



Mayor Walsh,
 BPDA announces
 South Boston
 IPOD extension
 IPOD is ensuring that
 development fits within
 the fabric of
 the neighborhood

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and
 the Boston Planning &
 Development Agency
 have recommended a one-year
 extension of the South Boston
 Interim Planning Overlay District
 (IPOD), a tool that is being used to
 balance the demand for new growth
 while maintaining the character of
 the neighborhood. “We launched the
 South Boston Rezoning Initiative as

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EDITORIAL

High Marks for Councilor Flynn

Whenever a new elected official begins his or her duties, there is always a wait and see period, where constituents get to sit back and watch them work and decide whether or not voters made a good choice. Ed Flynn, the new District 2 Boston City Councilor showed everyone that he was a hard and tireless campaigner during the election. Happily, what we are witnessing

now is that he is proving to be just as energetic and serious about doing his new job as he was when he was campaigning to get it. To say he has hit the ground running and hasn't stopped to catch a breath would be a good way to put it.

That Councilor Flynn has made it his focus to look after the best interests of all the people in every part of the district has been apparent and reassuring. It is, after all,

people who make up our neighborhoods far more than the brick, mortar, wood and glass of the buildings within. But his effort to even have concern and compassion for and do something about the danger to our four-legged friends shows that he cares for ALL of God's creatures.

As was reported last week in community papers, in response to the underground high volt-

age areas in some parts of the city that have been responsible for the death of several dogs over the years - beloved family pets all - he has begun the process of rectifying the situation and has called all the necessary players together, including the power companies, to make the needed changes in the interest of safety. Yes, it is the people that are priority to Councilor Flynn but keeping those furry members of the family safe too is also a

compassionate thing to do and means a great deal to the many pet owners in the City of Boston.



"Singing is just feeling set to music" – Carrie Underwood

South Boston IPOD extension...

Continued from front page

a result of the South Boston community's desire to ensure that future development fits within the fabric of the neighborhood," said Mayor Walsh. "The extension of the IPOD will give us another tool to measure if the zoning is working the way it is intended to."

After a comprehensive public process that began in 2015, last year the BPDA recommended dimensional changes to the South Boston zoning code to align the code with the existing buildings in the neighborhood. Shortly after these changes were adopted, the BPDA instituted an IPOD to maintain an opportunity to measure proposed projects against their immediate surroundings and to examine how they would fit within the neighborhood context. An IPOD is a temporary measure when reviewing zoning for potential changes. The combination of these two zoning changes has yielded effective results. Projects that are consistent with the recommended dimensional changes and fit within their immediate

surroundings have progressed, while the IPOD has provided a mechanism to identify projects that need adjustments to better fit within the properties around them.

The community of South Boston has seen significant investment in recent years. The planning department at the BPDA has and continues to utilize significant resources in order to deliver a neighborhood-wide plan that respects the community character of the neighborhood.

"The zoning changes made to the code were guided by the average building dimensions in Southie, which, through the community process, we determined to be appropriate scale for future housing," said Mark McGonagle of the BPDA, who facilitated the neighborhood zoning dialogue. "However, we have heard from the neighborhood that this scale may not be appropriate in all cases. The extension of the IPOD is an effective way to continue to examine these issues as they arise."

"As both Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Civic Engagement Cabinet and a lifelong resident of South Boston, I am pleased with the level of

engagement both the BPDA and our office has tried to provide when it came to the community process," said Edward McGuire. "I know Mayor Walsh and the BPDA will continue to make smart growth and community engagement a priority in South Boston."

Editor's Note: It is our understanding that Article 68 remains the governing regulation, notwithstanding the dimensional changes made through the public process referenced above that are now deferred through the temporary IPOD being extended one year.



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We Do What's Necessary to Protect Banks and Airports, Why Not Schools?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

In the aftermath of the recent shooting in Florida, people are taking notice of a major inconsistency in what should be priorities. Put into social media memes, it goes something like this: In America we protect our airports, banks, Brinks trucks, museums, politicians, celebrities, sporting events, factories, jewelry stores and court houses with armed security. But when it comes to protecting the lives of school children, there is pressure in far too many places to think that putting up a sign that says 'Gun Free Zone' is good enough. Well, we all know now, or should know at least, that it certainly is not. And yet, there are people, usually activists on the 'Left' of the political divide - and the politicians who fear them - who continue to disregard reality and insist that to place armed guards and metal detectors in schools sends the wrong message. But what message do those Gun Free Zones send? Simply answered, it tells any crazy with a gun of his or her own or a bomb or a knife that the school in question is an unprotected and easy target.

Here's another one for you. The idea is being pushed by clear thinking people to put trained, experienced and armed professionals in every school to protect these kids. There are literally thousands of unemployed veterans and retired police officers, who would jump at the chance to get a job protecting the nation's school children. Here again, the left leaning activists claim that this too would send the wrong message. To these activists, I say, 'being blinded by your ideology is no way to go through life and it just adds to the problems we see now'. As far as the claim that it would be

too expensive, stop sending foreign aid to countries that hate us and picking up every other country's tab to float the UN and use that money to protect American children. Again, we have priorities.

Since last week's shootings, I've spoken to three mothers, all of whom have children in elementary schools. All three are worried and each one desperately wants the schools their kids attend to be better protected with metal detectors and yes, trained security people with guns as well.

After every mass shooting we have the obligatory preaching from Hollywood celebrities chastising American gun owners for refusing to give up their right to own firearms. Yet, as we all know, these are the same people who make millions from glorifying gun violence, terrorists and gang culture in their films. Some of their producers are invested in creating video games targeted toward America's youth that give the game players extra points for rape and killing police officers. The higher the body count, the more points earned. It's a good bet that not one of these celebrities or the politicians that think the same way would ever give up their own armed security.

Those who know me know that I'm a strong Second Amendment advocate and continue to be. I'm also a long-time member of the NRA. As is par for the course, after incidents like what just happened, all the usual characters gravitate to the news cameras and vilify the NRA. But let's be clear who makes up that organization which has been an American institution since 1871. They have more than 5 million law abiding members and it gets larger every year. Among the ranks are literally tens of thousands

of current and retired members of law enforcement.

Members are farmers, laborers, union members, doctors, lawyers, nurses, members of congress and people from every walk of life. Fifty percent of all new members are women. Former presidents Teddy Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan were proud to hold lifetime memberships in the NRA. This is an organization that works in close cooperation with police departments all across America to

provide gun safety training to youth and adults alike and has done so for generations. And the kicker is, even with all the hate thrown at them by the news media and left wingers in Congress, every survey taken clearly shows that among the American public, The NRA has a much higher favorability rating than Congress and the Media combined.

