

Independence Forever!



South Boston Today
 Guest Contributor
 Robert J. Allison,
 Historian Exemplar

John Adams thought that Independence Day would be celebrated “as the Day of Deliverance,” with “solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty” as well as “Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

Adams wrote this to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776. He predicted that “The Second Day of July 1776 will be the most memorable Epochal, in the History of America.”

Adams was wrong about the

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EDITORIAL

America's Birthday & We Should Celebrate And Be Proud

There are those living among us in this country who try to stifle and eliminate the pride most Americans have for our nation. They criticize, put down and insult the United States of America at every opportunity. They are disgruntled and consistently unhappy which they make clear to all. Maybe they should just pick up their belongings and leave. And if in the unlikely event they find a country that they would be more comfortable

in, good luck to them, and to be blunt – good riddance.

As for the rest of us, this coming weekend is the day proud Americans will celebrate the independence that our forefathers won for us in a hard-fought war against REAL oppressors. In what were near impossible odds, they sent King George and his redcoats packing, tail between their legs, back to England with an unmistakable message: Americans will live free and will never allow forces, no matter how

powerful to subjugate us again. That goes for enemies both foreign and domestic. And most know, this year it's mostly domestic.

Yes, in many places, the parades, the concerts and magnificent fireworks displays have been cancelled and/postponed for this year. They will return next year. But we can make do; we are Americans and we can adapt to any situation and overcome and celebrate in other ways. We can proudly fly Old Glory from our homes and our cars,

stand for our National Anthem and praise our country for the great place it is and for the wonderful people that reside here. And this we can and should do whether the disgruntled, unhappy, unpatriotic, and yes, whiny among

us like it or not or whether it OFFENDS them or not.

No virus, no demonstrations, no statue vandals should be able to dampen the spirits of a great nation like ours. It's America's birthday. Bring on the cake.



“From every mountainside, Let Freedom Ring” - Samuel F. Smith – “America”

Holiday Hours at your local Post Office

Closed to celebrate Independence Day

Massachusetts – Post Offices across the commonwealth will be closed on Saturday, July 4, as we celebrate the anniversary of our nation's independence. Street delivery on Saturday will be limited to guaranteed overnight parcels and there will be no collection of mail.

Full retail and delivery operations will resume on Monday, January 6. The Postal Service continues to work to stamp out dog bites. We ask customers to be mindful of pets during the holiday weekend and keep a clear path to the mailbox.

In addition, please note:

- For 24/7 access to most postal products and services, go to www.usps.com where you can look up a ZIP Code, track a package, buy stamps, hold mail, print postage online, submit a change of address, schedule a package pickup and find Post Office locations including self-service kiosks.

- Customers can also renew passports or sign up for our latest innovation, Informed Delivery, at www.usps.com. Informed Delivery lets residential consumers see what is ar-

iving in their mailboxes by sending them digital previews of their incoming envelopes and postcards. These images can be viewed via email notifications or accessed through an online dashboard at informedelivery.usps.com— perfect for travelers to check for important letters that are arriving over the holiday weekend.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.



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The Information Center



Cowering and Groveling is No Way to Go through Life

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

I know it was a couple of weeks ago that Boston Police Commissioner William ‘Willie’ Gross took a ton of heat from some of the partisan leftist loud-mouth politicians in Boston and around the state. But it bears keeping the story in the public eye for a bit longer to show just how agenda-driven some people in elected office really are.

As we all know, the reason for that heat and criticism Commissioner Gross took was because he actually dared, DARED, meet with The Attorney General of the United States, William Barr. And to the radical, law enforcement haters and screamers, that is an offense that is unforgivable and inexcusable. WHY? Because the detractors don’t just disagree with Barr and his boss, President Trump, they intensely hate Barr, as they intensely hate anyone with a view that differs from theirs. Opposing views are not allowed in the world of liberals. To compound the hatred and loathing of Gross by some, he does not allow them to intimidate him and control him and that is what’s driving these meltdowns. Translation: Willie Gross will not live on the ‘progressive plantation’. But the bottom line is, while these irresponsible politicians attack him, the public loves the guy. And this is a fact that’s driving his detractors even more insane.

As far as Attorney General Barr is concerned, I’m a big fan. He is coming after the Clinton Foundation, Adam Schiff, Jerry Nadler and all

the other corrupt Democrat legislators as well as James Comey, Clapper, Brennan and the rest who have been behind the effort to illegally remove a duly elected president. Under Obama, this country was stuck with the likes of Eric Holder as it’s attorney general. Holder would allow Democrat party operatives to pretty much run wild and do whatever they wanted; legal or not. He even gave a pass to thugs, who would gather in front of polling locations and threaten people going in to vote. He found no problem with that. In William Barr, we finally have an Attorney General who has stepped in and is putting a stop to the criminal activities that had been going on for nearly a decade and is holding those responsible for them accountable. Thank you Commissioner Gross for showing Attorney General Barr the respect that he deserves and not buckling to the pressure from people who confirm nearly every day, just how much they hate our country and want to bring it down.

It has been a while since I listed the absurd statements by crazy liberals as they would label nearly everything that takes up space as racist. So there has been a buildup of them. But over the last 2 weeks, they are targeting nearly everything in creation with the ‘R’ word. To paraphrase an often-used statement – ‘when you tell them they couldn’t get any nuttier, they seem to be taking that as a challenge’. And the latest list of what they want banned be-

cause they are racist and offensive, in case you haven’t heard is as follows: Pancake syrup, breakfast cereal, cartoons, TV Shows - especially about cops, Abraham Lincoln, Fourth of July, Mount Rushmore, whitening tooth paste, master bedrooms, cotton, movies, songs, John Wayne and pretty much any statue, including statues of Jesus Christ.

People are getting angry at this nonsense and it’s justified. But instead of simply directing

all that anger at the radicals, who are making these idiotic demands and tearing things down, an even greater degree of that anger should be directed toward those politicians, Hollywood producers, school administrators and sports league presidents, who are actually bowing to these demands. Cowering and groveling is no way to go through life. And isn’t it time the American people made those who do this pay a price?

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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.

House and Senate reach compromise on mail-in voting this fall

The House and Senate set aside their feuding over health-care issues yesterday to announce that negotiators have reached a compromise plan to substantially expand vote-by-mail and early voting in Massachusetts, starting this fall, as a way to boost voter turnout amid the ongoing pandemic, report SHNS's Matt Murphy and Chris Van Buskirk. Lawmakers hope to pass the legislation and get it to Gov. Charlie Baker's desk this week. WGBH's Callie Crossley says mail-in voting is a question of public health.

UMass Amherst: Students can return to campus, but they must

still take remote classes

This is an unusual decision. MassLive's Ron Chimelis reports that UMass-Amherst says students can return to campus residential halls this fall, subject to very strict social-distancing rules, but most classes will still be taught remotely. But some Amherst town officials are concerned about the return of students, particularly if many of them decide to live off campus, reports MassLive's Jim Russell. And we suspect more than a few students will prefer to live off campus, partly for safety reasons and partly for party-hearty reasons. Btw, from the Berkshire Eagle: "Williams College plans to reopen with 'extraordinary safety measures.'"

Higher-ed meltdown update: BU to furlough or lay off 250 employees amid pandemic

Still on the subject of higher-education institutes dealing with pandemic woes, from WCVB: "Boston University is planning to lay off or furlough up to 250 workers as it grapples with an estimated \$96 million budget gap due to the pandemic."

