



## Senator Nick Collins Presses Massport To Reject Privatization

The Joint Committee on Export Development held a hearing on upgrades and investments into the Port of Boston. With over \$200 million in public investments from the Commonwealth into dredging, shipping lane improvements, and capacity upgrades at Conley terminal. Chair of the Committee, Senator Nick Collins, reaffirmed his commitment to protecting public investments to continue driving industry growth, tax revenue, economic impact, and good jobs in the city and region.

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# EDITORIAL

## Too Hot? No School. Is it Safety of Pampering?

And just like that, it's summertime. Of course, children should be protected from danger. But sometimes in the well-meaning effort to protect and shield kids, the line between protection and pampering can become blurred. And while pampering the young ones might make the officials in charge of calling the shots feel fuzzy and warm inside, it doesn't actually benefit in the long run.

This past Monday the

weather was hot. In response, some school districts across the state decided to call off classes for the day. Boston was NOT one of them. This is following a pattern that we also see increasing during recent winters, where school closings are announced, and at the drop of a hat, we often wind up receiving 3 or 4 inches of fluff. In the interest of being 'safe rather than sorry', students lose precious classroom time.

One parent interviewed on TV news about last Monday's decision to close the schools in a north shore town was anything but pleased. She stated what many other parents are thinking. "If it's hot, give the kids a Popsicle or a cold bottle of water, but don't take a day of valuable learning away from our children. They'll be just fine. It's June, it's summertime and it's hot. It's not as if there is an earthquake or a hurricane

out there. They might as well put kids in a bubble."

We're sure there are those who would disagree

with the sentiments of that outspoken parent, but many feel that she is correct. It's something to ponder.



*"Like a welcome summer rain, humor may suddenly cleanse the earth, the air and you." – Langston Hughes*

## Flynn Votes to Ban Airbnb Investor Units

Last week, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn voted in favor of Mayor Walsh's ordinance to regulate short-term rentals platforms, like Airbnb, and to ban Investor Units - entire buildings or units that are not owner-occupied and strictly used for Airbnb and short-term rentals. The ordinance would also allow for homeowners and owner-occupants of two and three family houses to participate in short-term rental activity. The Boston City Council voted 11-2 in favor of the ordinance, which Mayor Walsh subsequently signed last week.

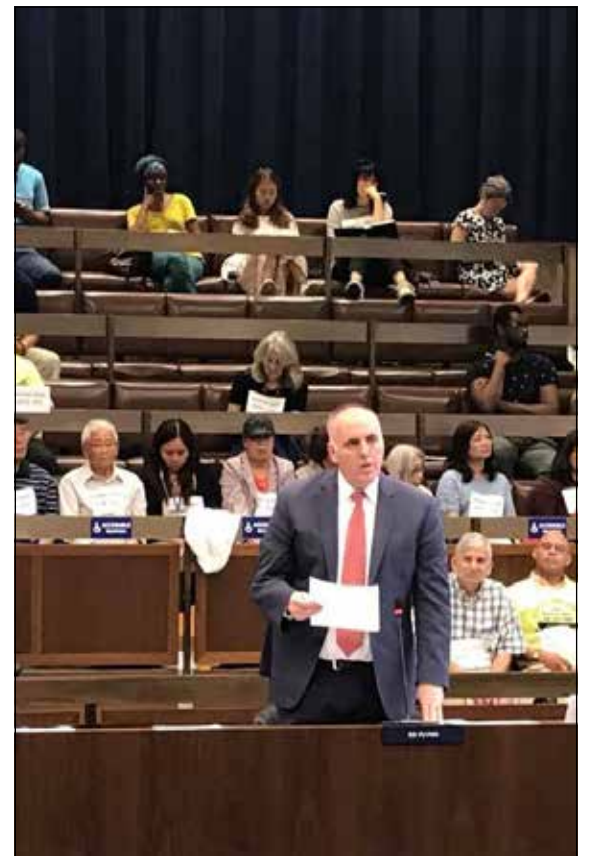
During the Council Hearing, Flynn emphasized the need to ban Investor Units due to their im-

pact on housing stock and rental prices, as well as quality of life issues that have arisen on account of absentee landlords such as trash removal, parking and noise complaints. Flynn called attention to a plaque dedicated outside City Hall in 1991 by Mayor Flynn titled "An Immigrant's Gateway" and how the city must do all it can to ensure Boston remains a landing spot for working-class immigrants, as well as a home to long-time residents.

Flynn said, "I am proud of Mayor Walsh's leadership and his commitment to social and economic justice for all. In the midst of our current affordable housing crisis and concerns regarding our

housing-stock, it has been my position since last fall that we should phase out investor units. I support this ordinance and the regulation of short-term rentals so that we may ensure areas like Chinatown remain a neighborhood for working-class immigrants. I want to ensure that immigrant workers and long-time residents will not be pushed out of Boston. I want us to defend our communities from commercialization, investor speculation and to protect the fabric of our neighborhoods."

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



**SouthBostonTODAY**

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

**Publisher**  
John Ciccone

**Editor In Chief**  
Brian R. Mahoney

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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# The Information Center



## Controversy at the Border: More Grandstanding or Fact?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
John Ciccone

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

“The United States will not become a migrant camp or a refugee holding center”. This was a statement made by President Trump in regard to the latest controversy on our southern border. As you know, many media sources are saying that the children of immigrants crossing the border illegally are being separated from their parents. Other sources say that this policy was put into place during the presidency of Bill Clinton and the laws are being enforced with a zero-tolerance policy.

Democrat politicians spent last Sunday flocking to the borders, news cameras in tow, to demand an end to the alleged separations taking place and laying the blame at the feet of President Trump, who in turn is blaming the Democrats for creating the laws in the first place. As usual, the two sides are nose to nose in disagreement. It comes as no surprise to anyone, that among the most vocal opponents of the said separation policy and self-proclaimed supporters of the DACA immigrants are of course Hollywood celebrities, mindless late-night TV talk show hosts/comedians and certainly, indignant members of the press.

Let's not forget all the obscenely wealthy politicians like John Kerry, Nancy Pelosi, Maxine Waters, Chuck Schumer and dozens more demanding that our borders be thrown open and taxpayers pick up the tab to support the influx. Add to this mix many other liberals/progressives, who go through life in a constant state of outrage, and the obvious question to those ranting about the border policy is this: If you are so sympathetic and

supportive of the throngs of illegals who have broken our country's laws and sneaked over the border and if you are so adamant that they be allowed to stay here, why is it that you aren't stepping up to sponsor, personally support and take some of them into your homes?