As far as the dreaded AR-15 rifle, it is said that there are probably at least 8 million of these rifles in the hands

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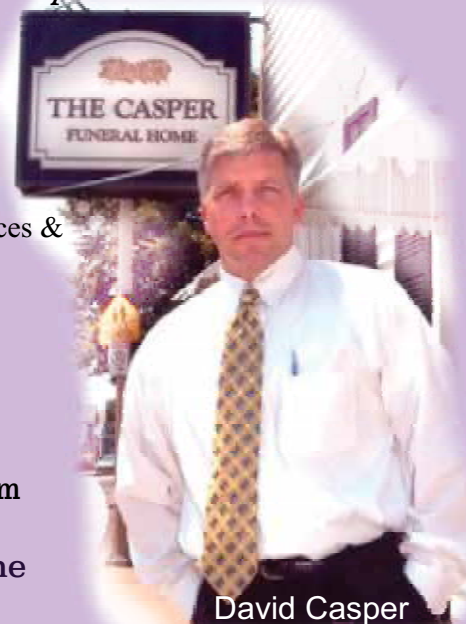
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Window Into The State House

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

Tweet truce: Trump endorses Romney, Romney thanks Trump, armistice still holding

After Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell urged President Donald Trump to get behind Mitt Romney's bid for U.S. Senate in Utah, Trump did just that yesterday, tweeting an endorsement for his fellow Republican who once called the president a "phony" and a "fraud." The New York Times and the Washington Post have the details.

Students plan anti-gun 'die in' and rally in Boston

In the wake of last week's mass school shooting in Florida, local students plan to replicate in Boston yesterday's "die-in" (also called a "lie-in") protest by teens outside the White House, as part of a nationwide student movement to promote gun control, reports the Herald's Marie Szaniszlo. Meanwhile, Alison King at NBC Boston reports that thousands of teens and adults are expected to show up next month at a planned Boston Common

gun-control rally, one of several such rallies to be held across the country.

The Student Shooting Industrial Complex

It's come to this: A Lowell company, started by a former Essex County deputy sheriff and firearms instructor, is now selling bullet-resistant school backpacks, notebooks, three-ring binder inserts and nylon and denim jackets "stealthily fitted with anti-ballistic panels roughly the weight of a 20-ounce bottle of soda that can be held up to shield against most small-arms gunfire," reports the Herald's Laurel Sweet.

So why isn't Elizabeth Warren traveling to key early primary states like other prez wannabes?

They give no explanation, but we found it curious that The Hill ran a story on how Democratic presidential wannabes are busy traveling to key primary states – and Elizabeth Warren isn't even mentioned. Sure, Bernie's mentioned (traveling to both Iowa and New

Hampshire), as are Seth Moulton (Iowa) and John Kerry (Iowa). But no Warren. Turns out, according to this Politico story last month, Warren has deliberately shied away from traveling to either state, perhaps, as the article suggests, to focus on her re-election here.

Pull out the magnifying glass: Another small policy difference spotted between Capuano and Pressley

First it was a small difference between the two progressives on the proposed Mexican border wall. Now it's a small difference between U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano and Democratic challenger Ayanna Pressley over the future of Wynn Resorts, reports SHNS's Andy Metzger at Wicked Local. Their gender and race differences aside, you really do need a magnifying glass to spot the policy differences between the two.

Public Radio's long list of the fallen: Ashbrook, Keillor, Lopate, Hockenberry etc.

The NYT takes a look at how

Public Radio's image and credibility have taken a hit with so many of its high-profile talent getting the boot as a result of the #MeToo movement. Former WBUR host Tom Ashbrook is prominently mentioned, though he was only swept up during the #MeToo movement, not because he had a true #MeToo moment.

Is Kennedy too reasonable for today's hyper-partisan voters?

The headline on Globe columnist Joan Vennochi's column reads: "Is this Kennedy bold enough for the next generation?" Actually, the question is whether U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III is too reasonable for today's hyper-partisan generation of voters, as Joan rightly notes in the body of her column. The fact is Kennedy is following in the "pragmatic idealist" footsteps of his great uncle, JFK, who took all sorts of grief from those to his left for not being sufficiently leftist. Many people tend to forget that political factoid from a few generations ago.

REP. COLLINS VOTES FOR BILL TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

House passes legislation that removes fees for security freezes and increases access to credit reports



In response to recent breaches like the one at Equifax, which jeopardized the personal information of more than 140 million Americans, State Representative Nick Collins joined his colleagues in the House to pass legislation providing added protections and resources for consumers. Under this legislation, credit freezes, lifts, or removals must be provided to consumers without a charge, and credit agencies or businesses must

also provide one year of free credit monitoring after any breach.

The legislation updates the framework for the implementation of a freeze and related communications including:

- Modernizes the current law by allowing consumers to request credit freezes electronically or by telephone.
- Implements a 24-hour online notification from the Office of Consumer Affairs
- Requires clear and accurate disclosure to consumers of basic information about credit freezes.
- In the event of a security breach, mandates credit agencies place a security freeze on a consumer report within one day of an electronic or telephone request, and within three days of receipt of a written request.
- Credit agencies must send con-

firmation of the security freeze within three days.

"I am proud to support this legislation that protects Massachusetts residents and modernizes the way we deal with this sensitive information" said Rep. Collins. "Especially after these high-profile breaches and in these times of increased cyber-security concerns, it is imperative that every resident, especially our seniors, have more control over their credit protections and that victims can more easily respond to these sorts of violations."

For the first time in Massachusetts, this legislation also establishes specific guidelines for parents and guardians to freeze accounts of children under the age of 16 and incapacitated individuals. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

“Battle for Boston”

*The Late Brian R. Mahoney (In Memoriam)
(First Printed 2-10-2011)*



Recently, while watching the History Channel series on the American Revolution, the episode of the evacuation of Boston was aired. The narrator summed up the event by intoning, “Thus the British woke up, surprised at the cannons positioned on the hill and evacuated the city without a shot being fired.”

South Boston Today, over the next 3 weeks, is proud to print the most complete and accurate account of this event ever produced. We are honored to remember and print for the first time in over 200 years, the names of the very first casualties in the history of the American Armed Forces. We are determined to do our duty and correct the historical record of Gen. Washington and the American Nations first victory.

For most of its history, South Boston has always been identified as an Irish community. Growing up, I remember people jokingly calling it, “Ireland’s 33rd County”.

During most of its 200 plus year history, it has had a predominately Irish population. Those of us, who have grown up or live here, however, know that its merchants, athletes, scholars and leaders have always been drawn from every ethnicity under the sun. That same wide-ranging mix was present during the fortification of the “Heights” and is with us today.