Encore Boston Harbor furloughs 3,000 workers

And speaking of furloughs, the BBJ's Catherine Carlock reports that Wynn Resorts plans to furlough 3,000 staffers at Encore Boston Harbor casino, keeping only 700 employees to operate the giant Everett gaming hall, if and when it reopens this summer. The company says it simply doesn't need all the employees if its operating capacity is reduced due to social-distancing rules.

Baker pressured to extend eviction moratorium

SHNS's Chris Lisinski (pay wall) reports that calls are growing for Gov. Charlie Baker to extend a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the pandemic, as some experts warn of a wave of potential evictions when the current ban expires later this summer. In related news, from WBUR's Kimberly Atkins: "Warren bill would halt nearly all evictions during pandemic, expanding CARES Act protections."

Think youths are largely immune from COVID-19? Not in DCF group homes

The southern and western parts of the country are now seeing a spike in youth COVID-19 infections, something largely not seen in Massachusetts, except ... it is indeed happening here. It's happening in Department of Children and Families group homes, where more than 8 percent of children have contracted the virus, a far higher rate than for children elsewhere across the state, reports the Globe's Matt Stout.

The data points to risks of group homes in general. But doesn't it also point to, well, the potential risks at schools? Just thinking aloud.

In local libraries, even the books have to be quarantined

Christian Wade at the Salem News reports on all the reopening precautions local libraries have to take amid the ongoing pandemic, including setting aside returned library books for 72 hours to make sure they're not contaminated with the coronavirus.

Down the drain? MWRA signs \$200K deal to analyze sewage for signs of coronavirus

The Herald's Sean Philip Cotter and SHNS's Colin Young (pay wall) report that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has agreed to pay a Cambridge lab \$200,000 to analyze sewage arriving at the Deer Island Treatment Plant for any signs of a possible surge in the coronavirus in the Great Boston area.

Revenue hunt: Plainville voters turn out in droves to reject tax override amid pandemic budget crunch

Nope. Plainville has rejected one of the first Proposition 2 1/2 override proposals to go before voters during the pandemic, leaving a \$3.25 million budget hole that officials say will likely mean layoffs of 38 teachers as well as some public safety employees, Stephen Peterson at the Sun-Chronicle reports.

Revenue hunt II: Salem considering parking meter expansion to raise funds

With state aid on hold and tax receipts dropping, the search for new sources of revenue is underway across the Bay State. In Salem, city councilors are eyeing Sunday parking meter enforcement as one way to help balance the books, Dustin Luca at the Salem News reports. Some worry about the impact of the move on already battered city businesses.



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46 Income-Restricted Units for seniors 62+

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5	one-bedroom	30% of Household Income	up to 30% AMI
* 17	one-bedroom	30% of Household Income	30% - 50% AMI
** 24	one-bedroom	\$1,111 - \$1,333 (based on your household size income)	over 50% and up to 60% AMI

*Three units are built-out for persons with mobility impairments

**One unit is built-out for people who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or have vision impairment.

The 22 units affordable to households earning up to 30% AMI and between 30% and 50% AMI
Filled directly through the Boston Housing Authority (BHA)

Applications are available by visiting BHA's website and printing an application to be mailed in, by completing an application through CHAMP online, or by calling 617-988-3400 and requesting BHA mail you a paper application. Applications are available at <https://www.bostonhousing.org/en/For-Applicants/How-Do-I-Apply-for-BHA-Housing.aspx>. To apply online please visit CHAMP at <https://publichousingapplication.oed.state.ma.us/>

Minimum Incomes (set by owner + based on # of bedrooms + AMI)
Maximum Incomes (set by DND + based on the household size + AMI)

# of bedrooms	Household size	Min-Max Yearly Income 30% AMI	Min-Max Yearly Income 50% AMI	Min-Max Yearly Income 60% AMI
1	1	0 — \$24,900	\$24,901 — \$41,500	\$41,501 — \$53,760
1	2	0 — \$28,440	\$28,441 — \$47,400	\$47,401 — \$61,440

for the 24 units affordable to households earning between 50% and 60% AMI, income minimums do not apply to households with housing assistance such as Section 8, MRVP, or VASH.

Applications are available during the application period for 22 days, from Monday, June 29 – Tuesday, July 28, 2020 from 10 AM - 4 PM and on Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, July 23 evenings until 7 PM and Saturday, July 11, 10:00am – 2:00pm

60% AMI units - To request an application online, please visit <https://bit.ly/OConnorWaySeniors>. After careful consideration and an abundance of caution, the City of Boston has decided to cancel the in-person application distribution period. If you cannot complete the application online or from your smartphone, please call us at 617-464-2483 to request that we mail you one and to ask for any guidance you might need to complete the application. When you call, you will be asked for your full name, complete mailing address, and phone number. This is a City and HUD requirement.

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Mailed to: 273 D Street, South Boston, MA 02127

- Selection by Lottery for the units affordable to households earning between 50% and 60% AMI
- Age Restricted, must be 62 years or older by the move-in date.
- Asset & Use Restrictions apply.
- Preferences for Boston Residents.

For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call Michelle Zenga at 617-464-2483 or email pconnorway@sbnco.org





SEN. COLLINS CHAMPIONS CONTAGIOUS DISEASES PROTECTIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



In the midst of a global pandemic, Senator Nick Collins recently filed an amendment to a fund-

ing bill that would provide workers' compensation benefits to our state's emergency responders by creating a rebuttable presumption that an emergency worker's death or disability was caused by a contagious disease suffered on the job upon meeting certain requirements. The amendment contains the text of S.1485, a bill that Senator Collins has been filing for several years. After public hearings, testimony, and advocacy, the bill has reached the Ways and Means Committee, a final hurdle before passage. Due to the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Senator is pushing for its passage in this bill.

"Our firefighters, EMS, police officers and other emergency responders are prepared to lay it all on the line for the citizens of the Commonwealth," said Senator Nick Collins. "They are oftentimes exposed to dangerous diseases in the line of duty when responding to emergency situations. This bill ensures that our first responders and their families are taken care of for any disease picked up on the job, especially in the time of COVID-19."

This amendment recognizes the risks associated with these jobs by creating a rebuttable presumption that any contagious disease result-

ing in the death or disability of an emergency responder was suffered in the line of duty. In order for the presumption to apply, the individual must be a full-time, uniformed member of a paid police department, fire department or municipal emergency medical staff and the individual successfully passed an entry level physical examination which failed to reveal any evidence of the contagious disease causing the death or disability. Equally important, in order to claim benefits under this bill, an individual must prove that he or she regularly responded to emergency calls during his or her service.

"This Amendment will protect first responders and their families from COVID 19 now and in the future"

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REP. BIELE VOTES TO SECURE \$1 BILLION IN FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT



State Representative David Biele joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in passing a supplemental budget to facilitate federal CARES Act funding to reimburse communities hard-hit by COVID-19.

The spending measure follows the April passage in Congress of the CARES Act, which requires states to expend funds on items related to COVID-19 for federal reimbursement. The supplemental budget directs funds to address vital needs including for personal protective equipment, field hospitals and contact tracing.

"This supplemental budget provides access to federal funds for personal protective equipment, child care support, and health care providers," said Rep. Biele. "Taken together, this budget will relieve many financial burdens caused by COVID-19 while giving financial support for critical needs across the Commonwealth."

