

# STATUS OF VAPING BAN AND DEALING WITH THE UNKNOWN



In September, Governor Charlie Baker banned the sale of all vaping products in Massachusetts, after a series of mysterious vaping-related lung illnesses and some deaths across the country and

in the state. The ban is scheduled to last until Jan. 25, 2020. Last week, Superior Court Judge Douglas Wilkins ruled that the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), not the Department of Public

Health or the Governor, has the sole authority to regulate the sale of marijuana vaping products for patients and gave the agency a week to either adopt its own emergency regulations to keep the ban in place or take some other action, judging the ban is “likely invalid” for medical marijuana patients. So, it’s up to the CCC to decide if the products will remain off the market. Judge Wilkins’ ruling focused specifically on medical marijuana because a group of patients intervened in a challenge to the state ban. Patients testified in court that the ban “would force medical marijuana patients to turn to the illicit market, switch to opiates or travel to other states,” cannabis industry Attorney

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# EDITORIAL

## Beware! The Package Thieves are Back for the Holiday Season

The coming of the holidays is supposed to be a joyous time. Some would say it is 'the most wonderful time of year'. Most people consider it a time to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah. But with all the good tidings, religious observances and festivities there, unfortunately in some locations, also come those, whose goal it is to steal from others.

Over the past week, South Boston Today has been contacted by three different local families who informed us that delivered packages have been taken from their doorsteps. Look-

ing into this further, it seems that the number is far more than three and it appears to be happening in many parts of the neighborhood. Yes, it can happen anytime of the year, but the holidays are when the number of thefts increases because of the massive number of items being delivered to homes in the area.

Here are some suggestions to help thwart this activity early in the season. Many people now have security cameras and 'RING' doorbells and monitors. If you have not yet activated yours, you might want to do it now. If you see suspicious activity on your block, report it to police immediately,

it's what the police are asking us all to do. Look out for your neighbor's homes and ask them to do the same for you. The thieves often hit during weekday afternoons, when they know most people are at work and there is less chance of getting caught and it's when most of the packages are delivered. The important thing is that the word be spread right away to everyone to be aware that this activity has spiked once again. If we all work together starting now, we can help stop it before it gets out of hand and with any luck, catch some of the culprits and discourage the rest of them.



*"He who laughs last, didn't get the joke" - Charles DeGaulle*



May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
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# The Information Center

## *A Tale of 2 Walls/Kanye Making Heads Explode Again*

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

To start, I just want to comment on how nice it is that South Boston continues to honor this community's veterans and veterans everywhere. Last Monday, on Veterans Day itself, there was no shortage of tributes to those who served and still serve our country. The parade, the church Masses and Services, the Flag Retirement ceremony, the flag raisings, the playing of Taps and so much more, prompted a veteran of the Korean War and another from the War in Iraq to express how truly overwhelmed with joy they are at how year after year, the number of tributes and the enthusiasm for them doesn't diminish. And the fact that it really just never does is a beautiful thing that this whole town can be proud of.

We recently had a reader from New York write in who sees a contradiction by Conservatives regarding the Border Wall going up and the Berlin Wall that came down. The anniversary of the Berlin Wall coming down, thanks to President Ronald Reagan, was highlighted all last week as it should have been. The writer asked how so many Americans can be in favor or putting up one and tearing down another. Well, most people would not need this explained to them, but I felt the urge to take the time to explain to this misguided New Yorker what the difference is. The Berlin Wall was erected by Communists to keep their people from escaping their brutal system. The Communists didn't want anyone to leave because surely, there would be no one left for them to enslave if the wall didn't block their exit.

The border wall being built - and it's getting longer with each passing week - isn't to keep people from leaving our country. Anyone can leave. America does not force its citizens to

stay here. The border wall is to allow this country to regulate who and how many people can come in, like other sovereign nations do. Secure borders are how a country survives. It is also designed to keep out the human traffickers, the drugs, the cartels, the gangs and the terrorists. Weak border security is why so many murderous MS-13 gang members and other violent criminals were able to get here; something that does not seem to concern Speaker Nancy Pelosi or most of the Democrat presidential candidates.

Anyone who cannot see the difference between what the Berlin Wall was and our wall on the southern border is either is not paying attention, does not know their history, or is in total denial in an effort to try to justify their own personal style of politics.

And to close this week, as was stated here once before, I'm no fan of the performer Kanye West's music; or at least I wasn't. But watching him drive the leftists in the news media, in Hollywood and in Washington DC absolutely out of their minds is not only entertaining, it's very satisfying. Now, to the majority of Americans, seeing someone change their ways for the better; from being a foul mouth rap singer, which West himself says he was, to turning literally thousands of this country's young people away from drugs and crime and towards God and leading a good life is considered a positive thing. But to the leftists, he is considered a traitor to all the things they advocate, and they are not just upset with him, they despise the guy now.

West is leading church services across the country and drawing massive crowds of teens and young adults. He's encouraging them to open their minds and give a serious look once again toward Christianity and

the Jewish religion. His new album called 'Jesus Saves' soared to the top seller in the country the first week it was released.

It was about a year ago that Kanye West upset the so-called progressive elite in the country when he went to the White House to meet with President Trump, wore a red MAGA hat and urged African Americans to free themselves from what he called the 'Liberal Plantation'. The left had a meltdown. But his new efforts, urging the nation's young to turn back to God and think for themselves, not

how their college professors tell them to think, is causing liberal heads to explode. They are so mad and it is difficult for some of them to speak without spittle dripping from their mouths. Add to it that he is switching his genre from his old brand of Rap to Gospel and some of his detractors may have to be put in strait jackets to keep from hurting themselves. Personally, I hope Kanye keeps up his good work and I will buy his new album to show support and bring out the popcorn while I enjoy watching this all play out.