The American people are not stupid. They are well aware that most of those celebrities and politicians yelling the loudest about the now strict border security reside in sprawling mansions, some with 30 and 40 rooms and live in the lap of luxury and could easily take in some of those immigrants they so loudly advocate for. But they don't. Instead, they lecture and scold, while they live comfortably behind their guarded and gated walls, where no one gets in unless of course they are hired at low wages, to do the landscaping.

The celebrities have been caught so many times preaching to the rest of us and doing just the opposite. They question the morals of everyday Americans, as they protected Harvey Weinstein and sexually assaulted one another in what's now called the 'Hollywood Rape Culture'. As most remember, it was just 2 years ago that parts of California were in a devastating drought. It was so bad that people were told that they couldn't wash their cars or water their lawns and were restricted as to how many gallons of water per week they were allowed to use. The usual scolding celebs would show up at rallies demanding that people obey the rules and conserve water. But a view from the air brought to light with photographs clearly and unmistakably, showing vast patches of brown burnt grass around people's homes because they were told lawns could not be

watered. But then those same, taken from the air photographs, showed the grounds around the estates of some of the Hollywood celebs demanding that everyone else conserve water. Their homes we remember were surrounded by well watered, lush green lawns, gardens and bushes because of course they couldn't be expected to live by the same rules and standards as the 'common folk'. And these celebs were indignant when they were called out on it because they were 'entitled'. And so, it is

with the immigration situation and the problems on the border. The celebs don't have to be concerned with the overcrowded border, state schools and hospital emergency rooms, or the increase in violent street crime and the loss of jobs being suffered by American citizens. Because the celebs, the members of the news media and so many politicians are far removed from life in the real world, that virtually none of this affects them. That it has a negative effect on

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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.

### ***Dashed spending dreams: SJC nixes 'millionaire's tax'***

As most readers probably know by now, the Supreme Judicial Court yesterday rejected the 'millionaire's tax' ballot question, ruling it violated the state's constitution on what can and can't be put to a statewide public vote. The BBJ's Greg Ryan, the Globe's Jon Chesto and SHNS's Katie Lannan at the Lowell Sun have the details on the actual ruling.

But, obviously, the big news is how the ruling is a major setback for progressives hoping to have a major new tax revenue stream for various state programs. SHNS's Matt Murphy (pay wall) reports the the SJC decision will force Democrats to regroup and rethink their spending priorities moving forward. The Globe's Matt Stout writes that the SJC ruling "turns up the pressure" on Democrats on Beacon Hill, while the Globe's Marek Mazurek reports progressives were despondent in general yesterday.

Of course, not everyone was despondent yesterday. Far from it. The BBJ's Max Stendahl reports the business community is ecstatic about the ruling. The Globe's Rachelle Cohen says the state just "dodged the economic bullet." The Herald's Howie Carr couldn't be happier. Shira Schoenberg at MassLive reports on the general 'relief and dismay' reaction to the decision.

The big question moving forward: Will there be a sales-tax-cut question on the November ballot?

### ***Pollster: Warren can unify Democrats, win White House in 2020***

Democratic pollster Brad Bannon makes his case in The Hill for U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren as the most likely candidate to unite the still-warring wings of the Democratic party and lead it to victory in 2020. Bannon argues Warren has the progressive bona fides to keep Bernie Sanders supporters from defecting to

third party candidates and a career's worth of work on economic issues that could appeal to the minority and low-income.

### ***Nurse-staffing ballot question survives court challenge***

It wasn't all thumbs down at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court yesterday. Shira Schoenberg at MassLive reports that the high court upheld the ballot question that seeks to mandate nurse staffing ratios at hospitals. Backed by nurse unions, the measure is opposed by hospitals. Look for a tough, and expensive, ballot-question fight on this one.

### ***Berkshire veterans oppose statue of W.E.B. Du Bois due to his past communist ties***

Great Barrington wants to honor its native son W.E.B. Du Bois, the late African-American scholar, civil rights activist and one of the co-founders of the NAACP, by erecting a life-size statue of him in

front of the Great Barrington library. But some residents, including veterans, oppose the move, noting Du Bois ultimately joined the Communist Party when he was in his 90s, reports Terry Cowgill at the Berkshire Eagle. Mary Serreze at MassLive has more.

### ***The real villain: Unpatriotic woodchuck blamed for stealing cemetery's American flags***

Forget commies. What about woodchucks who have total disregard for the American flag? There's at least one of them at the Bellevue Cemetery in Adams, where police suspect a woodchuck is responsible for the disappearance of dozens of flags at the graves of veterans, reports Adam Shanks at the Berkshire Eagle and Steve Annear at the Globe. "Of all the things that go on in today's world," said Police Chief Richard Tarsa, "we have a woodchuck problem in our

**continued on page 14**

## Courts to Offer ePay for Online Payment of Criminal Fees

**S**uffolk County court users who owe criminal case fees can now skip the trip to their local courthouse and pay online with ePay, the Massachusetts Trial Court's new web-based payment system. Over 200,000 payments made in person at Commonwealth courthouses each year will now be able to be made online with ePay.

ePay has been available for payment of fees in criminal cases in all eight divisions of the Boston Municipal Court Department and Suffolk Superior Court as of May 14, 2018. "People expect to be able to make court-related payments online – just like they can for most services," said First Justice, Michael C. Bolden, of the South Boston Division of the Boston Municipal Court, "ePay is much more convenient than having

to pay fees in person and does not require taking time off from work to get to the courthouse." Court users can use ePay for payment of probation fees, victim witness fees, or most other criminal assessments at participating courthouses. Use of ePay via PayPal or credit card involves a small convenience fee that goes to processing vendors.

In 2017, nearly three-quarter of the Trial Court's 298,000 criminal case payments were made at the counter by check or cash. As use of ePay grows, court visitors can expect shorter lines to enter their local courthouses and at the counter. ePay was recently piloted at six courts and will be rolled out statewide through June 2018. For more information, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/epay-in-the-courts>





# Walsh Signs Short-Term Rentals Ordinance



**M**ayor Martin J. Walsh signed a citywide ordinance establishing guidelines and regulations to better track and regulate short-term rentals in the City of Boston. This ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2019 with a provision allowing current lease holders operating short term rentals the opportunity to continue operating until September 1, 2019. The proposal was originally filed by the Mayor in January, resubmitted by the Mayor in May, with further amendments contributed in collaboration with the Boston City Council and conversations with residents, advocates, and public and private stakeholders, all following two years of careful study and consideration by the Walsh Administration. The ordinance being signed today reflects the shared goal of providing economic opportunities for residents and temporary accommodations for visitors, while preserving Boston's housing stock.

