



Voting In Person On September 1st Guarantees That Your Vote Is Counted

This past weekend several hundred voters came to the Condon Community School, where the Boston Election Department was set up for early voting to accept both in-person voters and voters bringing their mail-in ballots to a drop box at the entrance. In addition, there were other early voting locations at public facilities in Dorchester and Hyde Park.

During the week, other facilities are open, as well as Boston City Hall. Those who received ballots in the mail

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EDITORIAL

Parents Have The Right to Know What Their Kids Are Learning

There is a building anxiety among many parents as the start of a new school year approaches. How will parents, who must work to pay the bills and support the family, manage, if everything will be done at home or remotely? This is a concern to many who need their jobs and cannot afford to pay the growing costs of day care. Added to the worries is the question of so much uncertainty. Will remote learning be for the entire year? If

not, when and how will moving it to the classrooms take place and how soon will that decision be made? But there is also another rising concern.

A few school districts around the country are attempting to institute a policy that would force parents to sign an agreement that they will not sit in on, or monitor or in some instances even inquire about what, their children's lessons consist of when learning remotely at home. In other words,

some school districts, buckling to the demands of some teacher's organizations want to ensure that mom and dad don't get to view the computer monitor, while the kids are being taught. And these teachers are ADAMANT about this. Which begs the question – WHY? What do certain educators plan to be saying to their students that they don't want the parents to know about? Needless to say, parents in these school districts are not happy about

this and for the most part, are rebelling against it and refusing to sign such an agreement, nor should they.

It's important that educators everywhere understand that these children do not belong to them, they belong to the parents. While the teachers are being paid to educate, the parents have every right to know, in detail, what is being taught. While it is, so far, a small minority of school districts and teachers who are insisting on this policy,



it should be stopped dead in its tracks before it spreads. Ideas like this aren't helping one bit to diminish the growing suspicion that political indoctrination is slowly and insidiously taking the place of real education in America's public schools.

“Summer should get a speeding ticket” - Author: Almost Everyone

Receive 10 Free Trees by Joining the Arbor Day Foundation in August



Everyone who joins the Arbor Day Foundation with a \$10 donation will receive 10 free Norway spruce trees or 10 white flowering dogwood trees through the Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid between October 15 and December 10, depending on the right time for planting in each member's area. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. “Norway spruce trees truly provide year-round beauty for any landscape,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “White flowering dogwood trees will add color and beauty to

your yard throughout the year, with their showy spring flowers, scarlet autumn foliage, and red berries that attract songbirds in the winter.”

New members of the Arbor Day Foundation will also receive The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care, and a subscription to Arbor Day, the Foundation's bimonthly publication. To receive the free Norway spruce trees, join online at arborday.org/august or send a \$10 membership contribution by August 31 to:

Ten Free Norway Spruces OR
Ten Free White Dogwood
Arbor Day Foundation
211 N 12th St
Lincoln, NE 68508

SouthBostonTODAY Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

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The Information Center

The Difference between the 2 Political National Conventions

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

One of the best things about being an American is that we all have our own views and the right to express them, even though in today's climate, some on the Left try hard to suppress that right. And with those differing views, it's possible to see the very same things but from opposite opinions. For example, the talking heads on media outlets like MSNBC, CNN, The Washington Post and other left leaning sites watched the Democrat National Convention the previous week and were fawning over it. As crazy as the ideas expressed and the speakers were, those media types were head over heels in love. But they were actually giving it rave reviews even before the convention started. They probably would have done it, if it consisted of performing seals catching fish and circus clowns piling out of a tiny car. One amused reader actually described it that way. When it came to the Republican National Convention which followed, well, the same media outlets were attacking it days before it began and they couldn't wait for the First Lady's speech to even start before they commenced to picking apart the dress she wore and her shoes. Petty? Of course, but very predictable.

Like most people, I too have a take on the differences between the two conventions, as well as what is in the platforms of both political parties. Here is what I saw, heard, and read:

At the DNC and what they support: Open Borders, free healthcare for illegal immi-

grants, abortion even AFTER birth, raise taxes through the roof, TRY to take guns away from law abiding citizens, let violent criminals out of prisons and refuse to prosecute those currently committing violent criminal acts, absolute silence on the rioting, looting and burning in Democrat-run cities, defund and disrespect and all but neutered police departments, slash the military, regulate businesses into bankruptcy, stifle free speech, indoctrination in education for the nation's students, erase the parts of American history they don't like and an organized effort to turn our country to Socialism. Oh, and let us not forget the removal of the word God from traditional documents. To summarize: America is an evil, racist country and we should be so ashamed that we should tear down and change it all to appease their radical base. And of course, the main theme throughout – Hate Trump.

At the RNC: I saw on display American pride, support for our military, support for law enforcement personnel and law and order itself, secure borders, protection for the precious unborn, defense of the Second Amendment, protect Religious freedom, tax CUTS, school choice and a public education system that expresses and teaches pride in America rather than teaching students to blame our great nation for all the evil and ills in the world. They advocated for job creation and an end to massive job and business-killing regulations, equality among the races,

not preferences for select groups, freedom of speech and an emphasis on making sure that America's best days are still ahead.

