his childhood experiences finding strength and love in the most unlikely places inspired him to devote his life after the Holocaust to helping forge a better world for underprivileged children. He worked for the city of Boston for nearly four decades. He eventually became a Director of Education at the city's community centers, and later conceiving of and founding the New England Holocaust Memorial, one of Boston's most visited sites.

Taking readers from the horrors of Nazi Germany to the streets of South Boston, this is the story of one child's stunning experiences, the piercing wisdom into humanity with which they endowed him, and the drive for social justice that has come to define his life. FROM BROKEN GLASS is a wise and intimate memoir about finding strength in the face of despair and an inspiring meditation on how we can unlock the morality within us to build a better world.



Steve Ross, born Smulek Rozentel, is the survivor of ten Nazi concentration camps—including Dachau, where he was tasked with transporting corpses to the crematorium. He was the Director of Educa-

tion for the City of Boston's community centers, and he conceived of and founded the New England Holocaust Memorial, which was erected in 1995 and remains one of Boston's most visited landmarks.



CHILDREN'S WINTER FEST RETURNS TO BOSTON COMMON FEBRUARY 21

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be bringing the annual Children's Winter Festival to Boston Common in partnership with the Highland Street Foundation during school vacation week on Wednesday, February 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The Children's Winter Festival on Boston Common is a well-loved tradition in Boston, and we are pleased to bring it back again in 2018," said Mayor Walsh. "We invite all children and families to come on down to the festival for a day filled with fun activities."

Among the attractions will be the 45-foot-long Toboggan Tunnel mountainous adventure with twin roller lanes, the 30-foot-high inflatable Everest Climb N Slide, and the Snow Mazing maze. In addition, the Highland Street Foundation is sponsoring a week-long Winter Camp at the Boston Common Frog Pond with free skating and rentals for all ages from Monday, February 19, through Friday, February 23. For more information on the Winter Camp skating, please visit www.highlandstreet.org.

The festival will also feature a DJ from Magic 106.7, an appearance by the L.L. Bean Bootmobile with their popular Boot Toss game, giveaways from

"DreamWorks Animation Trolls: The Beat Goes On!" now airing on Netflix, and refreshments from Sparkling Ice beverages and Power Crunch protein energy bars. In addition, the Appalachian Mountain Club's Outdoors Rx program will present activities including scavenger hunts and nature walks.

Additional support is being provided by the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center and Cricket Wireless. For more information, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505, visit www.cityof-boston.gov/parks or go to www.facebook.com/bostonparksdepartment.

5 Reasons Pre-School Years Are A Prime Time For Learning

Much of the discussion about education focuses on the K-12 years, but some early childhood education experts suggest serious learning can start even earlier and pay dividends for the child in years to come. “Young children have the capacity at a very young age to be academically challenged, and we need to educate them strongly during those years instead of waiting until they are older,” says Alise McGregor, founder of Little Newtons (www.littlenewtons.com), an early education center with locations in Minnesota and Illinois.

“Children’s minds are like sponges when they are very young. Under age 5 is the most important time for development and our best opportunity to set up children for success. If we strongly educate children at a very young age, while their brains are

so pliable, by the time they reach kindergarten, their brain capacity is much higher.” Recent research confirms that the first five years of life are particularly important for the development of the child’s brain. Harvard University’s Center on the Developing Child reports that in the first few years, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second, building the brain’s architecture.

This growth of the brain’s network establishes a fertile foundation for learning, thus an opportunity to be better prepared for grade school and beyond, experts say. One analysis of several studies, “Impacts of Early Childhood Education on Medium- and Long-term Education,” showed that children exposed to high-quality pre-kindergarten education performed better academically in later years. Early education also led to

higher graduation rates, fewer special education placements and less grade retention.

McGregor suggests five reasons parents should consider ramping up their pre-K child’s education:

- **Socialization.** Socialization with people other than the child’s family in a safe environment is an essential foundational element. “It’s important to introduce our children to other children and support their transition into their own friendship groups, and the earlier we do this, it helps children overcome shyness and gain self-confidence,” McGregor says.

- **Personal experiences.** These assist the brain’s organizational development and functioning in many situations, helping children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities. “A good early-education center creates an environ-

ment where imagination, love and innovation all come together for a daily adventure,” McGregor says.