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## Rep. Biele, MA House Pass Legislation to Support and Honor Veterans

*Increases access to mental health services at public colleges and universities, recognizes the historical contributions of Revolutionary War hero*

**BOSTON** – Last week, State Representative David Biele joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing legislation to improve mental health care for student veterans and to honor the military service contributions of a female American Revolutionary War soldier.

One bill establishes a continuing education program to train public higher education counselors on the symptoms of conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and available resources for treatment for veterans attending state colleges and universities. The legislation aims to provide the necessary training for both clinical and non-clinical



counselors working to support the unique needs of the more than 2,500 veteran students attending the state's 29 public higher education institutions. The second bill establishes a 15-member commission to design a memorial in honor of Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental

Army during the American Revolution.

"I was proud to join my colleagues in supporting legislation that increases services for veterans and honors their contributions to our country," said Rep. Biele. "This legislation will support veterans transitioning to civilian life by training counselors at colleges and universities to recognize and support veterans who may be suffering from the invisible wounds of war. This legislation also recognizes the contributions of Deborah Sampson and her inspiring story of service and bravery during the founding of our country."

In 1782, Sampson used the name Robert Shurtleff to join the elite Fourth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment led by Captain George Webb at West Point. Over the following year and a half, she participated in dangerous scouting missions, led a raid that brought about the capture of 15 Tory men, and stormed a British fort during the Siege of Yorktown.

Over the course of her service,

Sampson sustained injuries including a forehead gash from a sword and a gunshot wound to the thigh. For the latter, she removed the bullet herself to avoid detection as a woman. When she later fell seriously ill and was hospitalized, her identity was discovered. On October 23, 1783, she received an honorable discharge and was the only woman to receive a full military pension for her service in the Continental Army. John Hancock and Paul Revere assisted her in obtaining her military pension, and General John Patterson selected her as his aide de camp due to her bravery and leadership. Sampson is the official state heroine of Massachusetts.

The two bills build on the House's long-standing support for veterans with Massachusetts' benefits and services often ranked as No. 1 in the nation. Most recently the Legislature passed the BRAVE Act as well as legislation to assist veterans with funeral and burial expenses and property taxes.

The bills will now go to the Senate.

## Flynn Hearing on Pedestrian Crossing Signals & Traffic Calming Nov. 18th



**B**oston City Councilor Ed Flynn will hold a hearing to discuss the City of Boston's pedestrian crossing signals and traffic calming measures

that would improve safety for all to help achieve Vision Zero - the goal of no serious or fatal crashes in the City of Boston. The hearing will be held Monday, No-

vember 18th, 1pm in the Iannella Chamber at Boston City Hall with the Committee on Planning, Transportation and Development. The hearing will focus on ways to improve pedestrian crossing signals and traffic calming infrastructure improvements, slower speeds, and enforcement.

Residents have called attention to pedestrian signals that allow for crossing the street at the same time that vehicles have a signal to turn at an intersection, which could potentially be unsafe for pedestrians crossing a busy intersection.

Residents have also called for infrastructure improvements to our built environment - such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, road diets and rapid flash beacons - that would aid in traffic calming. As the city and our neighborhoods become

more densely populated due to development, this increase in vehicular and pedestrian foot traffic continue to change our traffic patterns, and a discussion on measures to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety is warranted.

"Pedestrian safety is a top priority for me, and must be a top priority for the City of Boston," said Councilor Flynn. "I look forward to having this discussion with the Boston Transportation Dept, Boston Police Dept, relevant agencies and concerned residents about how we can continue to work on infrastructure improvements, slower speeds and enforcement."

The hearing will be open to the public and interested parties are encouraged to testify. For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.



## SEN. COLLINS ENSURES ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES

### Massachusetts State Senate Passes Bill to Establish New Reporting Guidelines

The Massachusetts State Senate unanimously voted to establish new requirements for higher education institutions. The goal of State Senator Nick Collins and his colleagues in the Senate is to support the financial stability of students and their families. These steps have been

taken in response to recent closures of small colleges in the Commonwealth which came a surprise to students and families, causing financial hardship and disrupting their education.

The legislation includes important accountability measures such as the development of student-focused contingency plans if the public college or university is expected to close. There is also a new requirement for the development of a training program for school board of trustee members, in the attempt

to achieve better management. The training will occur every four years.

The new requirement of financial reports is designed to lead to better assessment and clarity. The assessments will be created by the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to ensure financial honesty and accountability. "With this new legislation higher education institutions, their students, and the families of students will all have increased predictability, financial security, and be on a better footing for success," said State Senator Nick Collins. "It's



incredibly important to support students and their families as they work to advance their education, and I am proud to have voted for this bill."

**Book Sale South Boston Branch Library 646 East Broadway South Boston MA 02127 Saturday, November 16, 2019, 10AM – 3PM**

### "Cooking for Thanksgiving?" Featured books: Cookbooks Priced at 2 for 1 Sale

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## MAYOR WALSH, LAWRENCE MAYOR RIVERA ADVOCATE FOR BETTER PROTECTIONS AGAINST NATURAL GAS LEAKS

**M**ayor Martin J. Walsh and Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera offered testimony before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy in support of legislation that would impose a fine on natural gas providers for the total volume of all grade 3 gas leaks, incentivizing the utility companies to update their infrastructure and providing revenue for climate-ready municipal projects. The legislation, “An Act to Modernize our Natural Gas Infrastructure,” is sponsored by Representative Ed Copping and Senator Mike Rush.