At the RNC I saw a positive message and a successful policy-focused goal and to be blunt, I felt like I was watching the 'American' convention. I'm not sure what the hell I was watching during the DNC. In my opinion, it was anything BUT pro America.

I'm well aware that some of my Democrat readers and friends

will disagree with my take on the different conventions. And that's ok. Like I said, as Americans, we are free to hold different views. But I also know for a fact that the number of folks, who would have disagreed with these findings several years ago is considerably larger than those who disagree today. How do I know this? I hear it loud and clear each and every day by more and more people; many of them former and even those still currently registered Democrats.

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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.

Baker-tied PAC: An anti-Trump and anti-AOC hybrid?

Cue the 'RINO' lines. Commonwealth magazine's Bruce Mohl and Michael Jonas report that a super PAC with ties to Republican Gov. Charlie Baker is dishing out cash to candidates in 17 primary elections – and most of the contributions are going to Dems fending off Dem rivals in primary battles.

The centrist fund has sort of morphed into hybrid anti-Trump and anti-AOC PAC, when you think about it.

'Will you put the machines back?'

It wasn't exactly a "have you no decency" or "what did the president know" moment in congressional hear-

ing history. But U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch and Postmaster General DeJoy sure went at it yesterday during a contentious congressional hearing on postal service delays. CBS Boston and the Boston Globe have videos of the back-and-forth exchange between Lynch and DeJoy.

Galvin: Mail-in extension would upset general election timetable

SHNS's Chris Van Buskirk (pay wall) and MassLive's Steph Solis report that Secretary of State Bill Galvin and others warned yesterday that a 10-day extension of the mail-in count for next Tuesday's primary election could end up disrupting the calendar for the November general election. They is-

sued the dire warnings during a court hearing in a case brought by congressional candidate Becky Grossman.

Cue the transportation taxes/fare debate: MBTA facing \$308M deficit

Somewhere, somehow, this will all tie into the overall state debate over transportation funding in Massachusetts. WBUR's Zeninor Enwemeka and Commonwealth's Bruce Mohl report that the T's recent pandemic-era plunge in ridership has ripped a \$308 million hole in the transit agency's budget – and the budget gap could actually be as high as \$577 million. Thus the talk of possible layoffs, fare hikes and other budget-cutting measures at the T.

Voting continued from front page

could either drop them off; or put them in the mail by August 26th; or in fact could vote in lieu of submitting their mail-in ballot. If you decided to vote in person to ensure that your vote would be counted, you can do that. If you do, the system has a notation beside your name, indicating that you are in possession of a mail-in ballot. You will then be asked to sign an affidavit that you will not vote a second time.

The process seemed efficient. The real problem is in the mail itself. Reports were made of deceased family members receiving ballot requests. Others, who mailed their ballot request form for a mail-in ballot, upon contacting both the Commonwealth's Secretary of State and the Boston Election Department, discovered that their request for a mail-in ballot has not even been received three weeks after being mailed. So, there are many factors, not the least of which would be efforts by those who wish to disrupt the system, for some votes not to be counted, due to the system itself.

In an attempt accommodate this new approach to voting the Secretary of State William Galvin allowed the placing of over 200 ballot drop boxes in Massachusetts — a list expected to grow — that mail-in voters can use as an alter-

native to US Postal Service. "With the deadline to return State Primary ballots quickly approaching, many voters are looking to return their ballots in person, rather than drop them in a mailbox," Galvin said. "Voters may return their ballots to a secure drop box provided by their municipality, to their local election office, or to any early voting site during early voting hours."

Galvin has published a list of ballot drop box locations on his website amid growing demand for ballot return options. The list currently includes the locations of secured municipal drop boxes and will continue to be updated as more communities obtain drop boxes and notify Galvin's office, Galvin said in a statement.

Voters may visit Galvin's website at sec.state.ma.us/ele and click "Find My Election Office/Drop Box" to find the best place to return their ballots. Early voting locations and schedules may be found at www.MassEarlyVote.com for those wishing to drop their ballots off at an early voting location near their home. State Primary ballots are due no later than 8 p.m. on Sept. 1 in order to be counted — a deadline some lawmakers are trying to extend amid widespread slowdowns at the United States Postal Service. The postmarked date has to be no

later than August 26, which the last day to mail in. That date has passed as of this publication. But, as stated above, you can either drop your ballot in a drop box at a location; or vote at Boston City Hall; or vote in person on September 1st at polling locations that will be open in your neighborhood.

The state's highest court held a hearing this past Monday on a lawsuit filed by 4th Congressional District candidate Becky Grossman that seeks to extend the counting period for mailed-in state primary ballots by 10 days, as long as ballots are postmarked by Sept. 1. The Disabled American Veterans Department of Massachusetts, concerned about the processing of UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) voters and the US Attorney's office have both filed briefs opposing and administrative change to the ballot process which has deadlines governed by federal law. A spokeswoman for Secretary Galvin stated, "The secretary needs to allow time for recounts, objections and other safeguards before we can know for sure who was nominated at the primary, and the secretary can move to doing what needs to be done to have an orderly election in November."

As of the day of this publication there was no decision made.