"My goal in regulating short-term rentals has always been to responsibly incorporate the growth of the home-share industry into our work to create affordable housing for all by striking a fair balance between preserving housing while still allowing Bostonians to benefit from this new industry," said Mayor Walsh. "I am proud to sign this ordinance today and I am committed to monitoring the impacts to ensure it serves its intended purpose in our neighborhoods."

The regulations allow for the growth of Boston's home-sharing industry, while including deterrents to prevent operators from monopolizing Boston's housing market with short-term rentals. In addition, the regulations provide a standardized framework for regulating these units that meets the needs of

the evolving industry provides protections for occupants and minimizes the impact on surrounding neighbors of these units. These regulations only apply to property owners registered with the City to operate a short-term rental in their unit. Non-owner occupants are not permitted to operate short term rentals in their leased units.

The ordinance takes a three-tiered approach to classifying short-term rental units:

1. Limited Share Unit: consists of a private bedroom or shared space in the owner-operator's primary residence, in which the operator is present during the rental. The fee associated with this classification is \$25 per year.
2. Home Share Unit: consists of a whole unit available for a short-term rental at the primary residence of the owner-operator (unit in which operator resides for at least nine months out of a 12-month period). The fee associated with this classification is \$200 per year.
3. Owner-Adjacent Unit: consists of an owner-occupied two- or three-family building, in which the owner lists a single secondary unit as a short-term rental. The fee associated with this classification is \$200 per year.

The regulations require the unit to register with the City of Boston each year to verify compliance with the provisions of the ordinance and pay an annual license fee. Penalties will be incurred to any person who offers an ineligible unit as a short-term rental, fails to register, or fails to comply with a notice of violation.

Today's announcement builds on Mayor Walsh's commitment to addressing the housing demands in Boston. To date, the Walsh Administration has committed more than \$100 million in funding to the creation and preservation of affordable housing. Today's

announcement builds on the City's preservation and anti-displacement goals, outlined in Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030, Mayor Walsh's housing plan, and the housing goals laid out in Imagine Boston 2030, Boston's first citywide plan in 50 years. As part of both plans, Boston has prioritized increasing the overall housing supply, with a focus on creating and preserving affordable housing.

In addition, a new source of funding for affordable housing, historic preservation, open space and public recreation was established through passage of the Community Preservation Act in November 2016. Since the launch of the housing plan, 24,454 new units have been permitted. When complete, these developments will be enough to house 48,600 new residents and begin to relieve pressure on rents in existing housing. Of these, 4,649 new income-restricted units have been permitted, of which 2,234 are targeted to low income households. There are an additional 4,240 deed-restricted units in

the City's development pipeline.

Data shows that the availability of short-term rental units has a direct correlation to housing costs. A 2016 study by UMass Boston found a 0.4% increase in rent prices due to increases in AirBNB listings, and a nationwide UCLA student also found a 0.42% increase.

In addition to rent increases, the commercialization of short-term rentals in residential dwellings and residential neighborhoods has the potential to reduce availability of long-term housing for owners and tenants alike and is contrary to the Administration's goal of adding 53,000 units of housing across a variety of income levels by 2030. In addition to creating new housing, the Walsh Administration is focused on protecting the tenancies of Boston's residents, launching the nation's first Office of Housing Stability in 2016. In addition, Mayor Walsh has strengthened tenants' access to information by creating the city's first online guide to the eviction process.

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# David Biele Kicks Off Campaign for State Representative in South Boston

**D**avid Biele, a lifelong South Boston resident and local attorney officially kicked off his campaign for State Representative in front of a crowd of over 100 supporters at The Broadway restaurant in South Boston last Thursday. Biele, a leader in many South Boston community-based organizations, has earned significant campaign endorsements in recent weeks, including Ironworkers Local 7, IBEW Local 2222, and Laborers Local 223.

Before a capacity room of South Boston and Dorchester residents, Biele talked about his background and discussed his vision for the community. He said, "Growing up

in South Boston and having lived my entire life here, I benefited from having a supportive family, loyal friends, and influential coaches and mentors. I know how critical an influence our community had on my upbringing, and I want to make sure that every person in this district has access to the same kinds of opportunity. That's why I'm running for State Representative."

Biele continued, "As your State Representative, I will make the issues of transportation, parking, development and the rising cost of housing, public safety, education and programming for our youth, and battling the scourge of substance abuse and opioid addiction my top priorities. Most

importantly, I will always be a strong voice for our community."

South Boston resident and President of the Gavin Foundation John McGahan was in attendance and supported Biele's goals for the community. He said, "David has lived here his entire life. He was here fighting for us on issues like parking, development, and recovery when he worked for then-Representative Nick Collins, and he has what it takes to stand up for every-day residents."

These sentiments were echoed by William Higgins who said, "David Biele has been a leader in South Boston through his work with local non-profits and charities, and I know that he will take that dedication to support our neighborhood as State Representative. We need someone who understands our community and will fight for us."

Mary Joyce Morris, a resident

of Fort Point, is supporting Biele because he knows how to get things done. She said, "David's experience is top-notch. I know that he's the right candidate to support our elderly and be there for our veterans."

Biele has been deeply engaged with local community-based programs. He serves as a board member of the South Boston Boys & Girls Club and has spent many years mentoring local youth through the TEAM Mentoring Program at the Labouré Center. He is also actively involved with Harry McDonough Sailing Center and the South Boston Special Kids and Young Adults.

Biele was a longtime staffer to Nick Collins in his State Representative Office, working on policy, legislation, and constituent services. He is a graduate of Boston Latin School, Boston College, and Boston College Law School.





# Walsh Resubmits FY 2019 Budget



**M**ayor Martin J. Walsh resubmitted his Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget, which builds on the Walsh Administration's record of presenting a balanced, sustainable and proactive budget investing in the needs of our growing city. The \$3.29 billion recommended budget represents an increase of \$139 million, or 4.4 percent, over the FY18 budget, and the budget resubmission follows 28 City Council hearings that helped identify opportunities for further targeted investments, and it is an opportunity to capture additional cost-savings.

In this budget resubmission, funding for city services, such as streets, parks, public health and public safety will grow by \$43 million, including \$12 million in new data-driven investments, and funding for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) will grow by \$51 million.

"This budget upholds our city's values and priorities and is a reflection of our leadership position in growing a middle class through strong 21st century schools, good jobs and affordable homes in safe neighborhoods," said Mayor Walsh. "By investing in the strong foundation we've been able to achieve through strategic management of the city's finances, I am proud that we are able to continue making record investments in advancing the prosperity of our city, our people and our collective future."