The spending bill includes, among other items:

- \$350 million for personal protective equipment costs across the Commonwealth;
- \$139 million for increased rate add-

- ons to congregate care providers;
- \$94 million for incentive pay for human service employees;
- \$85 million for field hospitals and shelters;
- \$44 million for the Community Tracing Collaborative;
- \$81.6 million for child care needs during the pandemic and re-opening;;
- \$500,000 to create an Early Education and Care Public-Private Trust Fund to establish an infrastructure to foster public-private and philanthropic efforts in support of childcare providers.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

South Boston Elected Officials Hold Fireworks Meeting



On Monday evening, Councilor Ed Flynn, Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty and State Rep. David Biele, along with the offices of Congressman Lynch and Senator Collins, hosted a meeting with concerned neighbors and representatives from both the Boston Fire Department and the Boston Police Department to discuss the impact of illegal fireworks on our neighborhoods. The meeting, originally scheduled for Medal of Honor Park at 6pm, was held virtually via Zoom and provided an opportunity for elected and public

safety officials to engage residents and discuss ways that we can stop the usage of illegal fireworks.

Topics of discussion included increased fines and penalties, contacting 911 with locations and descriptions of illegal activity, greater community engagement, a coordinated regional approach from law enforcement, solicitation from distributors, and working with the MA State Police and US Postal Service regarding the supply of fireworks from out of state and through the mail.

In the meeting, Boston Fire Commissioner Jack Dempsey reiterated

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Fireworks, Once A Welcomed Entertainment Has Become A Public Hazard

Not only can fireworks be stressful on dogs during the 4th – they can also lead to dogs getting lost and separated from their pet parents. “Dogs commonly become anxious or fearful around loud and unpredictable noises – which would certainly include fireworks that take place on, and around, the 4th of July,” said Dr. Sarah Nold, staff veterinarian at Trupanion – a leader in medical insurance for pets. In fact, **Trupanion receives more anxiety-related claims (on aver-**

age 45% more) in July than any other month of the year.

Dr. Nold suggests these three things to consider to help your pet during the 4th of July firework celebrations.

1) Make sure your dog has access to a familiar environment – whether you’re at home with them or not – where they will feel most secure. This could include:

- their kennel
- your bedroom
- a gated-off area where your dog spends a lot of their time

2) You can also leave the television or radio on, or just turn on a fan in the room to help sound-sensitive pets get through the evening.

3) Body wraps, pheromone diffusers and calming collars may help some dogs. In severely anxious dogs, anxiety medication could be necessary. Talk to your veterinarian to determine what treatment, or often combination of treatments, are best for your dog.

Additional tips to consider:

Beat the Heat: If your 4th of July



plans involve being outdoors with your dog, make sure your pet has access to shade and plenty of water throughout the day. During the month of July in past years, Trupanion has paid out more than \$16,000 in dehydration claims alone.

Barbecue Buster: Nothing says the 4th like firing up the grill, but avoid the temptation of feeding your dog table scraps which can cause a serious

stomach ache. Beware of bones and corn-on-the-cob as well to avoid any unexpected trips to the veterinarian.

Keep identification on your pet at all times: Unfortunately, many pets get lost during the first week in July, especially on July 4. Even if you follow all of these tips, your stressed pet may find a way to get out of the house. Always keep an ID on your pet with updated information.

Fireworks meeting continued from page 5

that fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts and highlighted various incidents where fireworks have caused serious injuries and extensive damages. Moreover, Commissioner Dempsey noted that a large portion of those injured by fireworks are young people under 18, with 25% of the reported injuries happening to children under 10 in the past decade. Captain Boyle from Boston Police Area C-6 spoke about the spike of calls that they have received from residents, that police officers have been confiscating packages of fireworks, and also that BPD’s Intelligence Unit has been investigating sources of the fireworks. Both the Fire Department and the Police Department are continuing to respond to calls on fireworks, as well as confiscating supplies and issuing fines.

Mayor Walsh has also recently convened a Task Force to address illegal fireworks made up of At-Large City Councilors, the Boston Arson Squad (Fire Investigation Unit), the Boston Police Department’s Bureau of Community Engagement, and community leaders.

Councilor Flynn also emphasized that in addition to enforcement, there needs to be further community outreach about the dangers of fireworks and how it impacts our communities. Last week, Councilor Flynn sent civic organizations, schools, and youth groups a letter outlining the dangers of fireworks, and encouraging them to tell friends, family and neighbors to stop using fireworks.

“I know the negative impacts that illegal fireworks have on our neighborhoods, particularly our seniors, persons with disabilities, those with PTSD, our children and even our pets. I will continue to work with public safety agencies, my colleagues, and neighbors on this issue,” said Councilor Flynn. “Aside from enforcement, we all need to continue to work together as a community to let our neighbors know that fireworks are not only illegal, but also dangerous. Please think of each other’s safety and well-being this Fourth of July and throughout the summer, and avoid the use of any fireworks.”

“The 7,800 calls regarding fireworks placed to 911 from across

the city, with several hundred from South Boston alone, have made it abundantly clear that we urgently need to address this problem,” said Councilor Flaherty. “Residents have had enough and I am committed, through my work on the Mayor’s Firework Taskforce and through neighborhood meetings, to finding and implementing solutions that work for our community.”

Rep Biele said, “We have all experienced a significant increase in fireworks throughout our neighborhoods. In addition to being illegal, fireworks also pose significant safety risks and have negative effects on seniors, children, animals, and individuals with post-traumatic stress,” said Rep. Biele. “I am thankful for the work of law enforcement and fire safety officials, and I am committed to working with colleagues in government and our community on this quality of life issue. As summer begins, let us all act responsibly, respectfully, and keep in mind that fireworks are illegal and harmful.”

For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn’s office at 617-635-3203 and Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

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said Rich MacKinnon Jr., President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM). “Knowing state lawmakers put measures in place to protect our Members on the front lines would have a positive impact across the Fire Service, joining numerous other states across the country that have already passed such protections for their Firefighters.”

The amendment will be debated as part of a full formal session on Thursday, July 2nd in the Massachusetts State Senate.



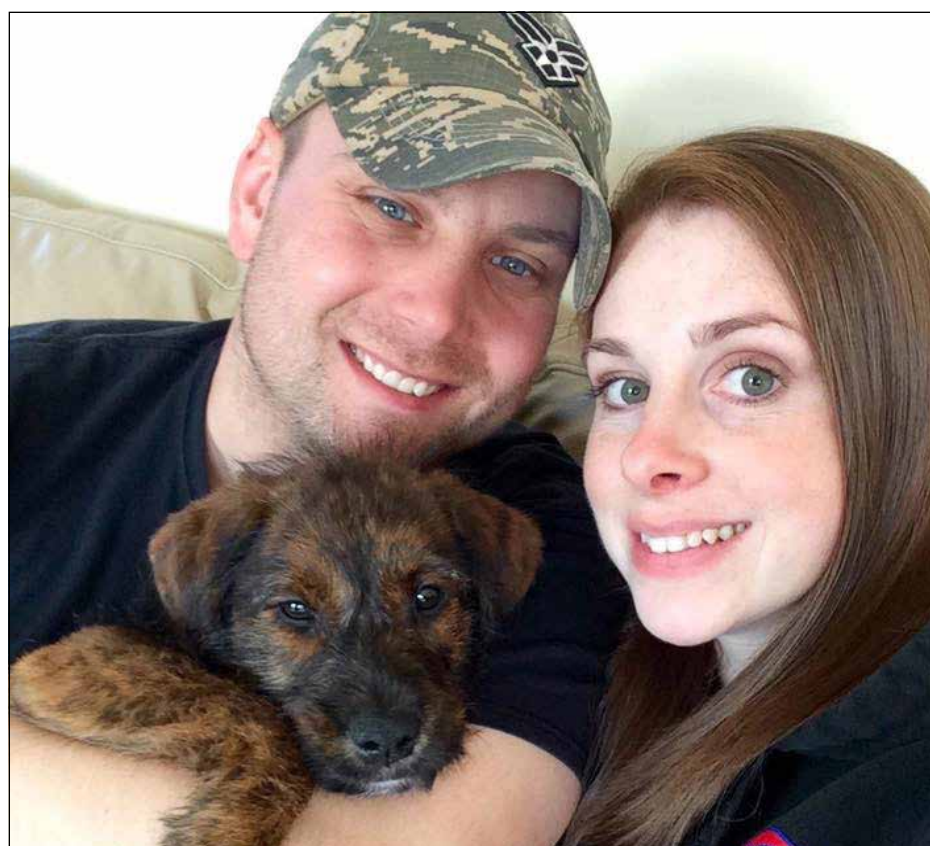
Local Resident Attacked By Fireworks Wielding Crowd