The Battle for Boston is one of the most misunderstood and least appreciated acts of our American Revolution. Our story should prob-

ably start at the Battle of Bunker Hill in Charlestown. To paraphrase the British Commanding General Howe, “Many more victories like this and our army will be destroyed.”

The strategic importance of the Hills or Heights surrounding Boston had long been apparent before that bloody engagement. The arrogance and contempt the British held for their “Yankee Doodle” cousins, however, caused the British to underestimate the necessity of the prompt securing and fortifying of these Hills and Heights. Even after the Battle of Bunker Hill, South Boston (Dorchester Neck), was primarily grazing land for cattle and was sparsely populated by approximately 12 families.

Though they still didn’t occupy, the British became more aggressive and warlike toward the small South Boston population. A series of raids by the British over the next 8 months led to the capture of at least six rebel soldiers and the burning of houses and barns. Among the properties burned was the Wiswell Estate near “Bush Tree Hill (M Street Park), the Jones Estate at K and First Streets and Blake Estates near Farragut Road and the Foster property between F and D Streets. Combined with harassing fire from British held Castle William (Castle Island), South Boston was soon evacuated and left empty by the people. If it had remained that way, it is conceivable that our National Anthem today would be “God Save the Queen”.

Fate and destiny, however, had other plans for South Boston and America, Destiny’s Child in this tale was a Boston bookseller named Henry Knox. Knox, friend and advisor to General Washington, was commissioned a Colonel of Artillery in November of 1775. At the same time, the “Green Mountain Boys,” commanded by Ethan Allen, (and accompanied by a Massachusetts Colonel named Benedict



Arnold) captured Fort Ticonderoga and its cannon. Located in Upstate New York, Ticonderoga is an Indian name meaning, “Between Two Lakes”. It is situated between Lake George and Lake Champlain up by the Canadian border. Washington needed its cannon for his plan and this was Knox’s mission. A mission, in the dead of winter, Knox was determined to accomplish.

So began one of the epic journeys in military history. With snow, sleet and howling winds, from Lake Champlain, over the Allegheny and Berkshire Mountains, through Great Barrington and Western Massachusetts, Col. Knox was able to transport these cannon, by oxen, through the roadless wilderness. Knox later wrote that the cannons had to be dragged up and over, “Mountains from which we might have seen all the kingdoms of the Earth.” Imagine driving those oxen through the icy wilderness wearing those heavy, soggy, frozen, woolen, revolutionary uniforms. 1775 was one of the coldest up to that time.

Toward the end of January 1776, Colonel Henry Knox was able to write to General Washington from Framingham that, “A noble train of artillery,” consisting of 59 pieces was ready to be turned over to the American Army at Cambridge. In late February, some 35 cannon were brought from Cambridge to Roxbury. Then, when March began, the cannon were brought from Roxbury to the area we now call Andrew Square.

Today, South Boston rises towards the middle and eastern end with large tracts of flat land on north and south coasts on the West End. Back then, the ocean on the

south came up to almost Eighth Street. Moakley Park did not exist. It was water. On the north “A” Street met the Ft. Point Channel and the ocean came almost up to Second Street. Farragut Road was the shore between the ocean and Castle Island. The land itself had steep rises and deep gullies and had five points prominent above all others.

The first point is what we know today as the Dorchester Heights. Then it was actually two high points called the “Twin Hills”. Just behind Perkins Square, a long, sloping, rocky hill began its climb, reaching its high point around Dorchester Street and Emerson Street. This hill reached as far west as the City parking lot on West Broadway and it was known as “Leek’s Hill”. M Street Park, before it was flattened, was known as “Bush Tree Hill” and towered over the Harbor looking directly toward the British warships anchorage. At the extreme easternmost point, the land rose to about 40 to 50 feet above the ocean at what today is Farragut & Broadway. At that time, it was called “Dorchester Point”. Finally, all the way to the west at what is now “B” & West 3rd Street stood a hill probably topping at 125 feet known alternately as “Foster’s Hill” or “Nook Hill”.

These five hills or heights were the reason and the final destination of Knox’s miraculous journey. The difficulties of this journey are wonderfully depicted in the oil paintings adorning the walls of the former South Boston Savings Bank, now Bank of America. Stop in the bank and check them out.

Part II next week. Take care till next week.

Ban Semiautomatic Weaponry



By Kevin Devlin

I believe in the Second Amendment and the right of every American to defend him or herself, but semiautomatic weapons, which should only be found

in our police and military arsenals, must be outlawed to our citizenry.

To me the right to defend ourselves is a law of nature that should not, must not be denied to anyone by any government. The plain truth is our police can't be everywhere in time to help those in need. A man who owns a store in the inner city, anywhere in America, has the right to defend himself and his business from possible armed-intruders intent on wrongdoing. That's his right to do so, to defend his property, business, and his life. A woman who lives alone somewhere in rural America has the right to defend herself from would be assailants meant on inflicting harm upon her. That's her right to do so, to defend her property and her life. Yet they don't need semiautomatic weapons to do so.

Mass killings have evolved into

an uninvited, new reality snickering at us. Unless we are directly affected by them we really can't truly comprehend the heartbreak of those who have lost loved ones. Life goes on, we whisper to ourselves, helplessly surrounded by the status quo, as we await another tragedy to unfold. And we feel helplessly surrounded because we're powerless against those who wield the power.

The national media will call for changes. Politicians will say they're on board but will continue to bicker and cut deals behind closed doors. Compromise will remain an orphan and change elusive because money talks. The NRA and the gun industry, I guess one in the same, is a billion dollar industry lobbying tirelessly on a daily basis in our Capital.

The President and Congress need

to come together, stop bickering, make a stand, and formulate a bold, nationwide strategy to end this epidemic of death. It's time for change to make the future safer for everyone and ban semiautomatic weapons altogether in the public domain.

"Many people claim to oppose sensible gun-control reforms on the grounds they 'are for the second amendment,'" wrote Cass R. Sunstein, a Bloomberg View columnist. "But everyone should be for the Second Amendment. The question is not whether to favor or oppose the Second Amendment, but which reforms, now acceptable under that amendment, should be enacted into law."

If changes aren't made, real changes that make a difference, more innocent Americans will suffer the consequences of inaction while others continue to profit from greed and indifference.

Official Statement from Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley

"Since Feb. 20, 2002, it's been my honor and privilege to serve the people of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop as Suffolk County District Attorney. I love the job, the office, its staff, and the people and communities we serve. But I have long believed that those of us fortunate enough to lead as elected officials must also be willing to give others the same opportunity. For this reason, I will not be seeking re-election this fall.