As part of the budget resubmission, Mayor Walsh is proposing to further invest in key initiatives, including:

- Expanding Universal Pre-Kindergarten for over 80 new quality seats, as a result of continued advocacy at the state level that is expected to result in an increase

from initial projections for Charter School reimbursement;

- Doubling the Youth Development Grant Program to \$500,000 to promote conflict resolution skills to musical training to athletic programming, all with a spotlight on self-esteem promotion.
- New funding to support the Elder Nutrition Program, to meet the demand in preventing malnutrition for seniors and backfill declining state and federal resources;
- New city funded position at the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement to work on the frontlines of supporting new Bostonians, and effectively engage and serve immigrant residents and their families;
- New mounted park ranger to better serve our city parks and complement the new ranger position, which is also part of the the FY19 budget;
- New equity and inclusion staff for the Office of Economic Development;
- New funding for workplace sensitivity training that will support expanded training on racial and gender bias, sexual harassment and employee awareness.

These additional investments are made possible as a result of debt service savings realized as a result of the city's recently renewed AAA bond rating. They are also made possible through continued advocacy at the State level that has resulted in additional Charter School Reimbursement and Chapter 70 funding included in the FY2019 House and Senate budgets. The above additions of the budget resubmission complement investments in the Mayor's FY19 budget proposal, a plan that affirms a commitment to progress, opportunity and innovation by investing in Boston's neighborhoods. A few of those highlights include:

- Adding new public safety personnel and equipment, including police and 20 police cadets, EMTs and firefighters to keep our residents safe and to respond to the City's increase of new residents and commuters. In addition, \$2 million has been allocated towards

a phase-in of police body cameras, and investments in new fire engines, fire houses and new ambulances.

- Making a permanent establishment of Boston's Engagement Center, providing space for participants to connect with recovery support services and get connected with housing services offered by the City and partners.
- Allocating \$5 million in new revenue towards transportation projects by increasing certain parking fines that will effectively influence good driving practices and reduce congestion in high-traffic areas.
- Investing in the implementation of Community Choice Aggregation and single-use bags that will lower emissions, in addition to purchasing a deployable floodwall for the East Boston Greenway to help mitigate damage related to coastal storms.
- Doubling the size of the Department of Neighborhood Develop-

ment down payment assistance program to \$1 million, allowing dozens of middle-class families to access zero-interest loans to cover down payments.

As part of the budget resubmission, Mayor Walsh is recommending the adoption of a Boston Public Schools budget of \$1.112 billion, representing a \$3.5 million increase over the initial proposal of \$1.109 billion, a \$51 million increase over FY18, and marking the largest proposed BPS budget in the city's history. This increase in funding will be directed towards expanding universal pre-kindergarten for over 80 new quality seats in FY19. The City of Boston's allocation to BPS has increased by \$175 million, or 19 percent, over the past five years.

Mayor Walsh's FY19 budget continues to invest in preserving and creating a strong middle class and creating opportunities for all those who live in Boston. The FY19 budget supports Boston's long-term plan, Imagine Boston 2030.

**Please join**

Senator Nick Collins  
Councilor Michael Flaherty  
Councilor Ed Flynn

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# The Wine Guy

## *Not Quite Yet*

It's that time that's 'not quite yet'; you know, not quite yet July 4th, but certainly still summer. Winewise, it's pretty much about whites and pinks, with an occasional red in the mix, especially if there's a grille involved. So, let's start cold and finish in the red!

While many of you may be familiar with Zak Brown and his band, you might not know that his latest collaboration isn't with music, but with wine. The Z. Alexander Brown line of wines is made with the input of Delicato Family Wines and Napa's John Killebrew and the latest release is Brown's, "Uncaged", Sauvignon Blanc.

Z. Alexander Brown 2017 Sauvignon Blanc, Uncaged, North Coast, (\$16.99) is really a lot of wine for the money. For this Sauv Blanc, over half of the grapes come from

nearby Lake County, best known for a warm climate perfect for growing juicy, ripe Sauvignon Blanc; the remainder of the grapes are sourced from Napa Valley and Suisun Valley, a southern Napa neighbor, adding a cooler climate influence apparent in the citrus and lemon grass notes in the wine. They've also added a small amount of nectar-like aromatic Muscat Canelli from Napa Valley, offering a hint of tropical fruit on the palate. Tasting Panel Magazine scored this 93 points saying "Lemon verbena combines a citrus floral perfume for this lighthearted white. On the palate, tart, mineral-driven stone and lime notes ascend with a vibrant acidity. Building character up the lean and edgy staircase of flavors are underlying notes of pineapple and mango. This is a food-worthy partner with a touch of salinity on the finish, reminiscent of a Sancerre. Oysters, anyone?"

Poseidon 2016 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Carneros), (\$27.99) is flavorful and rich in texture, this generous and full-bodied wine presents a rather light, toasty aroma. Ripe, concentrated fruit and oak flavors are carried on a plush texture that coats the palate with vanilla, baking spice and ripe pear that linger on the finish. Try this one with grilled chicken or lamb, as well as any medium or strong cheese. It's



definitely food-friendly!

Not to be outdone, Australian whites can't be overlooked. Mac Forbes 2016 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley), (\$31.99) is a leading light when it comes to championing the Yarra Valley's diverse terroirs through traditional winemaking methods. His 2016 Chardonnay starts reductively, but those onion-skin aromas blow off, replaced by subtle and integrated aromas of waxy lemon, white pepper and melon rind. The palate is the star of the show, with a taut and focused line of lemony acidity, stony minerality and long lingering salty and citrusy finish. Extremely food friendly but it is also delicious on its own.

Even though it's warmer now, we can't forget the great summer reds

and Chehalem 2017 Three Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley), (\$24.99), is a great example of why Oregon's reds are great anytime of the year. Effusively fruity, this delightful rosé mixes lemon oil, tangerine, red berry and cherry hints in a detailed, forward and delicious style. It's a wine that simply insists you refill your glass, then magically disappears.

This Rose may have a lighter, traditional Rose hue to it, but the body and finish will really enhance any salmon dish you can grill up.

Next week, I'd like to introduce you to some of the best wine regions you probably haven't heard of.

Talk to The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

Nick Collins...continued from front page

In the hearing, Massport revealed that it has issued a Request For Information (RFI) to finance the purchase of three new cranes that would increase capacity and efficiency for loading and unloading cargo at Conley Terminal. The RFI opens the door to private bids that could create questions of ownership and control, including potential scenarios where a foreign entity would finance the capital investments and thus maintain control over their operation. With lingering questions over fair labor practices and the impact to public investments, Senator Collins asked if Massport could commit to taking privatization off the table. Massport CEO Tom Glynn responded that it was "premature to take anything off the table."