SBT Staff Report

South Boston is a neighborhood where even in 2020, news still travels fast by word of mouth. But add to that, the advent of social media and all the excellent community sites we have to get information out if something happens to a resident, and it's almost instant. And that's the case regarding a violent incident and assault that happened to a true son of Southie – Mark McKunes.

Mark is a standup guy who likes to get involved in positive neighborhood events and causes. He is a United States Air Force veteran, he gets involved in activities that assist fellow veterans, gives tours at Fort Independence in his capacity as a volunteer with the Castle Island Association and he can pretty much be counted on to help neighbors in need. But being a good guy who looks out for his community doesn't always pay off or shield him from street crime it would seem.

It was Thursday, June 18th at around 11:45pm when what's becoming a common occurrence during these early summer warm nights was taking place. People were in the streets shooting off fireworks – big ones. The whistling rockets, the exploding Cherry Bombs and M-80's, the colorful blasts lighting up the sky etc.: all great effects at a July 4th Independence Day celebration. But on this particular night it was happening on W. Third Street in Southie. It was late and people were trying to get to sleep. Mark McKunes came out to move his car, because the large group on the street setting of the fireworks were actually aiming them at houses and even vehicles. In a polite and respectful way, he asked the group to please stop what they were doing or at least move elsewhere away from houses. This was something they didn't want to hear. But to agitate even more, the group numbering approximately 20 that seemed to be made up of males and females ages 15-25, Mark was wearing a shirt that showed his support for first responders: Police, firefighters, EMT's and the military. Some in the group immediately started berating him



for that. As the conversation became more heated, he was blindsided by a sucker punch by one of the females in the group, which was followed up by another punch from behind from one of the males.

The confrontation continued as the group turned into a pack surrounding him. At that point, another member of the group deliberately aimed a Roman Candle at him from which one of the discharging balls of flame hit him directly in the chest, causing severe burns as it wound up on the inside of his shirt. Another ball from a Roman Candle

was fired directly at his head. Luckily, he was able to move out of the way of that one. The violent scene taking place in the street got the attention of neighbors who immediately called police. Fortunately, there was a Boston Police officer around the corner making a traffic stop that got the call and rushed to the scene. Mark McKunes made it perfectly clear, that had it not been for the quick response of that officer and the backup that came soon after, things could have been far worse for him than they were. As the police arrived, the group fled

in every direction; on foot and in at least 4 vehicles.

Since this incident, Mark McKunes has given interviews about it to local media; including this newspaper, as well as some major media sources for the purpose of alerting people about just what goes on out in the streets at night; not just in South Boston but all around the city.

During these interviews he emphasizes how important it is for people to support law enforcement and about the great job they are doing protecting the public despite the lack of support they are receiving from some elected officials. He stated the following – “The rapid police response that night most likely prevented more serious injuries or even worse. I blame much of what's going on in the city on officials, who refuse to give proper support to law enforcement and allow people to act up like this with no real consequences for their actions. Because of that lack of support, criminals have little fear of police and feel they can do pretty much anything they want”.

Mark McKunes didn't deserve what happened to him that night, nor would anyone else. And he wants all to know that he is grateful not only for the police that came to his aid but also for all the support he has received from neighborhood residents. And he promises that he will not let this drop but will continue to speak out in the hope that no one else becomes a victim.



The Wine Guy

Independence Day



When Thomas Krafts first read the Declaration of Independence to the citizens of Boston from the balcony of what was then the seat of the Royal Governor, later the first State House, he, like all the Signers, risked his life to do so. Today, we're reduced to letting thugs vandalize statues and symbols of those people and times.

I'm sad and angry about that. As you all go to gatherings this coming holiday, please raise a glass to toast Krafts for his conviction and courage; it doesn't seem like there's anyone else currently around who deserves it. Here are a few ideas for toasting...

NV L. Mawby Blanc de Blancs, Leelanau Peninsula, Michigan, (\$25.00). If you weren't aware that fine sparkling wines could be made in Michigan, prepare yourself for a pleasant surprise. L. Mawby is Michigan's oldest — but not the state's only — sparkling wine house.

The wine offers aromas of crisp apples and autumn spice. There's an underlying minerality on the palate that keeps the wine interesting. Flavors of ripe pear, apple and Meyer lemon are rounded out with a lemon zest note at the finish. Try it with some grilled shrimp, lollipop lamb chops or ribs with ginger and hoisin sauce.

2009 Lamoreaux Landing Finger Lakes Brut Finger Lakes, New York, (\$25.00), is a different kind of sparkling wine, as it's made from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes. Lamoreaux Landing is one of America's most "earth conscious" sparkling wine houses, and they consider their environmental management practices to be at the core of the house's identity. In addition to sparkling wines, Lamoreaux Landing produces reds, whites and sweet still wines. The 2009 Finger Lakes Brut offers a plush texture with notes of creme fraiche. Vanilla and bread dough notes are offset by citrus freshness that carries through from the aroma to the finish. If you've got any kind of seafood on the grille this holiday, put a bottle or two of this on ice; you can thank me later.

2011 Roederer Estate L'Ermitage, Anderson Valley, California, (\$48.99). Another California sparkling wine estate, Roederer is located in the Anderson Valley. It's the American winery of Champagne house Roederer. Among the wines Roederer produces in the Anderson Valley, L'Ermitage is the house's tete de cuvee, ("best special



blend") and one sip will tell you why. One of the hallmarks of L'Ermitage is texture. It is known as one of the finest-textured sparkling wines in the world and the 2011 is no exception. An impressively persistent mousse hints at the wine's steady stream of pinpoint-sized bubbles. It's nicely balanced with delicious bread dough and spice notes offset by crisp apple fruit.

2004 Schramsberg, J. Schram, North Coast, California, (\$115.99). Schramsberg is the Napa Valley's oldest sparkling wine house, having produced its first Blanc de Blancs in 1965. J. Schram is their Prestige wine. It represents only about 3% of Schramsberg's production and uses the very best lots from the

best vintage years. The 2004 was one of those sparkling wines that hadn't quite hit its stride yet when it was released, but now the wine shines with an incredible depth of aromas and flavors. The nose offers all the best aromas of a crisp, autumn day with green apple, poached pear, honey, spice and a hint of toast. It offers layers of flavor, zesty, foamy richness on the tongue and a mineral note on the finish. If lobsters or a great steak are on the menu, start with this one; you'll be hard-pressed to top it with anything else.