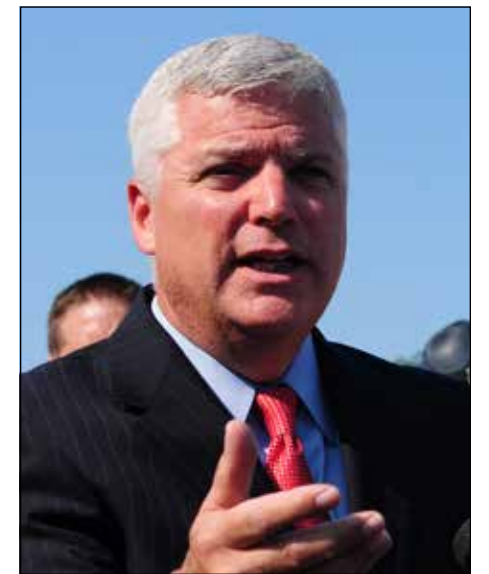
"The past 16 years have been a period of unprecedented innovations within the office, many of them years ahead of their time.

From eyewitness evidence reform to juvenile diversion, I have been fortunate enough to bring these projects to fruition with a world-class team, men and women of uncompromising integrity and deeply heartfelt compassion. These lawyers, advocates, investigators, and others will be a tremendous asset to the 15th Suffolk District Attorney, whoever he or she may be.

"At a time when law enforcement has come under intense scrutiny across the county I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the men and women of law enforcement across Suffolk County for their courage, their determination to do

a difficult job well, and the standard they set for other agencies across the country. Our local and state leaders, our partner agencies from the non-profit and service provider community, and countless others who shared their experience to inform our revisions to policy and procedure – I could not possibly name all of them, or ever thank them enough.

"Finally, but most important of all, the people of Suffolk County have been a blessing to me. I cannot thank them enough for the support they have provided to me, my staff, and my family through the years. From victims and sur-



vivors to families and loved ones, they have shown a depth of dignity and grace amid crisis and grief that has been nothing short of inspirational. I am so grateful to them for their kindness, their wisdom, and their faith."

Ciccone continued from page 3

of law abiding Americans. Some are calling to ban them. But it's doubtful that the sale of new ones will ever be stopped and those out there already will never be allowed to be confiscated. The genie is out of the bottle. I know of at least a dozen local residents who own an AR-15 and they haven't shot anyone. It's not the gun. Americans have always owned guns, it's the culture. It's what so many kids

are being taught in schools, the disregard for the value of life with Hollywood being the biggest culprit and the fact that kids are convinced by irresponsible adults that they should be offended by just about everything.

I have good friends with differing opinions on this subject and that's ok. This newspaper has an Op Ed from one of my friends. Real friends can always agree to disagree and still be friends. We all know that in America, a person's views on a subject are not the

only views allowed. But here you have mine.

I'll close this week with another saying that was sent to me by a young mother from out of state with small children of her own concerned about what's been going on: "You may not like guns. That is your right. And you may not believe in God. That is your choice. But if someone breaks into your home, the first two things you'll do is call someone with a gun and pray they get there in time".

Mayor Walsh Announces Successlink 2018

Summer youth employment enrollment now available online



Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the opening of SuccessLink, an online tool that enables Boston youth to register for summer jobs. The SuccessLink application will be available through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018. Teens can apply 24 hours a day on the BCYF Youth Engagement & Employment (YEE) Division website on youth.boston.gov.

BCYF Youth Engagement & Employment (YEE) is hosting a Youth Job and Resource Fair on Saturday, March 10 at the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center at Roxbury Community College. Youth interested in a summer job through SuccessLink can meet with employers, learn job hunting skills and have some fun. Learn more at Boston.Gov/BCYF.

"The summer youth jobs program is an important opportunity that helps provide many of our young people with the chance to build lifelong skills and confidence, and begin their professional career," said Mayor Walsh. "I encourage all Boston teens to take a look

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Flynn Holds South Boston Office Hours

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn will take his Neighborhood Office Hours program to the Curley Recreation Center (M St. Side), 1663 Columbia Road, this Saturday, February 24th from 11am-1pm. Councilor Flynn recently held office hours in South Boston last Friday morning at the Cranberry Cafe as well. Residents are encouraged to bring constituent and neighborhood issues directly to Councilor Flynn and his staff.

"As City Councilor, it was important for me to begin this program and bring City Hall services to each of our

neighborhoods. Oftentimes, people are unable to take the time from work or too busy to travel into the city to deal with a particular issue. This is an opportunity for us to come to the neighborhood over the weekend and hear from our residents directly about their concerns regarding our parks, public safety, development, and our libraries," said Flynn. "My belief is that every part of District 2 deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, as well as having the same access to basic city services as everyone else. This is just the beginning of our program and I will continue to bring City Hall services to each of our neighborhoods."

For more information regarding future neighborhood office hours or constituent service issues, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.Gov.

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Thomas McGrath, President

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For More Information

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The Wine Guy Some Quick Sips



By The Wine Guy

How about a \$15 Cabernet that drinks more like a \$25-\$30 bottle? The San Pedro 1865 Selected Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon is one of those wines. It's what I like to call the whole package. Rich red and blue fruit, a deliciously herbal, earthy side, nicely integrated tannins and a distinctive, balancing acidity. What more could you want? How about a homemade meatball slider or a big, steaming bowl of

homemade fettucine bolognese? Or maybe a prosciutto, mozzarella, black olive, onion and basil pizza?

"The ultimate viticulturist." That's what Australia's greatest critic, James Halliday, called Bleasdale winemaker Paul Hotker after naming him 2017-2018 Wine-maker of the Year. The award caps an unprecedented hot streak dating to 2007, when Hotker arrived at Bleasdale. Since then, Hotker has turned out 11 wines rated 95 points or above. From this tremendous winemaker, the 2014 Frank Potts Cabernet Blend, (\$25.99) from Bleasdale's "Flagship Range" named for the founder and representing one of the finest expressions of Langhorne Creek Cabernet. 96 points from a mesmerized Halliday, and a gold medal from Australia's most prestigious wine competition, the National Wine Show. What Halliday heralded as Hotker's "extraordinary skill" is on full display in this 2014.

Michel Torino Cuma Malbec Cafayate Valley, 2015, (\$14.99), is

another wine considering. Herbs, particularly rosemary, and black plummy fruit greet the nose followed by decidedly balsamic and bitter aromas of quinine and Chinato. Light, fresh, and energetic in the mouth, there's a nice blend of power and clarity here and unlike much Malbec with is nicely dry. At its core there is that faint bitterness and touch of black spice that Malbec is capable of and this gains complexity in the mouth while retaining the fresh perfumes of crushed berry fruits, most notably mulberries and blackberries. Clean, fresh and clear on the finish, this lacks a touch of length but does gain some nuanced oak influenced complexity as the fruit, now turning red and a touch austere, fades from the palate.