Many other stakeholders attended the hearing and offered their perspectives,

including the International Longshoreman's Association, which expressed strong opposition to any potential privatization, and International Forest Products LLC, the largest exporter out of Conley, whose VP of Global Transportation said that "changing up the current model would be a mistake." Senator Collins added that "to hand over any amount of control to a foreign entity, after so much public investment, and in a time of great uncertainty regarding international trade and tariffs, would jeopardize local jobs, and put our local economy at risk."

In response to air quality and pollution concerns, Senator Collins also requested that Massport take the lead on environmental sustainability by investing in Ship-to-Shore power, the process by which cruise ships and other large vessels attach to clean energy sources from the shore rather than continuing to

run their onboard energy sources which are much more pollutant.

Although he acknowledged that many large ships take as much energy to run as the entire Logan airport, CEO Glynn expressed reluctance to make investments in clean energy sourcing, citing concerns that the market may not be big enough for it yet. "If Massachusetts is not leading on environmental sustainability and air and water quality, then we are following, and that is just not in our DNA" said Senator Collins. "The Port of Boston should be a leader on this."

Coincidentally, Massport held a public meeting in South Boston this week to present its progress on Berth 10 and faced a number of residents with concerns about the overall scope of the project. Massport officials promised to keep residents informed of any new developments.

cicccone continued from page 3

everyone else is really something they couldn't care less about.

Yes, it's heart wrenching to hear the stories about children separated from their families at the border, if in fact they are true. With Fake News sources like CNN and the New York Times, it's hard to know what truth is and what isn't. But a solution favored by a majority of Americans according to some recent surveys is to reunite the families, send them back to their country of origin and let them apply to come to the United States and wait in line as US law states. Most Americans feel that if it was good enough for our grandparents and great grandparents, it's good enough for the potential immigrants of today.



# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
10 Farnsworth St UNIT 302 Condo	\$2,965,000	3/21/18	8	2.5	2125
346-354 Congress St UNIT 515 Condo	\$1,360,000	3/15/18	5	2	1398
621 East First St UNIT C2 Condo	\$1,348,000	3/15/18	5	2	1855
711 East Fourth St UNIT 4 Condo	\$1,200,000	3/14/18	8	3.5	1902
21 Wormwood St UNIT 620 Condo	\$1,110,000	3/20/18	3	1	1324
170 West Broadway UNIT 407 Condo	\$1,109,900	3/15/18	5	2	1388
515 East First St UNIT 4 Condo	\$1,050,000	3/20/18	5	2.5	1719
37 Mercer St UNIT 1 Condo	\$715,000	3/15/18	4	2.5	1036
37 Mercer St UNIT 2 Condo	\$715,000	3/22/18	4	2.5	1036
26 F Street Single Family	\$655,000	3/23/18	5	1	1080
141 I Street Single Family	\$640,000	3/19/18	6	2	1300
170 West Broadway unit 212 Condo	\$635,000	3/16/18	3	1	712
881 East First St UNIT 104 Condo	\$625,000	3/19/18	3	1	902
732 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$585,000	3/21/18	4	1	842
125 Farragut Rd UNIT 25 Condo	\$490,000	3/23/18	4	1	725
142 Athens St UNIT 1 Condo	\$465,000	3/15/18	3	1	601



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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON SITE CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES

**On-Terminal Areas**  
**900 East First Street, South Boston**  
**MassDEP RTN 3-00257**  
**Former Owner: Coastal Oil of New England (CONE)**  
**Current Owner: Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport)**  
**Tuesday July 10, 2018**

As part of the Public Involvement Process for the site at 900 East First Street, Massport will host a public information meeting about the remediation and assessment activities for this site. The site is tracked by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) under Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-00257. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the continued cleanup of the site pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).

The meeting will be held in the Senior Lunch Room of the Curley Community Center located at 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston, on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 7:00 PM. Please use the M Street entrance.

Copies of the assessment and remediation documents are available for review at the South Boston Public Library and MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01876 or on-line at [http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc\\_viewer/](http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/). Interested parties may also submit written questions or concerns to James Stolecki at Massport’s Environmental Management Unit Office, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, MA 02128 or by e-mail at [jstolecki@massport.com](mailto:jstolecki@massport.com).



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## Letter to the Editor: State Rep Candidate Matt Rusteika Speaks Out About Development



**A**s I speak with voters across South Boston, I hear about two pressing issues most consistently: development and gentrification. With housing prices soaring, so many people who have called Southie their home for gen-

erations are faced with the stark reality that they cannot afford to stay. And I know this first-hand: I faced the same challenge, and as a young man was forced to look for affordable housing options that simply didn't exist for me.

Development in Boston has taken off at a startling—and disproportionate—rate. According to

the Boston Foundation, the City of Boston represents less than 1% of the region's land area, but in recent years has produced 36% of its building permits for new housing units. In the same period of time, the number of units permitted in the cities and towns around Boston has declined by 7%. Meanwhile, 1.7 million square feet of new construction has been permitted in South Boston in the past five years, not including the Waterfront.

My family has lived in South Boston for generations. This is where my wife Katrina and I have chosen to raise our son, and I'm proud to be part of this community. As your State Representative, I will stand up for families like yours and mine who are at risk of being forced out of this neighborhood.

Development is the sign of a strong economy, but we cannot ignore its adverse impacts—it's not

wrong to want to preserve the small amount of open space we have! To strike the right balance, I believe we need to take a regional approach to tackling the housing crisis. Our legislators need to help developers look beyond the cranes that we already see in our backyards.

Building more in South Boston will help to bring down the region's average housing cost, but it won't necessarily bring down housing costs in Southie. And for families like mine who want to put down roots in their hometown, that's not good enough. We need much more housing in the Boston region, and real estate development that's done in a reasonable way—with genuine community participation—still has a place in our neighborhood. But to preserve our quality of life, we need to approach the issue deliberately. That means not letting developers dictate our housing policy.

## Know Your Trees!

**T**he Arbor Day Foundation has a book that helps people identify trees in a simple, step-by-step process. The book, *What Tree Is That?*, is available for a \$5 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization.

*What Tree Is That?* is a fun, easy-to-

use tree identification guide that features hand-drawn botanical illustrations highlighting the distinctive characteristics of many tree species.

Nature lovers and professional arborists alike have called this pocket field guide a must-have, user-friendly resource. Its beautiful, full-color illustrations are in precise detail and depict natural colors, shapes and textures so users can make a positive species identification in just a few easy steps.