“Last year we watched in horror and in sympathy, as Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley were struck by natural gas explosions that destroyed homes and displaced thousands of families,” said Mayor Walsh. “For municipal leaders

across the Commonwealth, and for all of our residents as well, these events brought into sharp focus the threat posed to our communities’ safety when natural gas infrastructure is neglected or mishandled. As elected officials, it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to keep our residents safe, and that’s why I’m proud to support this state-wide legislation to hold gas providers accountable for the infrastructure they operate.”

“This legislation is important because any leak is a level one leak,” said Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera. “For an industry that has a hard time focusing and fixing level one breaks and has shown to be incapable of emergency situations, this legislation holds their feet to the fire on all leaks. I thank Mayor Walsh for his leadership on this matter.”

In 2017, utility companies re-



ported 27,731 gas leaks in Massachusetts. By the end of that year, 15,829 had been repaired. Through this legislation, Mayors Walsh and Rivera are calling for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to hold gas providers accountable for the infrastructure they operate, and the impacts they

have on residents. The bill is part of Mayor Walsh’s legislative package, which builds upon Boston’s work to ensure equity, opportunity and resilience for all residents by strengthening current systems and creating new tools to adapt, mitigate and invest in local transportation and the environment.

### Vaping continued from front page

Will Luzier said. In his ruling, Judge Wilkins accepted this argument.

The cannabis industry welcomed the ruling and was quoted on WBUR News stating, “I’m actually quite excited that the judge ruled to put the decision in the hands of the Cannabis Control Commission, as they are the regulatory body for both medical and adult-use cannabis in the Commonwealth,” said Dr. Marion McNabb, CEO of Cannabis Community Care and Research Network, a marijuana research and advocacy group.

Wilkins’ ruling doesn’t apply to marijuana vapes for recreational customers or nicotine vapes. But his reasoning suggests that the CCC may also have exclusive authority over recreational marijuana, including the vaping products. State lawmakers clearly gave the CCC oversight of medical marijuana, Wilkins wrote.

As the Governor’s ban on the sale of vaping products was lifted at noontime Tuesday, November 12, for medical marijuana patients,

the CCC stepped in and ordered a quarantine of all marijuana vaping products, except those that vaporize flower for medical patients. The indefinite quarantine of all “marijuana products and devices that rely on vaporization or aerosolization, including, but not limited to, vape pens, vape cartridges, aerosol products, and inhalers” will keep oil-based vaping cartridges off the shelves of marijuana stores, even for medical marijuana patients.

In statements released by the Commission, CCC Executive Director Shawn Collins ordered the quarantine “based on his determination that these products pose an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare and the quarantine is necessary.” The order also states that Collins “has determined that additional testing of certain products for vitamin E acetate and other substances of concern and the development of additional regulatory and policy safeguards is also necessary to protect the public health, safety and

welfare.” The quarantine, which is to remain in effect until the CCC amends or rescinds it, comes on the heels of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control announcing that its investigation into the nationwide rash of vaping-related lung illnesses has found “direct evidence of vitamin E acetate at the primary site of injury within the lungs.”

The CCC said its current testing regulations and protocols “do not require testing for vitamin E acetate,” which is thought to be added to some oil-based vaping cartridges as a filling agent. “Based on current manufacturing processes, it is possible that legal marijuana products sold in the state could contain vitamin E acetate or other potential ingredients of concern,” the CCC said in a statement. It added that it is in talks with its testing labs “to understand their capability of testing for ingredients such as vitamin E acetate.”

The CCC added a requirement in its most recent round of regulation rewriting that all vaporizer

cartridges, marijuana extracts and concentrates sold in Massachusetts come with a more detailed list of the chemicals and ingredients they contain. The specific requirement is that marijuana product labeling also list “the amount of any specific additives infused or incorporated during the manufacturing process, including, but not limited to, thickening agents and specific terpenes, expressed in absolute terms and as a percentage of volume.” Up until that point, the CCC’s rules for the marijuana industry had only required the ingredient list to include information about the cannabinoid profile of the marijuana and its THC content.

During the quarantine, all licensed marijuana businesses are required to quarantine vaping products in the state’s mandated seed-to-sale tracking system and the CCC suggested that its upcoming round of regulatory revisions “will be open to public comment and focus on the requirements for extracts, concentrates, and any accessories or devices used for vaporizing marijuana.”

# Councilor Flynn to Hold Hearing on TNCs (Uber/Lyft) Nov. 19th



**BOSTON** - Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn and Matt O'Malley will hold a hearing on issues related to transportation network companies (TNCs), such as Uber and Lyft, operating in the City of Boston. The hearing will be held Tuesday, November 19th, 1pm at the Iannella Chamber in Boston City Hall by the Committee on Planning, Transportation and Development.

Recognizing the integral role that TNCs now play in our overall

transportation system, as well as the convenience they provide, the hearing will focus on concerns from residents regarding this evolving industry and measures to address traffic and congestion, public safety due to the lack of designated pick up & drop off areas, the environment, and consumer protection.

Residents have highlighted concerns regarding public safety and Vision Zero due to reports of speeding ve-

hicles, as well as the lack of designated pick up & drop off areas in the city, which has resulted in double parking or vehicles pulling over in the middle of the street and posing safety risks for all on the road. This additional traffic also creates environmental concerns as the additional vehicles affect our air quality, increase carbon emissions, and run contrary to the goal of promoting sustainable transportation methods such as public transportation. Residents have also called attention to consumer protection as prices jump significantly during sporting or city events.

The hearing will also discuss ways to leverage the demand to TNCs to improve our transportation infrastructure, as well as regulations other cities have enacted on TNCs. For example, New York City places a cap on the number of TNCs in the city for one year, and establishment of a minimum wage for drivers. Other municipalities have imposed fees on TNC rides, and cities like San Francisco have piloted geofencing at appropriate areas of the city to limit pickups, reduce congestion, and discourage double parking.