- **Resilience.** It’s important that early childhood educators and parents work together to develop resilience in children as early as possible. “By creating a consistent and stable environment with clear expectations and predictable consequences, children can develop skills in managing themselves and their emotions,” McGregor says. “They may experience bumps, bruises or losing a game, but this is the foundation for building coping strategies for greater challenges in life.”

“The first five years of life are the most critical,” McGregor says. “It is far easier to train a child than it is to



BCYF Condon Community Center &
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are hosting a 6 week "Introduction to Lacrosse" Program
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The youth will be grouped as:

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ment where imagination, love and innovation all come together for a daily adventure,” McGregor says.

- **Enthusiasm for Learning.** Lessons can be given in a fun and exciting way that will encourage children to be effective learners. “Feeling inspired and excited to learn takes root in preschool,” McGregor says, “and can last a lifetime.”

- **Learning respect for others.** A fundamental building block for happiness, friendships and success in

fix a broken adult.”

About Alise McGregor

Alise McGregor is the founder of Little Newtons (www.littlenewtons.com), an exceptional child care center focusing on early childhood education with four locations in Minnesota and one in Illinois. She is the author of an upcoming book, *Creating Brilliance*. Also a nurse, she has a B.S. in Exercise Physiology with a cardiac rehabilitation emphasis.

Gatey Hoop Notes

By Kevin Devlin

Plenty of CYO hoop action again last weekend at the McDonough gym which is located within the Walsh Community Center. Home games for the travel and house teams are played on Saturdays and Sundays. Here are some brief highlights of several games.

On Saturday, January 27, the Gate of Heaven CYO 3rd/4th grade travel team battled it out with their hoops

peers from Saint Ann's of Dorchester. Gatey took an early 16-4 lead and led by eleven at the half, 20-9. In the second half, unfortunately for the home team, the boys from Dorchester woke up and came roaring back to win the game, 40-30. For Gatey, star player Evan Pierce netted twenty-six points and Bobby Rehm finished with four points. For Saint Ann's, their star guard, Brayden Buckley, scored fifteen points and had four steals, while James Neff and Nolan O'Sullivan contributed six points apiece.

Later that day, the Gatey CYO 9th grade travel team almost pulled off an upset, but fell short to Saint Ann's of Dorchester, 40-39. With 4:48 left on the clock in the first half, Gatey took an early lead, 12-7. Saint Ann's responded, stopped making costly turnovers, and took the lead at the break, 24-19. With 8:05 left in the game, Gatey took

control of the game, and with 38 ticks remaining on the game clock, was on top, 37-36.

Led by the scoring prowess of Jake Harrison (twenty-one points /three treys) and Conor Strickland (seven points), combined with Tommy White attacking the offensive boards, it appeared as if Gatey would win this exciting game. But Saint Ann's played it smart during the final seconds, forced Gatey to foul, went to the free throw line, and eked out a one-point victory away from their home court, the Murphy School Community Center gym For Saint Ann's, Andrew Galvin scored ten points, Shea Flaherty had nine points and Mike Flynn contributed seven points in the hard-fought victory.

On Sunday, January 28, in Gatey cadet house league action, the P.S. Deli Club knocked off the first place, and

previously unbeaten Jack McDonough Club, 50-44. The McDonough Club went on a 10-0 run midway through the first half to take the lead, 19-9. They continued to attack their opponent, and at the break led, 29-15. In the second half, minus several of their starters who had to leave for a travel CYO game, the McDonough Club couldn't stop the P.S. Deli squad, and went home with their first loss of the season.

For Coach Mike Donovan's team, Emmanuel "Manny" Disla was unstoppable as he netted twenty-eight points, including three three-pointers from downtown. Joey Maiullari, Jake Harrison, and Danny Mahoney had six, five, and four points respectively. For the McDonough Club, AJ Mansaray scored sixteen points, including four treys, Conor Strickland finished with nine points, while Zack Mitchell and Joey Brink had eight points apiece.



Pictured at the McDonough gym, is the Saint Ann's of Dorchester 3rd/4th grade CYO basketball team, which is coached by former South Boston residents, Anthony LaMonica and Chris Neff.