Have a great Fourth of July, everyone; please take a moment to remember why we have it, too.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com



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Wishing You and Your Family a Safe and Happy

4th of July

as We Proudly Celebrate our Nation's Freedom!

DAVID BIELE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

4th Suffolk District



(Paid for by the Committee to Elect David Biele)

Nick Collins

STATE SENATOR



Happy Fourth of July

"With Liberty and Justice for All!"



@NickCollinsMA



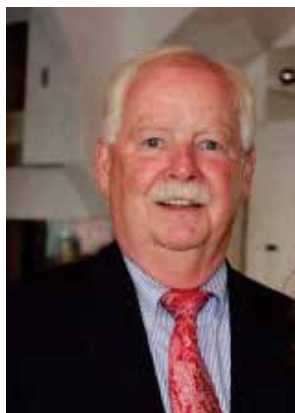
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Wishing You a Safe & Happy Independence Day

This Nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.

~Elmer Davis



Michael J. Donovan
Clerk Magistrate
Suffolk Superior Civil Court



Happy Independence Day

We pay tribute to those who fought for our freedom and future.
Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn & Family

(Paid for and authorized by the Friends of Ed Flynn Committee)



MAYOR WALSH NAMES DR. KARILYN CROCKETT AS CHIEF OF EQUITY FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Martin J. Walsh appointed Dr. Karilyn Crockett as the Chief of Equity for the City of Boston, a Cabinet-level position the Mayor established last week to embed equity and racial justice into all City planning, operations and work moving forward. Dr. Crockett brings to this new role extensive background in urban studies and planning with a lens on addressing inequities, leadership as a published author and lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and insight on municipal government from her time as Director of Economic Policy & Research, and Director of Small Business Development for the City of Boston.

“Karilyn is one of the most intelligent people I know, and I am so honored to welcome her back to city government to take the helm of this new role,” said Mayor Walsh. “Her record and accomplishments speak volumes about her passion and drive to move the needle on big issues, and I am confident that with her leadership, together we will combat systemic racism and inequities in every single way that city government touches people’s lives.”

Under Dr. Crockett’s leadership, the Office of Equity will be charged with leading the Administration’s efforts across departments to embed equity into all city work, and actively work to dismantle racism by putting an intentional focus on supporting communities of color and marginalized groups across all departments, and building equitable governmental structures to sustain this work. The Office will support cross-department collaborative functions that advance innovative equity and opportunity policies and practices, including the strategies outlined in *Imagine Boston 2030*. To do this work, the office will utilize and leverage the City’s partnership and collaboration with community residents, nonprofit organizations and business leaders to promote equitable government policies and outcomes.

“As my home town and the entire nation struggle to fight the twin crises of the coronavirus pandemic and America’s unfinished racial recon-

ciliation, I am humbled and honored to join Mayor Walsh to imagine new possibilities for healing, recovery, justice and wealth-building for powerful communities who’ve been denied far too much for far too long,” said Dr. Karilyn Crockett.

Dr. Crockett most recently worked as a Lecturer of Public Policy & Urban Planning at MIT. Prior to that, she worked in the City of Boston’s Office of Economic Development, where she was tasked with creating an equity-driven policy framework for guiding job creation, small business development, neighborhood revitalization and public procurement strategies. Dr. Crockett holds a PhD from the American Studies program at Yale University, a Master of Science in Geography from the London School of Economics, and a Master of Arts and Religion from Yale Divinity School.

“Mayor Walsh’s commitment to combat systemic racism in every single way that city government touches people’s lives is wholly consistent with MIT’s Department of Urban Studies & Planning’s commitment and obligation to do the same,” said Chris Zegras, Head of the Department of Urban Studies & Planning at MIT. “We look forward to working together with the city and its residents to create an anti-racist city.”

Dr. Crockett’s research focuses on large-scale land use changes in twentieth century American cities and examines the social and geographic implications of structural poverty. As a published author, her new book “People before Highways: Boston Activists, Urban Planners, and a New Movement for City Making” investigates a 1960s era grassroots movement to halt urban extension of the U.S. interstate highway system and the geographic and political change in Boston that resulted.

Dr. Crockett was the co-founder of Multicultural Youth Tour of What’s Now (MYTOWN), an award-winning, Boston-based, education nonprofit organization. MYTOWN hired public high school students to research their local and family histories



to produce youth-led walking tours for sale to public audiences. During its nearly 15 years of operation, MYTOWN created jobs for more than 300 low and moderate-income teenagers, who in turn led public walking tours for more than 14,000 visitors and residents. In a White House ceremony, the National Endowment for the Humanities cited MYTOWN as “One of the ten best Youth Humanities Programs in America.”

The Office of Equity will focus on:

- Dismantling systemic barriers to achieve racial, gender, health and socio-economic equality

- Developing a city workforce that is representative at all levels of the demo-

graphics of the city

- Supporting immigrant, refugee and other vulnerable communities to promote public safety, quality of life and human rights

- Ensuring that an equity lens is placed on all programs, policies, and practices of local government.

- Staffing and coordinating the newly created Boston Racial Equity Fund.

This newly formed Cabinet will comprise the following existing departments and agencies, including: Resilience and Racial Equity, Diversity, Human Rights Commission, Women’s Advancement, Immigrant Advancement, Language and Communication Access.

Do The Sun-Bronzed Millennials Of M Street Beach Still Need Potty Training?

Poughkeepsie New York is not the Athens of America, Boston is. However, Poughkeepsie understands that they need to be protected from either unfortunately homeless vagrants or spoiled and entitled college-educated young adults, who indiscriminately urinate or even defecate along the side or back yards of the neighborhoods private residences; in this case in and around M Street Beach.

Despite the fact that the Curley Recreation Center has been closed and its bathroom facilities unavail-

able, the phenomenon of this filthy behavior had existed before the closing, but for obvious reasons has been rampant, since the summer began. Alcohol consumption exacerbates the problem, but that is a story for another date.

Porto-Potties are not the solution for these reasons. First of all, that convenience encourages the alcohol-fueled behavior referenced. The history of the solar-fueled trash receptacles along the beach, which have been removed, was a lesson in poorly managed maintenance contract that became a source of insect and vermin infestation. The use of porto-potty units, especially during this Covid-19 virus period, both during the day by beach-goers, all of whom have been observed without face coverings, and at night by drug and alcohol influenced vagrants, is a health crisis that could rage out of control.

Chapter 157 is known as the Public Urination or Defecation Local Law of the Town of Poughkeepsie and was adopted in 2011. It states that no person shall urinate or defecate in a public place, whether indoors or outdoors, except in a designated public rest room or

designated portable toilet. Nor shall they do so outdoors on private property, if visible from a public place or outdoors on private property, if not visible from a public place, without the express permission of the owner. Any person found guilty of violating this chapter shall be guilty of a violation and, upon conviction of a first offense, shall be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 or a term of imprisonment for a period of up to 15 days, or both; and upon conviction of a second offense, shall be subject to a fine of up to \$1,500 or a term of imprisonment for a period of up to 15 days; and upon conviction of a third or subsequent offense shall be subject to a fine of \$2,000 or a term of imprisonment for a period of up to 15 days, or both.