The Arbor Day Foundation offers this book to help people identify trees throughout the Eastern and Central regions of the United States. *What Tree Is That?* uses a unique step-by-step

approach for identifying the species of each tree, explaining what to look for in the shape and arrangement of the leaves, differences in the leafstalks and specific characteristics of fruits, flowers, buds and bark.

"Our *What Tree Is That?* Pocket guide is an ideal resource for developing a greater appreciation for trees," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The Arbor Day Foundation strives to help people enjoy and appreciate trees, and we feel our pocket field guide will do just that."

*What Tree Is That?* is also available as an online interactive version at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

To obtain a tree identification guide in full color, send your name, address, and \$5

for each guide to *What Tree Is That?*, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410. You can also order the book online at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).



## Boston's Tap Water Celebrated *Drinking Water Voted Top Five Nationwide*



**T**he Boston Water and Sewer Commission's (BWSC) drinking water received honors from the American Water Works Association (AWWA), placing in the top five at the Tap Water

Taste Test held this week in Las Vegas, Nevada. BWSC competed against cities from across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

"I'm proud that the Boston Water & Sewer Commission has been recognized by the AWWA for Boston's drinking water," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "The employees at the

BWSC work tirelessly to ensure all residents have access to the highest quality water supply. I want to thank them for their professionalism and passion in delivering this vital service to our residents."

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by our peers as one of the top five "Best of the Best" drinking waters in North America," said Henry F. Vitale, executive director of Boston Water and Sewer Commission. "Our employees work diligently for

the City of Boston to deliver the best quality water available, and today's honor acknowledges our efforts and hard work."

In May, BWSC was ranked highest in Customer Satisfaction in the Northeast by our residential customers in a J.D. Power study and received honors from the Massachusetts DEP for Outstanding Performance in 2017 and Systems Taking Action to Reduce Lead (STAR L) in collaboration with Boston Public Schools.



# Mark Rooney Launches Governor's Councilor Campaign

Mark Rooney of South Boston officially launched his campaign to represent the 4th District on the Governor's Council. One of eleven brothers from South Boston, he gathered more than enough signatures to secure a position on the ballot in the Democratic Primary on September 4, 2018.

Time for Change:

Rooney has embarked on a campaign focused on bringing new ideas and interest to the work of the Governor's Council. In just one week, Mark Rooney personally met and gained the support of nearly 2100 people in communities across the district including Brockton, Weymouth, Scituate, Marshfield, Weymouth, Braintree, Quincy and Boston - with the Secretary of State's Office officially certifying 1363 of those signatures. The incumbent, who has served for over 28 years in the role certified support from just over the minimum of 1,000 signatures needed to qualify for the ballot.

"We are energized by number of supporters that have turned out to support my candidacy," Mark Rooney said. "The people of the Fourth deserve the best effort from their elected officials - not just the minimum - I am proud of the work we've done to earn the trust of our supporters and engage them in this important process - The volume of our support confirms our belief that the voters are looking for change and true representation."



About the Governor's Council and why it matters to Mark:

The Governor's Council is made of 8 individuals, elected by voters in 8 Districts throughout the Commonwealth. Each Governor's Council District consists of 5 State Senate Districts. The 4th District includes 22 Municipalities. The role of the Governor's Council is to advise and consent on the Governor's nominations and appointments, most notably judgeships.

"Most of the people I've spoken to throughout the 4th District, could not name their current Governor's Councilor, and many do not know the important role the Governor's Council plays and I intend to change that." Mark Rooney said. "If elected, I will represent the whole District, from Boston to Brockton, Weymouth to Whitman and everywhere in between, and I will be accountable and visible in every pocket of our District."

Rooney believes he will bring professionalism, civility to the body, and the common sense that voters are yearning for, as Councilors decide on the character and qualifications of candidates for judgeships. A lifelong resident of South Boston, he graduated from Saint Anselm College with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. He currently works for Eversource, helping municipalities reduce their energy consumption. He is

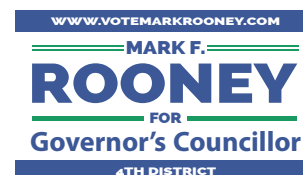
and has been active in the Boston community, including as a former Board Member of the South Boston Neighborhood House, and the Boston Green Academy.

Rooney also coached in South Boston youth sports programs, including South Boston Youth Soccer, and close to 20 years in South Boston Youth Hockey. Rooney was also a member of the City of Boston Climate Action Committee and is a member of the Boston Children's Hospital Children's Advocacy Network (CAN). Rooney is also proud of his annual participation in the Eversource Walk for Boston Children's Hospital, where he has raised close to \$10,000 over the past 7 years. Rooney and his wife Theresa, currently reside in South Boston, and have three children.

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# Tommy Noto D deservedly Recognized As A Good Deed Doer

**Y**ou will likely hear him before you see him, either because of his distinct voice and laugh, or because there is a whoosh of wind that hits you, as he seemingly races by you. Tommy Noto is one constantly moving human and it is likely because he is racing to do something, help someone or fix something (usually for someone else).

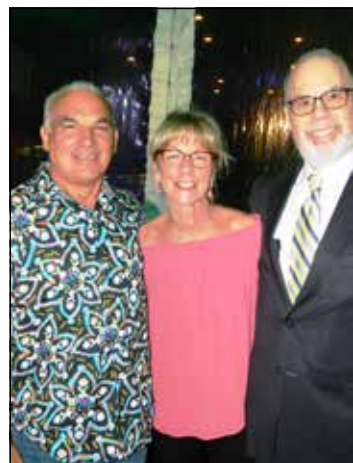
The personality that is T-Notes

was honored with the 2018 South Boston Collaborative Center's "Community Hero Award". Raised along with brother Bobby and sister Paula on East 7th Street by his parents, Mary Lombard Noto and Bob Noto, he played sports and especially excelled at hockey, displaying the unmatched instinct, tenacity and energy that culminated in a stellar hockey career at BC High. After

college, Tommy chose to become an Officer in the Boston Police Department. He has been in the BPD for 15 years, and now serves as a member of the BPD's Gang Unit. Tommy's is always in the center of efforts to raise money for his charitable interests which range from cancer fighting, recovery programs, homelessness and veterans.

The South Boston Joseph Dodo Nee

Collaborative Center's mission is to provide quality substance abuse and mental health treatment and prevention services to the greater South Boston Community, regardless of status and ability to pay. Andy Ward, its Executive Director, and all of Tommy's friends, who thoroughly enjoyed the reception held at the Lawn on D park, were universally ecstatic for Tommy and this recognition.