Pictured at the McDonough gym, is the Gate of Heaven 3rd/4th grade CYO basketball team, which is coached by Paul Hogan.



Pictured resting after his CYO game last Saturday at the McDonough gym is Jake Harrison. Gatey fell short in their comeback bid against Saint Ann's, but Jake had a terrific game, netting 21 points, including three three-pointers from the corner.



Pictured at the McDonough gym is the first place Jack McDonough Club. This Gate of Heaven CYO cadet basketball house league team is coached by Bobby McGarrell and Kevin Cox.



Pictured at the McDonough gym is the P.S. Deli Club. This Gate of Heaven CYO cadet basketball house league team is coached by Michael Donovan. Also pictured is William "Butch" Heflin, a certified hoop referee.



Pictured after his game last Sunday at the McDonough gym is Emmanuel "Manny" Disla. Manny led his team to an exciting come from behind victory against the previously undefeated Jack McDonough Club. Manny finished the day with 28 points, including two three-pointers from the top of the key.

TYNAN HAPPENINGS

CATCH After School Program

The CATCH Program had another great week in the New Year. We started out the week with Monday Medic, a version of Dodgeball with a twist. Star of the game was Ava Healey, with her tactical and forceful moves. Many of our participants competed in the Flag Football League on Tuesday and Floor Hockey on Friday. On Wednesday we celebrated Evan Pierce's 10th birthday with an ice cream cake and some fun activities. Our weekly Friday Bowling League in collaboration with the Ollie was a huge success. Aidan Colton was awarded a Target Gift Card for being the first participant to bowl a strike. Homework hard worker of the week was Paris Allen, who

is always focused and determined during this time.

BCYF-TYNAN TEEN CENTER

Our teen center is now opened Monday through Friday from 6-9 pm. We have a variety of activities for our teens to participate, including but not limited to board games/tournaments, trivia nights, Netflix/movie night. We are also equipped with a brand-new PlayStation with online access. Stop in and use our chrome books for both educational and recreational purposes. We have been long awaiting our Teen Center and are excited to finally have this space!

GYM NOTES:

FLOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

The BCYF Tynan Community Center Floor Hockey League will be starting on February 9th. Games

will be played on Fridays. The past few weeks, the participants have done various drills, scrimmages and worked hard developing their skills. Star of the week was Liam Long who was outstanding in net. There are still slots available if anyone is interested, boys and girls ages 7-11. Contact Greg Lally for further details or stop by to register.

FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The 2017-18 regular season came to an end last week. In the first game, the Saints took a 42-34 halftime lead against the Rams. The Rams fought to come back but came up short. Saints took the victory by the score of 76-66. Rocco Blasi lead the Saints with 5 touchdowns and 1 interception. Liam Colton had a great game for the Rams scoring 5 touchdowns.

In the following game, the Cowboys defeated the Chiefs, by the score of 51-

30. Ryan McGarrell had a strong game for the Cowboys, scoring 5 touchdowns and had 2 interceptions. Mullen Byrne lead the Chiefs, scoring 4 touchdowns and had 2 interceptions. Playoffs begin this week followed by the Championship. Good Luck to all teams.

BCYF TYNAN-GIRLS' FITNESS TEAM

Youth Worker, Katie O'Connell, will be starting the BCYF-Tynan Girls' Fitness program. Fitness Instructor, Amanda McCarthy, will be returning to conduct the (8) week program. Classes will be held on Monday nights, 6-7 pm at the Tynan Gym for girls ages 10 and over. Registration will be held on Monday, Feb. 5th and Wednesday, Feb. 7th from 3-8 pm. A \$20 registration fee (in check or money order) will be applied at the time of registration. If interested or need further information, please contact Katie O'Connell or Kathy Davis @ (617)-635-5110.



Aidan Colton was awarded a Target Gift Card for being the first participant to bowl a strike in the PAL bowling league!



The after school program throws a birthday party for Evan.



Teams await the coin toss for the flag football league.

South Boston Student Completes Internship At Tynan Community Center

Harry Cully of South Boston, a junior at Boston Collegiate Charter School (BCCS) just completed a two-week internship at South Boston's Tynan Community Center. He is among 74 high school juniors that tackled jobs across a range of organizations and industries this month as part of BCCS' mandatory Ju-

nior Internship Program. Running January 16 through 26, the internships are designed to teach BCCS juniors real-world workplace skills with the goal of coming away with a better understanding of possible career choices and college majors.