This violation is almost understandable, although unacceptable, when dealing with those with psychological or physiological disabilities, but to have to police the educated, enlightened and presumably self-respecting 20 and 30 somethings who have found an oasis in the heart of the Athens of America is disturbing and not to mention shocking.

South Boston's own Robert Allison



PhD., Professor and Chair of the History Department at Suffolk University and president of the South Boston Historical Society posted a commentary as to why Boston was referred to as the Athens of America. He wrote, in part, "Boston became the Athens of America because of its literate and engaged citizenry, and because wisdom and knowledge, and the advantages of education are diffused throughout the body of the people.

Boys and girls, please don't disappoint your parents, who spent a lot of time and anxious moments potty training you. God forbid you are arrested for indecent exposure and have to register as a sex offender all because of the lack of respect for the community.

Amazon Looking For Entrepreneurs



Amazon Logistics has signed various leases in an effort to open eight delivery stations in Massachusetts in 2020. Delivery stations power the last mile of our order fulfillment process. Packages are transported to delivery stations from Amazon fulfillment centers, are sorted, and then loaded into vehicles for delivery to customers. Collectively, the stations will create thousands of full time and part time jobs, paying a minimum of \$15 per hour and offering a variety of benefits packages from day one. Amazon has more than 150 delivery stations in the US.

Delivery stations also offer entrepreneurs the opportunity to build their own business delivering Amazon packages, as well as independent contractors the flexibility to be their own boss and create their own schedule delivering for Amazon Flex. To learn more, visit www.logistics.amazon.com, <https://flex.amazon.com/>

and <https://www.amazon.jobs>

Leases have been signed for the following locations:

- 351 Maple St, Bellingham, MA (launched in May)
- Alger Street, South Boston, MA
- Industrial Park Rd, Hingham, MA
- West St, Mansfield, MA
- Commerce Blvd, Middleborough, MA
- American Legion Highway, Revere, MA
- John Quincy Adams Rd, Taunton, MA
- Fordham Road, Wilmington, MA

Amazon statement:

"Amazon Logistics has signed various leases in an effort to open eight delivery stations in Massachusetts in 2020. We are excited to continue to invest in the state of Massachusetts with new delivery stations that will provide efficient delivery for customers, and create thousands of job opportunities for the talented workforce." – Emily Hawkins, Amazon Spokesperson





Independence Forever!
continued from front page

date, but not about the way we celebrate Independence Day - parades and fireworks, sporting events, games, “Guns, Bells, Bonfires”, as well as solemn acts of devotion. Adams saw the importance of the date and the many ways Americans would celebrate.

In the early 1990s, I met with a group of students from the Czech Republic, who arrived for a tour of the United States on July 3. They were worried when they learned that they would arrive the day before our great patriotic holiday. Growing up under a Communist regime, they learned to dread the forced patriotic devotion and crashing boredom of their country’s anniversary days. Our Fourth of July astonished them. There were appropriate markers of the day’s historical importance, and reminders of the sacrifices made to sustain independence. But these were not the grim parades of military might. What struck them most was that people they saw were having a good time.

Independence is something to celebrate. It is what allows us still to enjoy July 4, and the other days of the year. Adams knew this, when he wrote to Abigail on July 3, 1776. He knew that achieving independence would not be easy. “I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. —yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not.”

It would be a sacrifice his generation would make for those to come.

Why July 2? We know that July 4 is the great anniversary day. On July 2, Congress had voted to declare Independence; on July 4, Congress adopted the formal Declaration of Independence. For Adams, the fact was more important than the statement. On the afternoon of July 4, after Congress adopted the Declaration, which

explained why it had declared the United States to be independent, it voted to have the Declaration printed and circulated throughout the American states. John Dunlap, a Philadelphia printer, received the draft—not the familiar parchment copy which reposes in the National Archives, but a simple draft of Congress’s Declaration. He set the text in type, and at the top, in bold letters, three lines stand out: “IN CONGRESS. July 4, 1776” “DECLARATION,” and “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.”

This document, Dunlap’s printed version, gives us an anniversary date—July 4—and a name for the new country: The United States of America. It was meant to be read aloud, and publicly proclaimed throughout the land. On July 9, it reached New York, where Washington had it read to his army at the tip of Manhattan Island; his troops hearing the bold declaration could see in the distance British and German soldiers disembarking on Staten Island, the largest military force the British, up to that point, had ever sent abroad, coming to suppress their rebellion. After hearing Independence proclaimed, the soldiers and New York citizens tore down a statue of George III, melting it down to make bullets.

The Declaration reached Boston on Thursday, July 18. Thomas Crafts read it from the Old State House balcony. As he concluded, the crowd cheered, “God Save our American States,” gave three cheers, church bells rang, guns fired, “and every face appeared joyful,” Abigail Adams reported. Then the crowd took the royal coat of arms down from every public building and burned them in the middle of King Street. “Thus, ends royal Authority in this State,” Abigail wrote, “and all the people shall say Amen.”

Amen—but what was next? After forcing the British out of Boston, and declaring Independence, the Americans had a tough year. The British took New York easily, and would hold it for the next seven years. By the end of the following summer the British would also occupy Philadelphia.

The British would not return to the Boston area, which had been heavily fortified during the siege. “I think of nothing but fortifying Boston Harbor,” John wrote to Abigail in March, just a few weeks after the British had evacuated Boston. “I want more Cannon than are to be had,” and he wanted the harbor islands fortified.

The British destroyed the fort on Castle Island on their way out of Boston. Congress rejected Massachusetts’ request for aid in rebuilding the Castle William, but Abigail reported that six hundred men met every morning to rebuild it. The war shifted out of Boston. But Massachusetts still sent men to the war—in fact, a third of the men who served in the Continental Army came from Massachusetts.

Fortifying Castle Island seemed less pressing until 1798, when France went to war against the United States. France was at war with England in the 1790s, and wanted the United States—recipients of French aid during the Revolution—to join in. The United States proclaimed neutrality, and France began to capture American merchant ships.

President Adams sent diplomats to France, who were told bluntly that before any negotiations could begin, the Americans would have to bribe a series of French bureaucrats. President Adams vowed that he would never send another diplomat to France, unless the French would receive him as the emissary of an independent people. In 1776, John Adams had thought of nothing but fortifying the harbor islands against the British; now, as President, he thought of nothing but fortifying the entire coast. Castle William, which had languished since the men of Boston rebuilt it twenty years earlier, now was fortified again against a new enemy. President Adams gave the fortification a new name, Fort Independence.

That same year, the USS CONSTITUTION had its first fight, against the French in the West Indies. Built in the North End in the 1790s, the CONSTITUTION is the oldest commissioned warship still afloat in the world. At noon on



July 4, if you venture out to Castle Island, you will see the ship fire a salute to the flag on Fort Independence, and gunners on Castle Island will return the salute to American independence and the men and women who have made it possible.

John Adams had been invited to attend the celebrations in Washington on July 4, 1826. (But at the age of ninety was too feeble to leave his home in Quincy). He had also declined an invitation to speak at the local celebration in Quincy. The Quincy organizers asked if Adams would like them to read a statement at their commemoration. Knowing this might be his last public words, Adams wanted them to count. He and his generation had achieved independence; the next generations would have to defend it. He gave his statement:

“Independence Forever!”

They waited. Would he like to add more?

“Not a word.”