"TNCs now play a key role in our overall transportation network and they provide convenient transportation for many residents and visitors to the

City of Boston. However, data shows that they also belong in our discussions about traffic and sustainability," said Councilor Ed Flynn. "Residents have also expressed safety concerns about designated pick up/drop off areas and geofencing in appropriate locations. I look forward to having a robust discussion about the ways that the city can work with TNCs and use data to make our streets safer and less congested for everyone."

"Creating and sustaining reliable, equitable transportation continues to be a challenge we face as a city. With Boston's growing population, there is an increased use of TNC's, such as Uber and Lyft, impacting the City's roads and bridges," said Councilor Matt O'Malley. "In this hearing, I'm looking forward to discussing ways in which TNC's have impacted congestion, safety and sustainability in the City of Boston. With this emerging gig economy, we also need to ensure that there is revenue generated to invest in improving our local roads and public transit."

The hearing will be open to the public, and interested parties are encouraged to testify. For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

## MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES 2019 ENCHANTED TROLLEY TOUR DATES

*The annual three-day tour will stop at 16 tree lightings*

For the 24th year, the Mayor's Enchanted Trolley Tour will continue the festive tradition of lighting holiday trees while bringing holiday spirit to children across Boston. The event is sponsored by Bank of America, and includes visits with Santa, holiday performances, tree lightings, and more.

"Bank of America is proud to continue our support of Mayor Walsh's Enchanted Trolley Tour, a long standing tradition that brings joy and excitement to neighborhoods and families across the City," said Miceal

Chamberlain, Bank of America Massachusetts President. "We thank the City of Boston for all they do to provide our customers, teammates, and communities the power to give back and make a difference during the holiday season."

The Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports and Entertainment is committed to producing fun and free public events for Bostonians and visitors to the City. For more information, please call 617-635-3911, visit [boston.gov/tourism](http://boston.gov/tourism), or follow @Visit-BostonCity on Twitter.

**Sunday, December 8, 2019  
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# The Wine Guy

## Baby, It's Cold Outside

What with the snow on Tuesday, temperatures plunging into single digits with the wind chill, and the T being even later than usual, I think it's safe to assume that Winter is officially here. It's also a good time to take a look at what will warm you up, wine-wise. Port, or fortified wine, has been around for about 400 years or so and like many other wine discoveries, it happened by accident. Back in the late 1600s, two brothers who sold their wine from Oporto to accounts in England were trying to find a way to preserve it for the long journey. They eventually came up with the idea of adding grape brandy to the barrel and it became very popular. Eventually, the brandy was added during fermentation and aged over time, which is still the way it's done today and not just in Portugal.

So, let's take a look at what



will take the chill off this winter season. Briefly, there are two major types of port wine; Ruby Port is less aged than Tawny Port, typically a few years and it keeps its dark color. Tawny Ports are older and develop an amber color, as well as a drier character than Ruby. Like Single Malt Scotch, some Ports are aged up to 30 years, but the majority are aged between 2 and 10 years.

Dow's 10 Year-old **Tawny Port, NV, (\$21.99)**, gets 90 points from the Wine Spectator, who describe it as, "Amber golden in colour, soft and rich on the palate with a fine and mellow fruit flavour blending in with the almond overtones of prolonged cask aging. A very fine Port to be savored in a reasonable sized glass so that the aromas and colour can

be appreciated." This one, like most Ports, is usually had as a dessert wine and most people enjoy it in a snifter. Also, like most ports, this wine is most often served with stronger cheese, like Stilton or aged Cheddar. I like it with a whole wheat crackers, a piece of Cheddar and pepperoni and a dollop of yellow mustard.

While it's not one of the larger Port producers, the Pinhao family has been making great Port wines since 1715. Their **Quinta do Noval 10-Year-Old Tawny Port, NV, (\$34.99)** is made the same way today as it was then and no wonder. This one shows outstanding intensity of color, complexity, concentration, and depth of flavor. Tinta Roriz, Touriga Franca and Tinta Barroca predominate among the traditional grape varieties. 50% of the grapes come from the estate and 50% from traditional suppliers of "A" category grapes. The grapes are hand-pressed, (almost unheard of today) and aged in old French oak barrels. In addition to desserts, this one could be had with a nice Duck Confit.

Another 90-Point selection from Wine Spectator is **FONSECA BIN 27 Ruby Port, NV, (\$14.99)**. The Spectator says, "This sweet wine shows fresh, rich blackberry and cassis aromas. On the palate, it has a well-knit structure, with a

velvety, luscious mouthfeel and smooth tannins." Not surprisingly, this one, like all Ruby Ports, is served with sweeter deserts, like Puddings, Tarts and Cakes. You should know that the shelf life of most Ruby Ports isn't very long once they've been opened; I've heard that during the Holidays, some people enjoy it in Eggnog.

Last, but far from least, I want to mention a Port from Ramos Pinto. **The Ramos Pinto 10 Year Tawny, Erva-moira, NV, (\$41.99)** is consistently one of the best Portugal has to offer. This tawny is a blend with an average age of 10 years. We are now entering the complex world of an aged tawny. Its brick-red, even golden shades transport us to the Orient of spices, piquant and exotic aromas, with all its mysteries. This is where the magical path towards the 20 Years and the 30 Years begins.

Delicious as an aperitif or after dinner with chocolate, not-too-sweet desserts, milk or cream based desserts, and cheeses. It pairs especially well with dried fruits or nut cakes and tortes. You should also know that this firm's wines are among the best in the country and if you see any of them in your local shop, don't hesitate to pick one up.