# Pasta Night at the Shamrock Pub with Papa George 'Magnifico'

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

Who's the most famous chef for miles around? Who has made dozens of trips to Italy to actually improve his cooking skills, if that's even possible? And when you mention fine Italian cuisine, whose name immediately comes to mind? These are all easy questions with the same answer, Papa George Locascio, of course.

Last Thursday, Papa George more than satisfied the appetites of the hungry crowd at Touchie's Shamrock Pub and Grill at the corner of H and East Eighth Streets in South Boston. As he has done in the past, the master himself was happy to put out

a spread of some of the finest Italian dishes that could be found this side of Sicily. The Evening was advertised as 'Pasta Night at the Shamrock with Papa George and his World Famous Special Sauce'. And that it was, but it was so much more.

On hand were some of Papa's specialties such as the tantalizing Arancini, his delicious Gnocchi, the scrumptious Penne Pasta and of course his famous meatballs all nestled in his world-renowned sauce. And the crowd dug right in and savored every morsel.

What amazed the patrons at the Shamrock on this wonderful evening is that Papa George creates all his magnificent dishes from

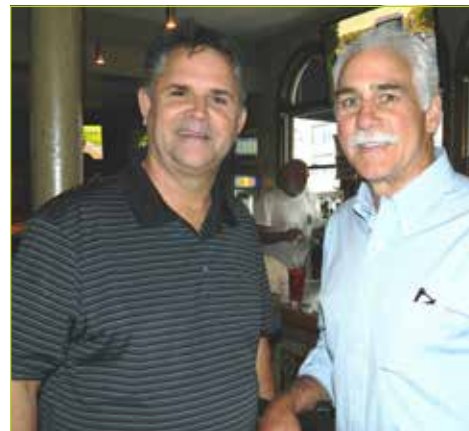
scratch. And of course, he used only the freshest and finest ingredients. Only the best for the patrons of the Shamrock created by the best chef in South Boston.

This was the perfect evening. The mood was relaxed, the drinks flowed steadily from Touchie's excellent and wide bar selections and the enthusiastic crowd was the finishing touch, as all the diners were enjoying each other's company in a festive atmosphere.

As was stated above, Papa George Locascio travels to Italy several times each year to cook with and learn from the best in a country famous for its fine food. But one of the things he enjoys doing the most is coming

home to prepare sumptuous meals for his South Boston family members and friends. He gives cooking classes at the South Boston Neighborhood House, is in high demand to cook at some of the best neighborhood parties and delights in sharing his great food when hanging out with his buddies around town and beyond. It's clear that he loves what he does, and that love is certainly and always reflected in the wonderful meals that he prepares and serves to his appreciative fans. And so, it was at the Shamrock on this night to remember.

Again, the phrase that always comes to mind when partaking in meals prepared by Papa George is 'Bon Appetit'.



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## FROG POND SPRAY POOL REOPENS JUNE 29

**B**oston Parks Commissioner Chris Cook and The Skating Club of Boston president Joe Blount are pleased to welcome children and guests to kick off the 2018 summer season as the Boston Common Frog Pond spray pool reopens on Friday, June 29. The day will include a fun and exciting celebration at 11 a.m. followed by the opening of the spray pool.

“The Frog Pond spray pool is where Boston’s youth come to cool off in hot weather,” said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. “Families are invited to Boston Common and the Public Garden for a great summer day in the city with the Tadpole Playground, carousel, food concessions, historic monuments, ‘Make Way for Ducklings’ statues, and

world-famous Swan Boats all within a short walk.”

In addition to activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., information regarding upcoming summer programs offered by the City of Boston will be available to families and residents and tasty treats will be provided by in-kind sponsors HP Hood LLC, Power Crunch protein bars, Perfectly Free Fruit Bites, and Polar Beverages.

The celebration will feature a special visit from official mascot Frog Pond Freddie, entertainment, face painting, and activities and giveaways from L.L. Bean, Cambridge Science on the Streets, media sponsor Magic 106.7, PJ Library in Greater Boston, and the “Uncle Drew” movie starring the Boston Celtics’ own

Kyrie Irving and opening in theaters June 29. In addition, children of all ages are eligible to enter a summer raffle.

Families will also be able to enjoy a ride on the Boston Common Carousel. The Carousel is handicapped accessible and has height requirements: anyone 42” or taller can ride alone; anyone under 42” requires the presence of an adult. Admission for the ride is \$3 with 10 ride cards available for \$25. Hours of operation are Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A year-round recreational facility, the Frog Pond offers ice skating in the winter, a spray pool and supervised wading for youth in the summer, and the Carousel



from spring through fall. Information on additional activities offered at the Frog Pond can be found by visiting [www.bostonfrogpond.com](http://www.bostonfrogpond.com).

The Frog Pond spray pool is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day. The facility is managed by The Skating Club of Boston and staffed by youth workers from the Boston Youth Fund. For further information, please call the Frog Pond at (617) 635-2120.

## PARKARTS OUTDOOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERTS BEGIN JULY 10



**T**he Boston Parks and Recreation Department presents the 2018 ParkARTS Citywide Neighborhood Concert Series made possible by Berklee College of Music, Bank of Amer-

ica, The Friends of Ramler Park, and the Fenway Civic Association from July 10 to August 8 in parks citywide.

The ParkARTS outdoor neighborhood summer concerts are presented free of charge in local City of Boston parks. The concert series begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, with The Woo Factor at Hunt/Almont Park, 40 Almont Street, Mattapan; 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, with Chosen at Horatio Harris Park, 85 Harold

Street, Roxbury; 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, with Too Rude at Brighton Common, 30 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Allston-Brighton; and two shows on Wednesday, July 18, with Swingin’ in the Fens featuring the Chosen at 6:30 p.m. at Ramler Park, 130 Peterborough Street, Fenway and Tom Baker and the Troublemakers at 7 p.m. at McConnell Park, Denny Street, Dorchester.

The ParkARTS Citywide Neighborhood Concerts continue at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, with Scarab – A Journey Tribute at Billings Field, 369 LaGrange Street, West Roxbury; 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, with Juke Joint 5 at Adams Park in Roslindale Square; 7 p.m. on Friday, July 27, with Lisa Lopes

featuring Djim Djob and the Band at Clifford Park, 160 Norfolk Avenue, Roxbury; and 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 5, with Jazz at the Fort featuring the Gregory Groover Jr. Negro Spiritual Project at Highland Park, 58 Beech Glen Street, Roxbury. The series ends on Wednesday, August 8, with Them Apples at 7 p.m. at Blackstone Park, 1535 Washington Street, South End.