Fontaleoni 'Colli Senesi' Chianti, 2014, (\$13.99), is a family whose centuries of great wines speak volumes. Reticent on the nose and herbal with aromas of dried graasses, hay and subtly spicy red fruits. Light, fresh and zesty in the mouth,

this is laden with bright, clear and slightly sweet cherry fruit. It's a simple wine but round and yet bright in the mouth. Very refreshing and gaining some savory complexity on the backend, this goes down dangerously easily and has just enough tannin to add some real body.

Jose Maria Da Fonseca Jose De Sousa 2015 (\$24.99), is a fantastic value, with dense, full body, ample fruit and beautifully balancing acidity. The Trincadeira and Aragones grapes temper the intensity of the Grand Noir (aka Baga) beautifully. Fill your glasses and enjoy with lamb and pea samosas to start. A big, steaming bowl of pasta bolognese family style is perfect for the bold nature of the wine. A little more time intensive, but equally rewarding, is a roast suckling pig. The lovely acidity of the wine works well with rich dishes. And finally, fried rice with char siu, Chinese sausage and bok choy attest to the versatility of this wonderful red.

Ask The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

Does Today's Economy Make Retirement Impossible?



Life in retirement, which once conjured images of golf and sunsets at the beach, took on a drearier edge in recent years as more people realize they are unprepared financially to stop working.

The Washington Post has called it "the new reality of old age" and quoted one 74-year-old man saying he will need to work until he dies. For those who have retired, a Fidelity study found that 55 percent are at risk of running out of money before their lives end. Think of this statistic—more than half of those surveyed aren't prepared. Are you?

"When the stock market was falling in 2008, I had prospective clients share with me they had lost tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars, and some even shared how many years of work they

had lost," says Troy Bender, president and CEO of Asset Retention Services Inc. (www.asset-retention.com). "They wanted the losses to stop, and they were desperately looking for help."

In addition to the recession, several other factors contributed to their retirement woes. Most businesses no longer offer pensions, so retirees must rely more on their savings. People also need to rely more on Social Security, but Social Security replaces usually only 40 percent of a person's pre-retirement earnings. In addition, according to Social Security, they have shared on their website that they may end up paying 75 cents on the dollar in 2033.

All of this raises the question: Is it even possible to retire in today's economy?

The answer is "yes," Bender says, but even those who planned well and saved plenty need to be careful as they near and enter retirement. With many clients in their 80's and some in their 90's—we all have to plan to live a lot longer. A few tips to help retirees and pre-retirees protect and grow their money include:

- Know when to take Social

Security. If you don't choose the most advantageous time to start drawing Social Security, you could leave a lot of money on the table. Several factors can come into play here depending on your personal situation, so it's best to seek professional advice. Employees at your local Social Security office generally aren't equipped to give you that kind of advice.

- Live by the "Rule of 100." This is critically important. In the investing world, the "Rule of 100" says that the percentage of a person's portfolio that should be in stocks should be equal to 100 minus their age. So, for example, someone who is 60 should have 40 percent of their portfolio in stocks and the other 60 percent should be in bonds or other lower-risk investments. "If you aren't living by the 'Rule of 100,' you should be, especially if you are 50 or older," Bender says.

- Plan for long-term care. A person who turns 65 today has nearly a 70 percent chance of needing some type of long-term care services at some point, according to the U.S. Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services. The cost can be devastating, so it's important to plan financially for this likely eventuality. One option is long-term care insurance. "Sometimes people expect a family member to take care of them in these situations, but I encourage people not to be a burden to someone else," Bender says.

"The stock market is on a high right now, but we all know from experience that this situation is not going to last forever," Bender says. "The closer you are to retirement—or are currently in retirement—the less time you have to recover from a downturn in the market. No one wants to be forced to continue working in retirement or to change their lifestyle because they experienced major erosion in their retirement portfolio due to circumstances beyond their control."

About Troy Bender


Troy Bender, President and CEO at Asset Retention Insurance Services Inc., can be found at (www.asset-retention.com), and has more than 30 years of experience in the insurance and annuity industry.

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
1596 Columbia Road Three Family	\$2,150,000	12/29/17	20	3	3939
870 East Fifth Street Three Family	\$1,700,000	12/29/17	20	3	4536
27 Mercer St UNIT 2 Condo	\$1,100,000	12/22/17	5	2.5	1628
525 East Second St UNIT 12A Condo	\$1,065,000	12/28/17	5	2.5	1681
225 Dorchester St UNIT 2 Condo	\$922,500	12/21/17	4	2.5	1848
205 E St UNIT 2-S Condo	\$896,250	12/28/17	4	3	1188
770 East Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$885,000	12/28/17	5	2.5	1500
350 West Second St UNIT 3 Condo	\$852,500	12/22/17	4	2	1467
25 Dorchester St UNIT PH16 Condo	\$840,000	12/28/17	4	2.5	1573
84 O St UNIT 1 Condo	\$805,000	12/22/17	6	2.5	1450
196 Dorchester Street Single Family	\$750,000	12/28/17	6	2.5	2303
180 L St UNIT 3 Condo	\$649,000	12/29/17	6	1	1058
319 A St UNIT 410 Condo	\$606,500	12/27/17	2	1	487
86 P St UNIT 2 Condo	\$600,000	12/21/17	5	1	929
912 East Fourth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$570,000	12/28/17	4	2	1069
603 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$460,000	12/21/17	3	1	663
11 Boston St UNIT 3 Condo	\$396,000	12/21/17	3	1	569
19 Emerson St UNIT 19 Condo	\$386,000	12/28/17	3	1	560

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FOR INFORMATION  www.bwsc.org  617-989-7000

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South Boston residents running for cancer research

Running in the Boston Marathon® to raise money for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

BOSTON – On April 16, South Boston Residents are running to conquer cancer as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team in the 122nd Boston Marathon®.

Residents include:

- * Kelly Troianello
- * Jackie Williams
- * Travis Clarke
- * Elizabeth Elcock
- * Emily Glore
- * Dave Grotz
- * Olivia Hammick
- * Brittany Lane
- * Kylee Lowndes
- * Ashley Oost-Lievense
- * Sarah Cronholm
- * Shannon Flaherty

* Timothy Lund

* Kate Peucker

Along with more than 500 Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team-mates from across the United States and around the world, they will run Massachusetts' historic marathon route from Hopkinton to Boston to raise \$5.5 million for cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year marks the 29th annual running of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). One hundred percent of the money raised by the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team goes to Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research that

supports promising science research in its earliest stages. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$85 million for the Barr Program to date.

In 1990, Dana-Farber was among the first charity organizations to be recognized by the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.), which organizes the Boston Marathon. The Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team offers its members extensive fundraising support, training guidance from 1976 Boston Marathon men's champion Jack Fultz, and team training runs, plus volunteer opportunities for non-runners. Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners

who are not time-qualified for the Boston Marathon receive an invitational entry into the race.

Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge runners include cancer survivors and patients, and family and friends of those who have been affected by cancer. Each team member must fulfill a basic fundraising commitment:

- Invitational runners, runners who receive their entry from Dana-Farber, have a fundraising commitment of \$5,000.

- Own entry runners, runners who have joined the DFMC after obtaining their own race entry, have a fundraising commitment of \$4,000.

Continued on page 12



Jimmy Flaherty Kick-off Breakfast March 3



The SBCA President Thomas McGrath is pleased to announce that on Saturday, March, 3rd 2018, at the Kick-off Break-fast, at the Seapoint Res-

taurant at 9:30AM, the Henry Knox Award Presentation will take place. Family, Friends and Neighbors are respectfully invited to attend this wonderful event. A \$10.00 donation is requested at door to help off-set some of the costs. This year's event will once again feature great music of Bob Fowkes and Curragh's Fancy.

The event Chairman will be Suffolk County Clerk of the Courts Michael Donovan, who has always

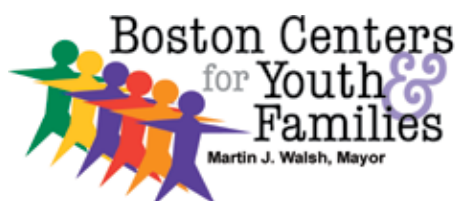
supported the fight to preserve the historical importance of Evacuation Day. "As returning President of the Association, it is an honor for me to once again appoint Mike to kick-off the festivities. His commitment and involvement with the SBCA and the entire community has been a tremendous asset to me and the Executive Board." Said McGrath

Tom McGrath, President of the SBCA, said "It is an honor to recognize these individuals who

dedicate their time and energy to the South Boston Community. I hope the community will join me and others on Saturday March 3rd to honor these individuals." Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.00. This event sells out Annually so don't get shut out!

This year's Henry Knox Recipients are Laurie Linehan, Jimmy Cahill, Sean Connor, Jennifer Zablocki Evans and Dianne Horne. Check back next week for a short bio on their contributions to our great neighborhood.

TYNAN HAPPENINGS



BCYF-TEEN CENTER

Our Teen Center is now opened Monday through Friday from 6-9 p.m. We have a variety of activities for our teens to participate in, including but not limited to board games/tournaments, trivia nights, Netflix/movie night. We are also equipped with a brand-new Play Station 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:

YOUTH FLOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

The BCYF Youth Floor Hockey League kicked off its 2018 season last week. In the first game, the Golden Knights took on the Vancouver Canucks in a close game. The Knights had a 5-3 lead after the second period and never looked back, taking the victory by the final score of 8-5. Ryan McGarrell led all scorers with 4 goals for the Knights. Joe Leeman and Christian Devlin scored 2 goals apiece for the Canucks.

In the following game the Nashville Predators defeated the Winnipeg

Jets in an exciting game, by the score of 8-6. Nolan Young had 4 goals for the Predators and Evan Pierce 5 goals for the Jets.

INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL

The Instructional Basketball for 5-7-year-old boys and girls will begin on Monday, February 26th. Class will be on Mondays from 4-5 p.m. The children will enjoy a 7-week instruction on the basic fundamentals of basketball: dribbling, shooting and passing. You may register anytime in the gym, between 3-7pm. Space will be limited and there will be a \$20 membership fee required.

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

We are now registering players for our Youth Basketball League for

boys and girls 7-11. A mandatory practice session will be on Tuesday, February 27th for all interested. Teams will be made up and the league will begin on Tuesday, March 6th. Anyone interested should stop by to register with Greg Lally.

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. Classes will begin Monday, March 6th. A \$20 registration fee (in check or money order) will be applied at the time of registration. Registration is ongoing, Monday through Friday from 3-8 pm..

Boxing Show March 10th at Peter Welch's Gym

The annual St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Boxing Show is scheduled this year for March 10th and will be held at Peter Welch's Gym located at 371 Dorchester Ave in South Boston.

Boxing Show Tryouts: Tryouts for the annual Boxing Show are being held at Peter Welch's Gym each week until the event itself, on Tuesday and Thursdays beginning at 7:30pm, on Saturdays at 1:00pm and on Sundays at Noon. All tryouts are free to every young man and young lady participating in this year's show. All boxers will be matched by age, weight and experience and must report to Peter Welch's Gym with shorts, mouth guard and sneakers.

For more information on the Boxing Show and the Boxing Show tryouts you can contact the Peter Welch's Gym by phone at 617-boxing1 (617-269- 4641)



L-R Aidan Colton- Red Shirt – 70 pounds,
Finn Meany – Blue Shirt – 70 pounds



On Going Boxing Show Tryouts at
Peter Welch's Gym:

L-R Front row Owen Sullivan (green shirt) and Michael Curry. Second row Liam Colton and Isaiah Tavares. Third row Bobby Rehm and James Curry.

Running for Cancer

Continued from page 10

A cornerstone of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge is its Patient Partner Program. Each year, approximately 50 current and former pediatric cancer patients of Dana-Farber's Jimmy Fund Clinic are paired with DFMC runners as "Patient Partners." For the young patients, their partnerships with the runners provide a unique and friendly focus outside their illnesses. Another two dozen Partner Program families are paired with runners through the "In-Memory Program" in remembrance of their children's brave struggle with the disease.

To contribute to the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge, visit RunDFMC.org or contact the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge office at (617) 632-1970 or dfmc@dfci.harvard.edu. Follow DFMC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/marathonchallenge. On Twitter: #RunDFMC.

Dana-Farber's Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research

Since its inception in 1990, the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge has raised more than \$85 million for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research. Dana-Farber Trustees J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver founded the program in 1987 to honor Mrs. Weaver's mother, Claudia Adams Barr, who lost her battle with cancer 30 years earlier.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

From achieving the first remissions in cancer with chemotherapy in 1948, to developing the very latest new therapies, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers of cancer research and treatment. It is the only center ranked in the top 4 of U.S. News and World Report's Best Hospitals for both adult and pediatric cancer care.

Dana-Farber sits at the center of a wide range of collaborative efforts to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber/

Brigham and Women's Cancer Center provides the latest in cancer care for adults; Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center for children. The Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center unites the cancer research efforts of five Harvard academic medical centers and two graduate schools, while Dana-Farber Community Cancer Care provides high quality cancer treatment in communities outside Boston's Longwood Medical Area.



CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU18P0087EA

**Commonwealth Of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court**

Probate and Family Court

Estate of: James Patrick O'Malley

Also known as: James P O'Malley

Date of Death: 12/21/2017

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street,

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal**

Appointment of Personal

Representative has been filed by

Donna O'Malley of Falmouth 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:

Donna O'Malley of Falmouth

MA be appointed as Personal

Representative(s) of said estate

to serve With Corporate 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 03/08/2018. 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. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court**

February 09, 2018

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

February 22, 2018

Sullivan's (Sully's) At Castle Island Opens This Saturday

Ok, so by comparison, this winter was/is pretty mild. Compared to some years it's almost as if it really never arrived. Officially, we have another couple of weeks of winter according to the calendar. But in South Boston as we all know it doesn't matter what the calendar says. Spring arrives the day Sullivan's Restaurant or 'Sully's' as it's so affectionately known to locals opens for business. And this coming Saturday, February 24th, is the very much anticipated day and expected will be the annual onslaught of hungry hordes coming in from far and wide showing up with big smiles and even bigger appetites.

This year, Sully's will mark and will be its celebrating its 67th year in operation at Castle Island. Sullivan's has become one of the best known landmarks for miles around. Yes, tourists come to Boston to walk the 'Freedom Trail', take a ride on the Duck Tour boats and visit Faneuil Hall, but a trip to Sully's for some of the finest food around is often on the itinerary whether you come from South Boston or South Dakota.

Most locals know the story of how Sullivan's came to be. Dan Sullivan Sr. opened it back in 1951. His goal was to give the customers great food for reasonable prices. Add in quick and friendly service and you have the recipe for success. If you've ever seen the lines on a warm summer's day, you know how popular the place is and how quickly a long lines moves.

It's now 2018 and Sullivan's has come a long way since it first opened these now nearly seven decades ago. It moved from one part of Castle Island to the other and increased in size as it was rebuilt and remodeled. When you walk through the door you immediately notice that the Sullivan Family has installed state of the art technology for taking your order and serving you even faster than ever. But the food, like always is worth making the trek to the island for because it is so tasty. Each year the menu gets a little bigger. The old standbys are

of course their wildly popular hot dogs, hamburgers, fries and onion rings. They have a great sea food selection, chicken, their famous grilled cheese sandwiches and other traditional items you'd expect to see at a restaurant near the beach. But they also have salads, fruit smoothies, ice cream and yogurt treats and a variety of drinks. And what everything on the menu has in common is that all of it is delicious.

Heading to Sullivan's for a meal, a snack or just for something hot or cold to drink is always a good experience not just for the great food. Being greeted and served by some of the friendliest; most competent staff that can be found anywhere adds to the pleasant experience. As you approach the counter to place your order you are met by some of the nicest people around. Hard workers all. They work as a team, they enjoy their jobs and each other's company and it shows; no matter how crowded it gets. A past quote from manager, Chris Lane that apparently carries over to every season as well says it all. "I love my job. As General Manager, my proudest accomplishment is watching our employees succeed. For over 25 years, I have worked side by side with owner Brendan Sullivan. We share the same philosophy – we want this to be a place where our employees grow and learn, we provide quality food at reasonable prices and you will want to return again and again." Chris is absolutely right. The people continue to return year after year.

Then of course there's Manager Harry Markarian who has been with Sullivan's for more than 40 years. Harry is that familiar face that so often greets you at the counter with a big smile and hello and even though he deals with thousands of customers; has this amazing ability to remember so many names. His guiding presence at the counter seems to motivate even more, an already motivated staff working hard to serve you and make sure your order comes out just right.

It all comes together at Sullivan's to make this a truly unique destination.

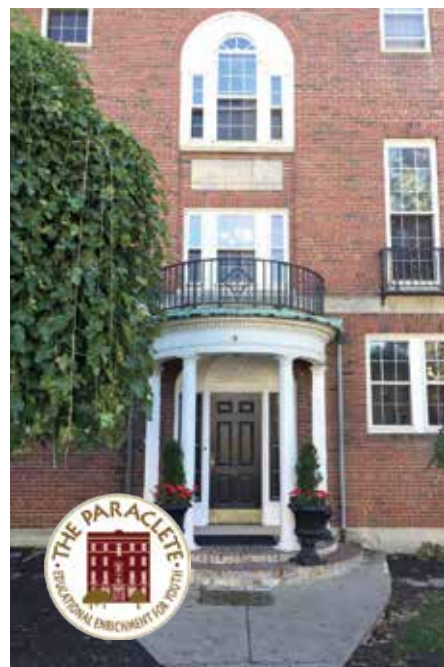


Great food, great service and a great crew to serve you insures that a trip to 'Sully's on the Island' will always be fun and a good experience that as Chris Lane says "will make sure you'll want to return again and again."

Last year, the 2017 opening day drew so many people that the crowds lined up stretched from the order and pickup counter all the way back to the Harry McDonough Sailing Center at various times during the day. So massive was the enthusiastic crowd that Boston's news channels were filming it all from above with helicopters. But even

with this many people, the line moved quickly, everyone got served and all left happy. Margaret Tilton, an out of state resident who was a first timer at Sully's opening day was amazed and innocently asked – "all this for a hot dog stand?" But when she and her family of 5 finished their order of delicious burgers, onion rings soft drinks and a lobster roll, she understood what all the commotion was about and that Sully's so much more.

Oh, and remember, as is the case every opening week, hot dogs will be half price. See you Saturday.



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Gatey Hoop Notes

By Kevin Devlin

The CYO Vicariate Championships began last weekend at the McDonough gym which is located within the Walsh Community Center. Here are some brief highlights of three playoff games.

On Saturday, February 17, the Gate of Heaven CYO 7th/8th grade girls' travel team battled it out with their counterparts from Saint Ann's of Dorchester. Mid-way through the first half, Gatey realized a commanding 14-2 lead, and led at intermission, 20-6. With 9:27 left in the game, Gatey had a 24-8 advantage over Saint Ann's, and went home with a playoff victory. For Gatey, star player, Caitlin Fitzgerald, netted 14 points. She also had two steals, one block, and a handful of rebounds. Mary Kate

Hart had 7 points, Bella Thomas had 6 and Sara Galvin finished with 4. For Saint Ann's, Lilah Gutlerner had 8 points.

Later that day, the Gatey CYO 5th/6th grade girls' travel team faced their hoop peers from Saint Agatha's of Milton. Running on all cylinders, Gatey went on a 18-6 run in the first half and cruised to victory. For Gatey, Teagan Fitzgerald had another tremendous game scoring 14 points. Phoebe Alto also came to play and had 10 points, while Mille

Hynes had 6. For Saint Agatha's, Gillian Jolley finished the season with 10 points.