Talk to The Wine Guy at [jdris8888@gmail.com](mailto:jdris8888@gmail.com)

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# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
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25 Channell Center St UNIT Ph202 Condo	\$1,645,000	8/1/19	6	2	1,528
195 West Second Street Townhouse	\$1,575,000	8/9/19	5	3	1,725
25 Channell Center St UNIT 204 Condo	\$1,550,000	8/2/19	6	2.5	2,077
281 Bowen Street Two Family	\$835,000	8/1/19	11	2	2,056
725 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$755,000	8/2/19	4	2	1,044
15 Preble St UNIT 7 Condo	\$740,000	8/2/19	5	2	933
9 Liberty Place UNIT 3 Condo	\$725,000	8/8/19	5	2	1,067
211 L St UNIT 1 Condo	\$705,000	8/2/19	4	2	1,121
346 Congress St UNIT 408 Condo	\$690,000	8/2/19	3	1	683
734 East Second St UNIT 3 Condo	\$630,000	8/2/19	5	1.5	906
63 Melcher St UNIT 4G Condo	\$625,000	8/8/19	1	1	532
66 Athens St UNIT 1 Condo	\$580,000	8/6/19	4	1.5	717
59 Gates St UNIT 3 Condo	\$545,000	8/1/19	4	1	1,276
121 M St UNIT 2 Condo	\$480,000	8/8/19	3	1	527
320 West Second St UNIT 206 Condo	\$440,000	8/1/19	2	1	426



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For volunteer information, please call 617-241-VETS (8387) or email us at [Veterans@boston.gov](mailto:Veterans@boston.gov)



City of Boston  
Mayor Martin J. Walsh



Veteran's Services



## Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid Parishes with St. Augustine Chapel Welcomes Father Karlo Horcurscak

Cardinal Sean O'Malley has appointed Father Karlo Horcurscak to our Parishes effective November 2, 2019. Father Karlo was ordained for the Archdioceses of Boston 5 years ago. Since that time, he has been Parochial Vicar and Pastor of the Parishes in

Beverly Collaborative – St. Mary, St. John and St. Margaret Parishes. Welcome Father Karlo!

From Father Karlo, "My journey to the priesthood was a little different in that I did not grow up thinking I would be a priest. I grew up in southwest Connecticut and ended

up coming to Worcester for college where I earned my bachelor's in science in Chemical Engineering from WPI. After working 3 years in membrane filtration for the next 7 years I worked as both a support engineer and developer. Having been a practicing Catholic all my life and having a pastor that encouraged me to think about the priesthood, I be-

lieved that I might have a vocation. I applied through Boston's vocation office and was accepted at St. John's Seminary. After ordination, I was assigned to Beverly, where I served as Parochial Vicar for 3 years and Pastor for the past 2 years. I am looking forward to serving you and helping o continue the work of the Gospel in South Boston."



## BOSTON'S OFFICIAL TREE ARRIVES NOVEMBER 19

The annual gift of an ever-green Christmas tree from Nova Scotia will arrive by police escort at Boston Common at approximately 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19. This year commemorates 102 years of friendship between Nova Scotia and the people of Boston after our city provided emergency assistance when Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital, was devastated by a maritime munitions explosion in the harbor in 1917.

Boston's official 2019 Christmas tree is a 45-foot white spruce tree donated by Desmond Waithe and Corina Saunders of Chance Harbour, Pictou County, Nova Scotia. The tree will be celebrated at a public cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13. The official send-off ceremony will be on Friday, November 15, at Halifax City Hall, with a stop at St. Stephen's Elementary School located in the north end of the city, an area severely damaged by the Halifax Explosion. On Saturday, November 16, the tree will be in Halifax's annual Parade of Lights and from there it

will begin its journey to Boston. Nova Scotia will also send an additional four smaller trees for donation to local charities.

"Our welcoming ceremony for the tree from Nova Scotia celebrates the lasting friendship between the people of Boston and the people of Halifax," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "Every year, thousands of residents and visitors enjoy this beautiful tree, and I thank Desmond and Corina and the people of Halifax for making Boston's holiday season so special."

On November 19, the official 2019 Christmas tree will be escorted by the Boston Police Department beginning around 10 a.m. from Billerica via Route 3 South to Route 128 North to Interstate 93 South to Sullivan Square to Rutherford Avenue over the Charlestown bridge and will weave through downtown Boston on North Washington, New Chardon, Cambridge, Tremont, Boylston, and Charles Streets to enter Boston Common at the corner of Beacon and Charles Streets at approximately 11 a.m.

Boston Parks Commissioner

Ryan Woods, an official Nova Scotian town crier, Santa Claus, and local schoolchildren including youngsters from the Mather Elementary School in Dorchester will greet the tree at its final destination near the Boston Visitors Center at 139 Tremont Street. The tree will be lit at approximately 7:55 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, as the City of Boston's Official Tree Lighting is celebrated on Boston Common from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on WCVB Channel 5 starting at 7 p.m.

The 78th annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common is sponsored by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, title sponsor The Province of Nova Scotia, signature sponsor Encore Boston Harbor, Jumbotron sponsor Geico Local Offices, and presenting sponsors Exelon and the Coca-Cola Company with additional support provided by WCVB Channel 5, Magic 106.7 FM, and the Boston Globe. For further information, please call the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at (617) 635-4505 or visit us on Facebook.





# Flag Retirement Ceremony at Castle Island

SBT Staff Report

Last Monday, November 11th, Veterans Day 2019, the weather was November chilly and the parade grounds at Fort Independence on Castle Island was once again the scene of the semi-annual 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 proper respect it deserves. These ceremonies have become a tradition and held on Veterans Day and Flag Day each year and they are beautiful.