Adams could hear the celebrations on July 4, 1826—the “Pomp and Parade, with Shows, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells” he had predicted fifty years earlier. We can still hear them, and see the fireworks and illuminations. We also know what has made this celebration possible, from one end of the continent to the other.

Robert J. Allison is President of the South Boston Historical Society and Chair of the History Department at Suffolk University.

Police Commissioner Gross Takes The Heat But Doesn't Sweat

It appears that, in doing his job as he sees fit, Boston Police Commissioner William Gross has become a foil in the recent efforts by some members of the Boston City Council to challenge the executive authority and political power of Mayor Marty Walsh. Commissioner Gross was essentially forced to issue a statement last week in the wake of criticism and heated debate about his decision to meet with U.S. Attorney General William Barr after an impromptu request by the AG to do so.

In his statement, Gross acknowledged that the surprise visit would stir controversy, stating: “A meeting does not mean I agree with his policies in any way, but I hope he walked away knowing a little more about ours.”

“As Police Commissioner, I often have to put my personal feelings aside. The top law enforcement official in the country requested a meeting with the Boston Police Department and I would rather take the opportunity to educate someone on what we are doing in Boston on how we value and work with the community, and how we support our officers in this work, than close a door.”

The U.S. Justice Department tweeted about the meeting on Thursday, noting it is the first time a U.S. Attorney General has visited the Boston Police Department. **“Thank you, Comm. Gross, for your wonderful hospitality and invaluable insight and advice,” the Tweet said.**

Several Boston politicians condemned the meeting, including City Councilor Michelle Wu. In a Tweet, she referred to the visit as a “disgrace to our city.” Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell also tweeted about the visit, stating: “Defund whatever the hell this is.” Her tweet comes as cities across Massachusetts grapple with police reforms in the wake of the officer-involved death of George Floyd, a black man in Minneapolis. Protests across the country have called upon leaders to defund police departments.

Attorney General Barr has become the ‘poster child’ of the Trump Administration and has been the target of Democrats ever since his office has begun to issue orders that they say have ‘politicized’ the Justice Department. Notwithstanding the fact that every one knows that every thing that happens in Washington DC

is political, Barr appears to believe that his discretion is rooted in the rule of law, while Democrats and others, including former justice department lawyers and lawyers around the country, think otherwise.

Back to Commissioner Gross. Other members of the City Council, in addition to Councilors Wu and Campbell, aver that he put himself in a compromising ‘political’ situation, having taken a photograph with Barr that was ‘shared’ in a tweet by the Justice Department, and gave cover to a “person who upholds the racist policies of Donald Trump”. The Commissioner however, unlike his critics who believe that their obligation is to incessantly attack the Trump Administration, believes that he has an obligation to both protect the citizens of Boston from criminal brutality, including police brutality, and support the overwhelming numbers of dedicated and well-trained members of his Department.

Sloganeering, as a shorthand way to push an ambiguous agenda such as “defunding”, is considered the politically lazy approach to messaging and is used by single-minded

activists to buttonhole political leaders into one-word responses to a complicated question. Police department protocols surely need to be reviewed and, in some cases, reformed. Commissioner Gross has become a champion of community policing and civic engagement. He is also a leader focused on not only identifying and rooting out criminals and the criminal element they breed and helping to solve major crimes, but also directing what resources he can to help attack the underling causes of crime, such as mental health, broken homes and lack of job opportunities.

That being the case, it would seem to make a lot more sense to fund, not defund, a department that is in the trenches 24-7. Redeploying funds from a Police Department budget to other agencies, most of whom are 9-5 entities and have targeted missions, may not be a sound initiative unless it is well thought out and keeps the police as a key player in the equation. Having Willie Gross in the room, at the table and even leading the initiative, seems to be a prudent option. You see, when the heat is on, Willie Gross doesn't sweat.





Shaw and Massachusetts 54th Regiment Memorial Restoration Process Begins

WHAT: The Partnership to Renew the Shaw 54th Memorial invites the Greater Boston community to the Liberty Mall on Boston Common where 900 feet of interpretive signage

is being installed along the construction fencing, revealing the story of the Civil War, the 54th Regiment, and the Memorial that commemorates it. Installation of the interpretive signage – a museum without walls for all to engage with and enjoy – will be completed by week's end and remain in place through the completion of the restoration process.

The installation is the latest in interactive programming that will further the dialogue surrounding this monument, its importance to Black history, and a march towards justice that continues today. This installation shines a light on the vital role played by the 54th and the unfinished work

that continues today in the struggle for equal rights and social justice in Boston and the nation. As we restore the Memorial, we encourage the public to explore the history of the 54th Regiment and learn more about the Memorial's place in the artistic, social, and political life of America, as well as be inspired to act today by these historical acts of courage. More information can be found at <http://shaw54thmemorialrestoration.org>.

WHO:

- Liz Vizza, Executive Director, Friends of the Public Garden
- Michael Creasey, Superintendent, National Parks of Boston
- Leon Wilson, President & CEO, Mu-

seum of African American History • Ryan Woods, Commissioner of Boston Parks and Recreation
WHEN: On display through November 2020

WHERE: Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial & Liberty Mall, Boston Common (Opposite Massachusetts State House) Boston, MA 02108



PICS IN THE PARKS CHALLENGE NOW ONLINE



Are you looking for a creative way to explore the great outdoors this summer? The Boston Parks and Recreation Department invites you to participate in Pics in the Parks, a series of virtual photography clinics for individuals of all ages and skill levels. Explore the features of your digital camera or smartphone while learning the technical elements of photography. Weekly challenges will be released every Tuesday throughout the summer.

Open to amateurs and professionals alike, Pics in the Parks encourages participants to explore their local open spaces while safely following

social distancing guidelines. Visit your favorite green space or expand your horizons by exploring a new one.

Participants will learn techniques for taking impressive photographs of Boston's scenic parks and Urban Wilds with a focused theme in each session. Select photos will be chosen on Monday of the following week and added to our Pics in the Parks online gallery (by submitting photos, participants agree to allow future use by the City of Boston).

Check out our posts every week on Tuesdays through September 1. Submit your photos from the week's challenge to Steve.Kruszkowski@boston.gov to be considered for our

Pics in the Parks gallery.

Follow us on social media or visit the Pics in the Parks page on the City of Boston website (boston.gov/picsintheparks) to find each of the weekly challenges. Then join the fun by sharing your photos on social media using the #PicsInTheParks hashtag and tagging us on Facebook @BostonParksDepartment, on Twitter @BostonParksDept, and Instagram @BostonParksDept.

Include the location and keep in mind that submitted photos should be of City of Boston parks only. For a list of Boston Parks and Recreation Department properties please visit the Pics in the Parks page.

Gate of Heaven, St. Brigid Parishes and SBCA News A Big Thank You to the teens in the CHWC (Catholic Heart Work Camp)!

Thank you to our Local Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid Parish Teenagers and all those who helped in any way to make this summer's Catholic Heart Work Camp possible. These teenagers were planning to volunteer in Delaware through Catholic Heart Work Camp however due to Covid-19 their trip was canceled. The teens wanted to continue their service locally! This past week they attended daily Mass at Gate of Heaven Church and then headed to work! The teens worked around the Parish Grounds, Rectory and at School by cleaning, rak-

ing, gardening and helping the Principal at South Boston Catholic Academy in various ways by painting the school cafeteria, then moving countless boxes and helping to set up classrooms. After their hard work, they participated in a Faith Enrichment Program. The teens worked laboriously! We want to thank them all for their service to our Parishes and School. We pray that God will continue to guide our CHWC teens with his everlasting love. Hopefully we can support them once again next summer as they travel to a new destination! God Bless you all!