On Sunday, February 18, the Gatey 7th/8th grade girls' travel team was back in action again, this time against Saint Agatha's of Milton. Gatey took an early 14-5 lead and led at the break, 19-15. Both teams battled back and forth in the second half. With 3:52 left in the game, Gatey had a 31-29 lead, but fell short of victory, 37-36. Caitlin Fitzgerald netted 16 points in the gut-wrenching loss.



Coach Danny Clark. Clark coaches two teams for Saint Ann's of Dorchester. His daughter, Sarah, plays on the 7th/8th grade girls' hoop team.



Pictured last Saturday at the McDonough gym, with Gatey player, Colleen Lombard, is Coach Jerry Galvin.



Pictured resting after their CYO game last Saturday at the McDonough gym (from left to right) are Gatey players, Bella Thomas and Emma Gillis.



Pictured last Saturday at the McDonough gym, with his daughter, Phoebe, is Coach Peter Alto.

Walsh continued from page 7

at the SuccessLink portal and register for a summer job that aligns with their passions."

"The City of Boston is committed to serving its youth by facilitating meaningful employment that sets the foundation for future success," said Health and Human Services Chief Marty Martinez. "The summer youth jobs program works to empower youth by connecting them through jobs to mentorship and guidance, and promotes skill building and networking opportunities that create lasting professional pathways to success."

Through SuccessLink, young

people can register for the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, get connected to resources and join civic engagement initiatives designed to empower youth. Applicants will be able to manage and update their information online.

"This is my first job and it's giving me experience in communication so that I can benefit in the future," said Alex Tieu, a sophomore at Josiah Quincy Upper School, who works at BCYF's YEE office helping youth obtain employment. "It's important for me to work so I can increase my professional development. And I hope while

working with YEE, I can help other young people who are also just starting their first job."

Teens interested in applying must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a full-time resident of the City of Boston;
- Must turn 15 years old on or before Monday, July 9, 2018;
- Cannot turn 19 years old, on or before Friday, August 17, 2018;
- Must be legally permitted to work in the United States.

Boston is a leader in youth employment across the nation with a focus on offering meaningful employment opportunities to young people ages 15-18.

Summer opportunities include paid positions with Zoo New England, radio stations, Boston municipal government departments and as tutors, mentors and counselors at many summer day programs. Last summer 3,015 young people were employed through SuccessLink at over one hundred community-based organizations.

Applying for a summer position with SuccessLink does not guarantee a job. Applicants can visit BCYF Division of Youth Engagement & Employment at 1483 Tremont Street, Roxbury, or call 617-635-4202 for assistance with the application.



This week, Danny reacted to the Rob Gronkowski retirement rumors:

I can see it now. Rob Gronkowski is on the mat. He's about to tap out and lose to Chris Jericho at WrestleMania, the Super Bowl of professional wrestling. But as Gronkowski is screaming at the top of his lungs, reaching for the ropes with the referee in his face and ready to call for the bell, Ronda Rousey comes out of nowhere and jumps up on the side of the ring, grabbing the full attention of Jericho.

With his eyes locked in on the former UFC star, Jericho releases his submission — the Walls of Jericho — and let go of Gronkowski's legs, only to stand face-to-face with Rousey. She slaps Jericho, giving Gronkowski time to get to his feet, allowing him to set up his finishing move — the Gronk spike. Jericho turns around, Gronkowski spears him, makes the pin, and gets the three-count for the win. If Gronkowski decides to take his talents to the WWE, that's how it would look. But that picture I just painted for you, it would look the same five years from now, inside the squared circle.

Rumors are flying that the New England Patriots' tight end could retire from football at the age of 28. Some reports have him going to Hollywood to become a movie star. Other reports say he's being recruited by the WWE, and that the interest is mutual.

The latter is more realistic. If it's

between Hollywood and the WWE, there's no question, Gronkowski is a better fit in professional wrestling. He already has a good friend in the business — Mojo Rawley. And Gronkowski has already been in the ring during WrestleMania. He jumped out of the stands and into the ring last year at WrestleMania 33, hitting Jinder Mahal with a running shoulder and helping Rawley win the Andre the Giant Memorial Battle Royal.

Last week, Dave Meltzer — a longtime pro wrestling insider — reported that the WWE was trying to sign Gronkowski to a similar deal that Rousey recently signed with the company.

It sounds like the perfect fit. But the problem is, the same can be said several years from now. Everyone is making Gronkowski's move to the WWE sound imminent. Who exactly is it imminent for? The WWE will survive without Gronkowski. At the same time, a WWE contract will still be there for Gronkowski whenever he wants it. And he certainly doesn't need to take it now.

This really all began when, three hours before Super Bowl LII, Pro Football Talk's Mike Florio tweeted "This is 99-percent wild guess, but it would not shock me at all if Gronk retires after tonight's game." Kind of a random "wild guess" to take as a respected NFL insider just hours before the biggest game of the year.

Then, after the Patriots lost to the Philadelphia Eagles, Gronkowski refused to reject the idea that he was contemplating retirement. He never said he was hanging them up, but when he was asked repeatedly about it, he never committed to playing next season. That led to some wild speculation that Gronkowski was all done. Then came the Hollywood rumors, followed by the WWE reports. And now, it seems like there's something new every other day.

But where is it all coming from? Who's pushing this inside information out there? My theory is that it's coming from Gronkowski's camp. He's not going to Hollywood. He's not going to the WWE. Not now, at least. Gronkowski isn't retiring from football just yet. He just wants to be fairly compensated. And I don't blame him. He has every right to demand more money from the Patriots. You could make the argument that he has every right to demand to be the highest paid player in the NFL. I'm not sure that's what he's actually seeking from Robert Kraft and Bill Belichick, but I wouldn't blame him if he was.

The Gronkowski family business is just that — a business. Whether it's "Gronk Fitness" or the "Ice Shaker," they aren't playing games. But that family business would be a whole lot less successful if Rob wasn't a superstar NFL player. Heck, the

Gronkowski family business probably wouldn't even exist if it wasn't for Rob. So, it makes the most sense — for the family business — for Gronkowski to keep dominating with the Patriots, at least for as long as Brady keeps playing. And under that mindset, it makes the most sense for Gronkowski to do whatever he can to get as much money as he can from the organization he's putting his body on the line for, week in and week out.

Gronkowski's retirement consideration is just a threat. I'd be absolutely shocked if he walked away from football right now, with so much more for him to accomplish the next two-to-three years. And the longer he threatens retirement, the more likely it is the Patriots will pay him to stick around. They have to. They're all-in on Brady's final years. And after seeing them talk Josh McDaniels into sticking around, I highly doubt they'd let Gronkowski walk away without making him an offer — an extension with some heavy guaranteed money up front — that he couldn't refuse.

Gronkowski might one day end up in Hollywood. He might even be a future WWE superstar. But for right now, he's still a Patriot. And he will be for a few more years.

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