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 ceremonial sound of

bagpipes filled the air. The National Anthem and a prayer started off the program. As is always the case in South Boston, everyone in attendance stood silently for the National Anthem and the prayer. South Bostonians, like all proud Americans always stand at attention for the Anthem and the prayer. It is tradition and expected. The preparation of the flags to be retired was made with care. The retirement of the flags themselves consisted of the banners gently laid in a special multi-angled structure. They are then lit and consumed by flames. As the flames burned, Taps was played and everyone in attendance stood; hats off and hands over hearts.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony at Castle Island is always open to the public and residents are invited and encouraged 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. The ceremony itself is a solemn experience and not one that is soon forgotten, if ever, because of its uniqueness and symbolism.

Like each Flag Retirement, it served to inspire the crowd who turned out last Monday and it does so twice each year at Fort Independence on Castle Island in South Boston.



## Interactive Instruction at St. Peter Academy

By Frank Galligan

Kathryn Sayre, teacher of the fifth and sixth grade blended classroom at St. Peter Academy, posed the following science question to a group of students: "How much of our planet's surface area is covered by water?" Almost immediately, hands were hoisted into the air as students were called upon to provide responses. After several suggestions were gathered, Sayre directed everyone's attention to the interactive display screen in front of the classroom. To the kids' enjoyment, a rotating globe appeared that was immediately dissected into quadrants. For the next five minutes, students were guided through an interactive lesson which led them to discover that 71% of the earth's surface is covered by water.

"I love using the interactive display board", notes Sayre. "I've

found that it not only enhances lessons, but any use of technology helps to keep students interested and more engaged." Sayre's classroom is one of several instructional areas now equipped with these modern-day chalkboards; the touch-screens connect to laptops and other devices to help differentiate instruction with text, images, audio, and videos each day. Aside from increasing opportunities to engage all kinds of learners, teachers relay that the interactive display boards have created a more impactful and fun educational experience for their students. Sayre, who received a Bachelors and Masters degree from the University of Portland, notes how it's not only the interactive display boards, but the small class sizes at St. Peters, that help to differentiate instruction. "I can better support students who may be struggling in reading

or mathematics than I would in a traditionally larger classroom. The number of students, in addition to building upon their natural curiosity with the latest technology, help me to do that every day."

**St. Peter Academy is an independent, community-based private school and serves students from ages 15 months through Grade 6. SPA is currently accepting applications for the limited spaces available in the year-round toddler program (beginning at age 15 months) and for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-6. Join us for our Open House on Wednesday, January 22 from 9-11:30 AM and 3-6 PM. Appointments for individual tours can be made by contacting the Principal, Mr. Frank Galligan, at 617-268-0750 or by emailing [spa@stpeteracademy.com](mailto:spa@stpeteracademy.com).**





# Veterans' Day With The Thomas Fitzgerald VFW Post 561

The 68th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration and Mass was well attended by South Boston veterans and guests. South Boston native John Beatty the Commonwealth's Executive Director Of Mas-

sachusetts Military Task Force attended the ceremony on behalf of Governor Charlie Baker that was enhanced by the impressive South Boston High School Jr ROTC Color Guard. Commander of the Thomas Fitzgerald Post

561 Thomas McCarthy welcomed guests as they re-dedicated the post and memorial square and highlighted the military service of Thomas Fitzgerald. The entourage marched to Saint Brigid's Church for the 10am Mass concelebrated

by Fr. Joseph and Fr. Peter Di-Fazio. Veterans Kevin Conroy and Michael Casper lead the march. Dignitaries in attendance also included Former Ambassador and Mrs. Ray Flynn, City Council-  
continued on page 13







# Welcome Compass Vets



continued from page 12

cilors Ed Flynn and Michael Flaherty, Senator Nick Collins and his daughter Justine, Rep.

David Biele and former commissioner and veteran Joe Canavan. A touching moment occurred when veterans, who are residents

of Compass On The Bay, were escorted by the Jr ROTC into the lower church hall for a delectable brunch. The young members of

the ROTC clearly exuded dignity, honor and character, as they behaved in a respectful manner throughout the program.

## South Boston Catholic Academy News

South Boston Catholic Academy students celebrated All Saints Day on November 1, 2019, with a school wide Mass at St. Brigid Church. Father Robert Casey, our Pastor, was the celebrant and we welcomed Father Karlo Horcurscak, as our new Parochial Vicar, who concelebrated at this Mass. The South Boston Catholic Academy Children's Choir sang wonderfully at this Mass. The Third-Grade class attended TV Mass at Catholic

TV where they dressed as their favorite Saints, too.

Boston Catholic Academy ([www.SBCatholicAcademy.org](http://www.SBCatholicAcademy.org)) is currently accepting applications for all classes PreSchool-Grade 6. All are welcome to come to our school Open House on Thursday, November 14th, 2019 from 9AM to 1PM. We have Before School and After School Programs available and high acceptance rate to Parochial, Private, and Boston Exam Schools. Please contact: Mrs. Jamie Brown, our Vice Principal, with any questions or for a tour of the school at [j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org](mailto:j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org) or phone 617-268-2326 for more information.





# Gatey CYO Hoop is back

By Kevin Devlin

It's that time of the year once again to lace up those sneakers and play hoop in the Gate of Heaven CYO basketball program. The 2019-2020 basketball season is back in action with Gatey CYO house and travel league home games to be played at the Martin F. McDonough Gym located within the James "Stretch" Walsh Community Center.

Mike Donovan and Sean Monahan oversee the boys' instructional league for first and second graders held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. The first graders are on tap from 8:30 a.m. until 9:15 a.m., and the second graders from 9:15 a.m. until 10 a.m. The boys' cadet house league games for seventh through tenth graders are played on Sundays at 11 a.m. and

12 p.m. The boys' midget house league games for third through sixth graders are played at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. In addition to running the instructional league with Mike Donovan, Sean Monahan oversees the boys' midget house league and also coaches a boys' travel squad. Yours truly oversees the boys' cadet house league.