This week, Danny reacted to the pro sports leagues' continued concerns over Coronavirus:

If all goes according to the current plan, then in the month of September, we'll be able to watch the NBA Playoffs, the Stanley Cup Playoffs, the second half of the Major League Baseball season, and the first month of the NFL season.

Talk about a sports overload. But we need it. So hopefully nothing derails those plans.

Unfortunately, we're seeing some minor signs that perhaps all won't go according to that plan. What do I mean? Well, I'm talking about Coronavirus, of course. And more specifically, I'm talking about a recent spike in Coronavirus cases in states like Florida and Texas.

But I'm also talking about inevitable reality of players and team staff members testing positive for Coronavirus as each of the four major pro sports leagues begins to prepare for their respective seasons again.

We've already seen several teams in different leagues shut down their training facilities in recent weeks after multiple people in the organization tested

positive. It's probably the right decision on their part to shut everything down for a few weeks to slow the spread. But the harsh reality is, will these leagues truly be able to control the spread once the actual games begin?

It's impossible to know, mainly because there are still so many unknowns with the virus itself. I mean, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said just a few weeks ago that football might not happen this year because of the fear of a second wave of Coronavirus in the fall.

Fauci recently told CNN: "Unless players are essentially in a bubble — insulated from the community and they are tested nearly every day — it would be very hard to see how football is able to be played this fall. If there is a second wave, which is certainly a possibility and which would be complicated by the predictable flu season, football may not happen this year."

OK then.

Now, Fauci's words on the 2020 NFL season are certainly not the be-

all end-all for a league that is 100 percent committed to playing a full season, beginning in September. But it should also be noted that the league has already canceled its annual Hall of Fame preseason game.

I know, I know. It's just a preseason game. All I'm saying is, if things do begin to cancel the NFL's plans, then those cancellations will begin with the preseason.

Outside of the NFL, it's the NBA, NHL, and MLB that plan on beginning later this month. And that's great. I hope it happens. But you also now have NBA Commissioner Adam Silver saying that, "if we had a lot of [Coronavirus] cases, we are going to stop. You cannot run from this virus."

Look, I'm not trying to be the bearer of bad news here. But the reality is, more players and staff are going to test positive for Coronavirus between now and the end of the year. That's not up for debate.

The real question is, what will the leagues do in response to more and more players and staff testing positive

for Coronavirus? Will they shut it all down, like Silver says the NBA could do? And if they shut it all down, would that even be the correct decision? Or would it be a major overreaction?

Whatever the answers to those questions may be, there's still a very real possibility that Coronavirus once again interferes with the sports world. And it's not just the leagues' commissioners who hold all the cards with that decision.

If Coronavirus cases begin to rise within some of the organizations, I'd expect some players to call their own shots and proceed with caution as well, possibly forcing them to make the tough decision to sit out the rest of the season, if not for them, but also for the people around them.

Some people might be beginning to roll their eyes at the continued virus concerns and all the mask wearing, four months in. But we're also not the ones on the field, on the court, or on the ice making physical contact with potentially infected humans on a nightly basis.

I hope they play. I really do. And right now, it looks like they will. But I can understand if they have a change of heart.

Listen to "The Danny Picard Show" on iTunes, Spotify, Google Play, and anywhere else podcasts are available. Subscribe to YouTube.com/dannypicard. Follow Danny on Twitter @DannyPicard. Check out all of his work at dannypicard.com.

Have a Safe,

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS SIGN NEWTON TO ONE-YEAR DEAL

SBT Staff

With Tom Brady now in Tampa Bay, the Patriots enter the 2020 season with major questions at the quarterback position for the first time in two decades.

The assumption was that 2019 fourth-round pick Jarrett Stidham would be the next man up. Well, this week, the Patriots proved that assumption to be wrong by signing former NFL MVP Cam Newton to a one-year incentive-laden deal worth a maximum of \$7.5 million.

According to reports, the Patriots were the only team in the NFL to offer Newton a contract.

Newton, 31, is coming off a 2019 season with the Carolina Panthers in which he played only two games because of a broken foot. He spent

Tweet of the Week



nine years with the Panthers after they drafted him No. 1 overall in 2011. In those nine seasons, Newton has thrown for over 29,000 yards with 182 passing touchdowns and 108 interceptions. He's also rushed for 4,800 yards and has 58 rushing touchdowns.

The Patriots' new quarterback took to social media — in the crazy font that he always uses — to express his excitement.

"I'm excited as I don't know what right now," said Newton in an Instagram post. "All praise to God! Dropping content tomorrow! I hope you're

ready! #LetsGoPats."

Julian Edelman also seems excited to get to work with Newton. Edelman posted an Instagram photo of him and Newton — both in a Patriots uniform — with the caption that read: "Newton, Massachusetts. #LetsWork."

Brady seems to be feeling somewhat left out, now that he's a Buccaneer. The now-former Patriots QB commented on Edelman's post, saying, "I will always be your #1 [wink emoji]."

In the grand scheme of things, that might be true. But for right now, Newton is the Patriots' new quarterback.

WHAT TO WATCH

PGA

THURS, JULY 2 - SUN, JULY 5

Rocket Mortgage Classic
3 P.M. GOLFC, CBS

NASCAR

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Brickyard 400
4 P.M. NBC

WWE

FRIDAY, JULY 3

Friday Night SmackDown
8 P.M. FOX

NHL FOCUSING ON CANADA TO HOST REST OF SEASON

SBT Staff

The National Hockey League is closing in on choosing their two hub cities for the resumption of the 2020 season and Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Both cities are in Canada, as Toronto and Edmonton have become the favorites, edging out Las Vegas in recent days, according to reports.

Vegas has recently been eliminated from the conversation because of a recent spike in Coronavirus cases. Nevada has reported its five highest days for Coronavirus cases in the last week.

Toronto and Edmonton can't officially be named the NHL's two hub cities until the NHLPA votes on it. If the players sign off on everything, mandatory training camps are scheduled to begin on July 10.

NBA COMMISSIONER: IF COVID CASES RISE, LEAGUE WILL STOP AGAIN

SBT Staff

As certain areas of the country see a surge in Coronavirus cases, NBA commissioner Adam Silver is leaving the door open to another stoppage of the 2020 NBA season and playoffs.

The NBA and NBAPA finalized a deal last week that will enable the league to resume play in late July, with all games being played at the ESPN Wide

World of Sports Complex located at Walt Disney World in Florida. But during a recent guest appearance on the "TIME 100 Talks" series, Silver said that he'll shut it all down again if players begin to test positive at a high rate.

"Never full steam ahead no matter what," said Silver. "One thing we are learning about this virus is much is unpredictable, and we and our players

together with their union look at the data on a daily basis. If there were something to change that was outside of the scope of what we are playing for, certainly we would revisit our plans.

"We are testing daily. We haven't put a precise number on it, but if we were to see a large number of cases and see spread in our community, that would of course be a cause to

stop as well.

"We are going to see as we go," added Silver. "Certainly if cases are isolated, that's one thing. A lot of the determination will be our understanding of how our community became infected. That will be part of our judgment in terms of whether we should continue. But certainly if we had a lot of cases, we are going to stop. You cannot run from this virus."



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