For BCCS students, 70 percent of whom will be the first in their families to attend college, the

Junior Internship is an invaluable piece of the high school puzzle – and part of the reason that, since its first graduating class in 2004, 100 percent of BCCS students have been accepted to four-year colleges and universities. The BCCS Junior Internship is a vital component of the school's mission to prepare each student for success in college and beyond.





This week, Danny gave "Pic's Pick" for Super Bowl LII:

I am not in Minnesota. I'll be watching the Super Bowl from the friendly confines of South Boston.

I've never been to the Super Bowl, actually. Sure, I've worked for several major media outlets in Boston over the last 10 years, but nobody's been willing to pay my way like they do for everyone else, so, I've never experienced Media Day or Radio Row.

One day, of course. But for now, the show must go on, and the Super Bowl predictions still need to be made.

Before I give you my pick for the game though, just a reminder to put in a DraftKings lineup for the big game, with the "Single Game Showdown." Pick four offensive players and two defensive players under a \$50,000 salary cap. And oh yeah, get a free game with your first deposit by using my promo code, "PIC."

And my DraftKings "Gotta have Em" play for the Super Bowl is Patriots running back Dion Lewis. He's going to take up \$8,900 of cap space for your squad, but I expect him to tally more than his 13.6 fantasy points-per-game average in this one. So take Lewis, and thank me later.

Here's my pick for Super Bowl LII:

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (-4) over Philadelphia Eagles

-The Patriots opened as a 5.5-point favorite. Now, as I make this pick on Tuesday afternoon of Super Bowl week, the Pats are just a 4-point favorite. Does that scare me? Not at all. In fact, if anything, it makes my pick that much easier. The less points the Eagles are getting, the better.

Here's the deal, I think the Patriots will find a way to win this game. The main reason? Nick Foles. I would never be able to put my money on Foles beating Bill Belichick and Tom Brady in any game, nevermind the Super Bowl. Sure, Foles had a 27-to-2 touchdown-to-interception ratio as Philadelphia's starting quarterback in 2013. But since then, he's played for the Rams and the Chiefs, he's been demoted to a backup quarterback, and is only starting in the Super Bowl during his second stint with the Eagles because the starting quarterback, Carson Wentz, suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Credit where it's due, Foles was money in the NFC Championship, throwing for 352 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions against one of the best defenses in football in the Minnesota Vikings. I had picked the Eagles to win that

game, mainly because it was in Philly. But Minnesota had no business being in that game. It should have been New Orleans.

What's done is done, and Foles will now have to slay the beast in order to win a Super Bowl. Sorry, Philly, I just don't see that happening.

The Patriots will most likely have Rob Gronkowski (concussion) ready to go by Sunday. And Brady's injured throwing hand most likely hasn't gotten worse since the AFC Championship nearly two weeks ago.

Those picking the Eagles to win this game will probably point to what they consider to be "distractions" for New England, entering this game. Those "distractions" probably include Brady's "Tom vs Time" documentary, Josh McDaniels and Matt Patricia leaving for head coaching jobs, and ESPN's report a few weeks back that portrayed the Patriots' organization as one that's crumbling from within.

I consider all of that to be nothing more than just talking points for media members who need to fill airtime with something for two full weeks leading up to the Super Bowl. With one game left to play, if you think the Patriots will be focused on anything other than

beating the Eagles, you've failed your NFL 101 course.

The Patriots are on a business trip with a coach and quarterback who are trying to win their sixth Super Bowl together. The Eagles are running around wearing dog masks, relying on their backup quarterback to turn water into wine.

I expect the Pats to win by a touchdown. I could see that touchdown coming late in the game. We'll call it a 27-21 Patriots win. And a big day for Lewis out of New England's backfield, as I mentioned earlier. Lewis is facing his old team, and when asked during the week what he remembered from his time in Philadelphia, he said, "Not playing."

Lewis will be running with a purpose, which will also give Brady opportunities to take some shots down the field with the play action. Combine that with a couple turnovers for the Eagles' offense, and the Patriots should once again put themselves in position for a late score and a Super Bowl win.

See you next February in Atlanta.

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