Marie Laundry and Allison Baker are in charge of the girls' instructional and house leagues. The instructional league for first and second graders is held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. The girls' house league for third through sixth graders is also held on Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The girls' house league for seven through twelfth graders is held on Sunday afternoons. Additionally, there



are travel teams for both girls and boys to keep your children engaged in worthwhile endeavors throughout the winter season.

"It's time to begin another basketball season," said Kevin Lally, Gate of Heaven's CYO Athletic Director. "It's going to be another fun-filled season. We have instructional leagues for the younger girls and boys, and house leagues for the older girls and boys. And we have travel teams for girls and boys from the third grade through high school. The players will have fun while

learning to play the game and meet new friends. It's a great way for the kids to have productive weekends.

"I need to mention that we're so lucky to have a great group of league commissioners, coaches, and other volunteers who help out every week during the season," Lally added. "We can't run a program without their commitment to the community and to this program...and we certainly wouldn't be able to keep this program going without the support of John McGahan and the Gavin Foundation...so thank I everyone for providing this opportunity for us, for our youth."

(It's not too late to sign up your son or daughter to play Gatey hoop. The house leagues are ready to go and the travel league season begins in early December. Stop by the Walsh Center or email Kevin Lally (lallycompound@aol.com) for additional details.)

## OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

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## SOUTH BOSTON YOUTH SOCCER

Our 2019 Season has come to a close. We will have our banquet on November 23rd at the South Boston Boys & Girls Club. So remember to save the date. We ask parents to bring a desert at the scheduled time for your Division.

### CHILDREN:

You did a great job all season. You showed terrific sportsmanship. We hope you had a great year and we will see you back next year.

### PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & FAMILY:

Thank you for coming out week in and week out. The kids really appreciate it and you did a terrific job on the sidelines cheering them on.

### COACHES:

You did a great job every week. I am sure the children are grateful for all your time you put in with them weekly.

### SPONSORS:

We would be unable to continue the league without the sponsorships you provide year in and year out. Again thank you so much.

### UNDER 4 DIVISION:

Congressman Stephen Lynch, Sullivan's at Castle Island, Massport, Police Athletic League, East Boston Savings Bank, J. F. O'Brien & Sons, Boston Home Inspectors, Councilor Ed Flynn, Lovey's League, City Councilor Michael Flaherty, The Coyne-Adams Club and The South Boston Today.

### UNDER 6 DIVISION:

Boston Firefighters Credit Union, South Boston Dental Associates, Massport, Veritac Advisors, Jim Cahill Club, Ironworkers Local 7, Stapleton Florist, Yankee Bus Line, The Billy Flaherty Gang and Metro Energy.

### UNDER 8 DIVISION:

Massport, Michael Perkins Post, Eileen Hennessey J & S Solutions, Southie's Own and Senator Collins Club.

### UNDER 12 DIVISION:

Representative David Biele, Abacus Builders, Wayne Morrison Club and Massport.

Until next fall – Keep on Kicking...





### HOUSTON TEXANS (+4) over Baltimore Ravens

The 6-3 Texans are coming off the bye to take on a 7-2 Ravens team that's won five straight. Lamar Jackson has already been crowned the MVP by some, and the Ravens have become a team that's turning heads throughout the football world for sure. But don't forget about Houston in that AFC play-off picture. If the playoffs began after Week 10, the Texans would be the No. 3 seed in the AFC and would be hosting the No. 6 seed Pittsburgh Steelers in the Wild Card Round. The Ravens currently hold the No. 2 seed, behind the No. 1 seed Patriots. The top tiebreaker is "head-to-head" so Sunday's game in Baltimore at 1 p.m. is crucial, with regards to obtaining a first-round bye. Many have already given the Ravens that first-round bye, but something tells me Deshaun Watson will have something to say about that. I think Houston will win this game on the road, so give me the points.

### NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (-3.5) over Philadelphia Eagles

Both the 8-1 Patriots and the 5-4 Eagles are coming off the bye.

The Eagles have won their last two games, but all you need to know in this one is that the Patriots lost their last game and had their dreams of a potentially-perfect season crushed by the Ravens. With a week off to think about all that went wrong, I expect New England to return from the bye with a vengeance. This will be nothing more than a "wrong place, wrong time" game for an Eagles team that's currently on the outside looking in at the NFC playoff picture. The Patriots will go into Philly Sunday at 4:25 and get back to their winning ways. And they'll cover.

### LOS ANGELES RAMS (-6.5) over Chicago Bears

Is this really the game of the week? No, it's not. But if it's on NBC's Sunday Night Football, then that's what we have to call it. Also, the spread here is very high. Seems that a lot of people are picking the Rams. Well, as am I. The 5-4 Rams scored just 12 points in a loss to the Steelers in Pittsburgh last week, but man, something's got to give with their offense. All around, really. The Rams are an underachieving bunch this year, and I'm just waiting for them to have their moment where they snap out of it. This game could be it. At

least, from a defensive perspective, I don't know how you could possibly like Mitch Trubisky's chances against this Rams defensive line. This game is in LA, and the Bears' offense is terrible. This is kind of a ballsy pick, but I'm making it anyway. Give me the Rams by 10.

### LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (+4) over Kansas City Chiefs

Whatever, I'm doing it. I'm putting my money on Philip Rivers to cover. God help us all. My brain is screaming at me right now, "Danny, no, don't do this! What are you an idiot?!" Maybe I am. I don't care. I'm following my heart and my gut on this one on Monday night in LA. The Chargers are 4-6, but they're 2-1 in their last three, which included a big win over a very good Green Bay Packers team two weeks ago. The Chiefs are 6-4 and are coming off an inexcusable loss to the Tennessee Titans last week. These two teams will play again in Week 17, in Kansas City, and would you be surprised if the AFC West was on the line in that one? I wouldn't be. The Chargers have a history of second-half surges. They might not beat the Chiefs, but this will be a three-point game either way. I'll take San Diego, I mean, Los

Angeles to at least cover the spread.

### LOCK OF THE WEEK: NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (-5.5) over Tampa Bay Buccaneers

This one is in Tampa Bay on Sunday at 1 p.m. The Saints are coming off one of the most inexcusable losses in franchise history, falling to the previously 1-7 Atlanta Falcons in New Orleans in Week 10. With the loss, the Saints dropped down into the No. 3 seed in the NFC playoff picture at 7-2. If the playoffs began today, New Orleans would be hosting the No. 6 seed Minnesota Vikings in the Wild Card Round. They don't want to face the Vikings in that game, I can assure you of that. The Saints know they need the bye. Well, in order to do that, they need to take care of a 3-6 Buccaneers team that has the worst defense in the NFL, allowing a league-high 31 points per game. I expect Drew Brees to bounce back in a big way. Give me the Saints to crush the Bucs.

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# SPORTS TODAY

## HAYWARD OUT SIX WEEKS AFTER HAND SURGERY

SBT Staff



**B**oston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward had successful left-hand surgery on Monday. The team announced that he'll miss six weeks.

Hayward fractured his left hand in the Celtics' win over the Spurs in San Antonio on Saturday. He was blindsided by a screen set by Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge in the paint. The collision that ensued was light, but the damage done to Hayward's hand will have him sidelined for an extended period.

Before the injury, Hayward was averaging 19 points per game, seven rebounds per game, and four assists per game in eight games to begin the season.

## Tweet of the Week



New England Patriots @Patriots · 21h

In honor of #VeteransDay, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Joe Cardona served up coffee to fellow veterans at @DunkinBoston



## REPORT: KRAFT WANTS GRONK BACK FOR PLAYOFFS

SBT Staff

**A**s we get closer to the in-season deadline for retired NFL players to file for reinstatement, "Gronk Watch" remains in full effect in New England.

Even if a Rob Gronkowski return this year is unlikely, as long as the possibility still exists, it will be a hot topic of conversation in the NFL rumor mill. And that possibility only exists for two more weeks.

Gronkowski has until before the Patriots' Week 13 game in Houston on Sunday, Dec. 1 to request reinstatement. So, interestingly

enough, this past weekend, NFL Network's Ian Rapoport reported that Patriots owner Robert Kraft told Gronkowski that he wants him back in a Patriots uniform for the playoffs.

According to Rapoport, sources told him that, while Gronkowski was at Gillette Stadium cleaning out his locker after he announced his retirement, "Kraft told Gronkowski that he wants him to return for November, December, and a playoff run."

Kraft himself told the NFL Network last month that he was still hopeful for a Gronkowski return, while revealing that Gronkowski had yet to officially file his retirement papers.

It remains to be seen whether or not the Patriots' hopes can turn into a reality over the next two weeks. But there's no doubt that, if he wanted to play again, the Patriots would welcome Gronkowski back for one more playoff run.

## PATRIOTS RETURN FROM BYE WEEK WITH TOUGH FOUR-GAME STRETCH

SBT Staff

**I**f the playoffs began after Week 10, the 8-1 New England Patriots would be the No. 1 seed in the AFC, and the road to Super Bowl LIV would go through Gillette Stadium.

Now that the Week 10 bye has come and gone, the Pats return to action in Week 11, where they'll take on the 5-4 Eagles in Philadelphia, Sunday at 4:25 p.m. It will mark the first game of New England's toughest four-game stretch of the season.

After Sunday's game in Philadelphia, the Patriots will host the 5-4 Dallas Cowboys in Week 12, then they'll travel to Houston to take on the 6-3 Texans in Week 13, followed by hosting the 6-4 Kansas City Chiefs in Week 14.

The Patriots were handed their first loss of the season in Week 9 in Baltimore. The 7-2 Ravens are currently the No. 2 seed in the AFC, and because of their win over the Patriots, Baltimore holds the all-important head-to-head tiebreaker. That means, if both the Patriots and Ravens finish the regular season with the same record, the Ravens would get the better seed because of that head-to-head win in Week 9.

Much like the Patriots' schedule moving forward, Baltimore doesn't have an easy road in the second half either. The Ravens' remaining opponents are Houston, LA Rams, San Francisco, Buffalo, New York Jets, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.

The Patriots close out their regular-season schedule with games against Cincinnati in Week 15, Buffalo in Week 16, and Miami in Week 17.

## WHAT TO WATCH

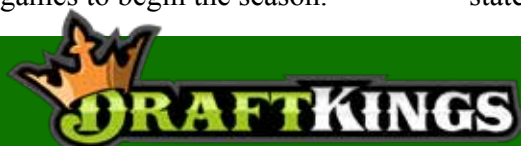
**NFL Week 11  
SUNDAY, NOV. 17**  
Houston at Baltimore (-4)  
1 P.M. CBS

New England (-3.5) at Philadelphia  
4:25 P.M. CBS

**MONDAY, NOV. 18**  
Kansas City (-4) at LA Chargers  
8:15 P.M. ESPN

**NHL  
FRIDAY, NOV. 15**  
Boston at Toronto  
7 P.M. NESN

**NBA  
FRIDAY, NOV. 15**  
Boston at Golden State  
10:30 P.M. ESPN



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