All ParkARTS neighborhood performances are free of charge. For more information or a full schedule of events, please call please call (617) 635-4505 or visit the Parks Department online at [boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation) or [facebook.com/bostonparksdepartment](https://facebook.com/bostonparksdepartment).

Window...continued from page 4

cemetery, stealing flags.”

### **State study: North-South rail tunnel could cost \$12.3B – and possibly much higher**

And we were just coming around to liking the idea. From the BBJ’s Don Seiffert: “A year-long study sponsored by the state to study the North South Rail Link project,

released on Monday, estimates that the project will cost at least \$12.3 billion — significantly greater than previous estimates.”

Bruce Mohl at CommonWealth reports that former Gov. Michael Dukakis and U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, outspoken backers of the North-South project, are dismissing the findings in the MBTA report. “They have no relation to reality,” Dukakis said of the cost estimates.

SHNS’s Andy Metzger at WBUR has more, including how a more extensive version of the project could cost about \$21.5 billion.

### **Don’t give up on that Boston Harbor sea barrier**

Supporters of the North-South rail link take heart: Here’s proof that massive infrastructure projects can’t and won’t be killed off by mere studies alone. Vernon

Woodworth, a consultant at AKF Engineers and a faculty member at the Boston Architectural College, takes exception to a recent UMass Boston study that said a 14-mile long harbor barrier to protect Boston from storm sea surges just isn’t feasible, saying that the study was based on faulty assumptions and that it’s still “too early to discard any options, and too late to delay any further.”





*This week,  
Danny shared his  
thoughts on some  
of the top stories  
in the sports world:*

I'll tell ya what, I can't wait until the Patriots start playing meaningful football again. I can't take this offseason drama anymore. I'm done with it. I don't want to even think about what kind of beef that Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski have with Bill Belichick. I don't even want to know what Alex Guerrero is pumping out of the TB12 center that made Julian Edelman test positive for PEDs — and even if that “unrecognizable” substance didn't come from the TB12 center or Guerrero himself, you'd be a fool to believe Guerrero doesn't know the guy who gave it to him. But ya know what? I don't even care. I just need these guys to get back on the field, so that we can move on from the offseason of hell here in New England.

Oh, what, now Brady is doing 1-on-1 sit downs with Oprah? When will it stop!

I'm serious, when will it stop? Has Brady always been this big of a weirdo, or am I just late to the party in realizing it? First, he couldn't eat a strawberry on Colbert, now he's telling Oprah that he's going to retire “sooner rather than later.”

The bigger issue here to me is, why the hell is he even sitting down with Oprah in the first place? What exactly is it we're doing here, Tom? Is everything OK at home? Are the interviews with that absolute creep Jim Gray not enough? Am I asking way too many questions right now?

Sorry, I'll stop. But Brady needs to stop too. He's the greatest quarterback of all time who's acting like the biggest bug of all time. And Training Camp can't get here soon enough.

I'm all set with the World Cup. I had to cover the Revolution during my time as a reporter at Comcast SportsNet New England (now NBC Sports Boston), and I think that ruined soccer for me. Not that I was the biggest fan of the sport before that. But I didn't hate it. And I could get into the World Cup in the past. Now? Not so much. It's just not for me.

I'm also all set with listening to the professional golf world complain about course difficulties at the U.S. Open. From what I have always understood, the U.S. Open is the most difficult major. Might even be the most difficult tournament of the year, every year. But God forbid these millionaires who hit a little white ball

for a living run into some difficult pin placement. Professional golfers make so much money with so little stress that I pretty much hate most of them as it is. Now they want to complain about difficult courses? Tough [expletive]. So you had a frustrating day or weekend on the golf course. Welcome to the club, boys.

I don't always stick up for David Price. But I'm going to right now. Price told the Boston Herald that, if he's named to the All-Star team, then he'll “play a lot of Fortnite the night before” so that he'll “be down.” Meaning, if he plays Fortnite the night before the All-Star Game, he'll be too injured to pitch the next day.

Clearly, he's mocking those who think video games have caused him injuries in the past. He's also mocking those who believe he's actually stopped playing video games, just because the Boston sports media was all over him about it. His comments will probably be turned into something like, “David Price doesn't respect the game.” Look, the guy's already been named an All Star five times in his career. And the Red Sox fan in me is actually hoping he doesn't get picked to

the All-Star squad this year, because that's one less place he could actually get injured.

The Red Sox need Price to be dominant in their rotation, come October. So here's hoping he gets to play all the video games he wants that weekend, instead of having to take part in All-Star weekend.

Speaking of video games, I should let you know that I've launched a new video-game series on my YouTube channel, called, “PIC-Up Ya Sticks.” It's a new weekly show that will combine my podcast with the gaming community. My first guest was New York Rangers forward and Dorchester native Kevin Hayes. He challenged me to a game of NHL '18 on XBOX One, so I accepted.

There will be more big-name guests joining me in the future, so make sure you subscribe to my YouTube channel right now, and hit the notifications button, which will keep you up-to-date with new episodes.

**Listen to “The Danny Picard Show” at [dannypicard.com](http://dannypicard.com). Also available on iTunes, Tunein, Google Play, iHeartRadio, and Spotify. Subscribe to his YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/DannyPicard](http://YouTube.com/DannyPicard).**

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# Flag Retirement Ceremony at Castle Island

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

Last week, the parade grounds at Fort Independence on Castle Island were once again the scene of the semiannual Flag Retirement Ceremony. This is an impressive event that demonstrates the proper way to dispose of a worn, torn, faded or tattered American Flag. It gives Old Glory the respect it

deserves. These ceremonies have become a tradition and held on Veterans Day and Flag Day each year.

The ceremony was a joint effort by the Scottish American Military Society, the Castle Island Association, South Boston's veteran's organization and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The crowd arrived early, and spectators were in place as the National Anthem and a prayer started off the morning. As is always the case in South Boston, everyone in attendance stood silently for the National Anthem and the prayer. Patriotic speeches were made by veteran officials as the flags were being prepared for retirement. The retirement itself consists of the banners gently laid in a special multi-angled structure. They are then lit and consumed by flames. Taps was then played as everyone in attendance stood, hats off and hands over hearts.

As the event came to an end, the many school children on hand approached some of the organiz-

ers and asked questions. The young students seemed not just curious but fascinated with the ceremony and all that it symbolized. This bodes well for the future of our country. When America's young people take such interest and show pride in our nation's history, particularly our veterans, and all our flag stands for, it's a positive sign.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony at Castle Island is always open to the public and residents are invited to bring flags from their homes that are ready to be retired to the event for proper disposal. It's an event that highlights patriotism and love of country and salutes the veterans who have served and continue to serve our nation in defense of freedom.