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU20P1338EA

**Commonwealth Of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

Estate of: Kevin P Rull

Date of Death: 06/11/2019

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal**

**Adjudication of Intestacy
and Appointment of Personal
Representative** has been filed by
Crystal G Rull of Braintree MA
requesting that the Court enter
a formal Decree and Order and
for such other relief as requested
in the Petition. The Petitioner

requests that

Crystal G Rull of Braintree MA
be appointed as Personal
Representative(s) of said estate
to serve **With Personal Surety**
on the bond in **an unsupervised**
administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/17/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn,
First Justice of this Court.**

August 06, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate
August 27, 2020

Nick Collins

STATE SENATOR

Dear Neighbor,

It has been an honor to serve as your State Senator these last two years. Though we are amidst unprecedented and challenging times, the people of the 1st Suffolk District have shown unmatched strength and resiliency.

We have accomplished much together this legislative session, but there is work that still remains on issues of economic development, health care, education, transportation, and public health and safety.

It is for these reasons that I am seeking another term in the State Senate with renewed vigor and enthusiasm to ensure that the 1st Suffolk District gets the results they deserve from our state government.

Back in mid-March, my colleagues and I quickly responded to an emerging pandemic, securing \$15 million to support the Commonwealth's monitoring, treatment, containment, public awareness and prevention efforts. We extended the tax filing deadline, allowed cities and towns to delay collection of local taxes, and required special enrollment periods for MA Health to keep money in residents pockets, and maximize health insurance coverage during the pandemic. We passed legislation to waive the one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance, and the Commonwealth implemented an expansion of benefits to independent contractors and other workers.

Soon after, the Commonwealth

announced an additional \$800 million in stabilization funding to help health care providers impacted by and responding to COVID-19. This funding supported hospitals, nursing facilities, primary care providers, behavioral health providers, and critical long-term services. We also passed legislation to support frontline workers with PPE, offer hazard pay, and support these essential workers.

As we continue to grapple with the effects of COVID-19, we must also proactively plan for a brighter future for our families, residents, and businesses.

In October, we passed the Student Opportunity Act, an unprecedented \$1.5 billion new investment in Massachusetts K-12 public education. This legislation ensures public schools have adequate resources to provide high-quality education to students across the state, regardless of zip code or income level. Assuming inflation, this bill could provide between \$75-\$115 million to the City of Boston.

Recently, I was proud to secure funding to help small businesses safely reopen, to close the gap on access to broadband internet for BPS families during remote learning, and to create summer learning opportunities for our youth. I also secured funding for the Boston Public Health Commission for violence prevention, intervention, recovery, and public health programming in Boston.

To protect everyone on our roads, I was proud to secure state funding for Boston's Safe Streets Program, and joined my

colleagues in banning handheld cell phone use while driving. To improve our public transportation networks I fought for millions for Red Line improvements, South Boston Bus Service, and major investments in our roadways, sidewalks, and street infrastructure.

I know there are challenges ahead in the next term, and I am prepared to work through them on your behalf. From building more affordable housing, to creating quality lo-

cal jobs, to giving our young people a better chance to succeed and thrive, I am all in for the First Suffolk District.

I would be honored to serve you as your State Senator again for the 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday September 1st.

Sincerely,
Nick Collins
State Senator
1st Suffolk District



Nick Collins
STATE SENATOR

Vote 9/1

Delivering for our communities

- ✓ **Standing up for frontline workers**
- ✓ **Securing funding for BPS families**
- ✓ **Helping small businesses safely reopen**
- ✓ **Creating jobs and opportunity for youth**

I Was Just Thinking...



By Kevin Devlin

It's fair to say President Trump and his administration made mistakes when it came to their COVID-19 response. So, the question is, would a Democrat leading the country have done any better?

On March 2, Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat said the "general risk remains low in New

York. We are diligently managing this situation." That same day, Trump met with major pharmaceutical company executives exhorting them "to collaborate to speed the process of getting a vaccine and therapeutics to victims of the virus." And on March 13, Trump declared the pandemic a national emergency. Yet Trump is criticized for being too slow to respond to the pandemic.

Democrats blame Trump for not listening to "experts." The problem with this is that the experts reversed themselves on more than one occasion. From January until late March, the country's leading experts, plus the World Health Organization, were discouraging people from wearing face masks. CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield told a House committee, "There is no role for these masks in the community." And U.S. Surgeon General, Jerome Adams, tweeted, "STOP BUYING MASKS!" - because they're not effective in preventing people from catching

the coronavirus.

Though the death toll has been much lower than some initial predictions, the virus has taken a terrible toll on American lives. Over 177,000 Americans have succumbed to this invisible terror. If the Democrats were in charge, would fewer people have died? The answer is most likely no. Just look at what happened in New York as thousands of elderly citizens with COVID-19 were sent back to their nursing homes, only to spread the virus to others, then die themselves. That was a decision made by Governor Cuomo, a Democrat, not Trump.

The Democrats also blame President Trump for shutting down the economy, for causing the recession.

It was his fault we now had massive unemployment.

Not the virus, it was all him.

However, Trump recommended but did not shut down the state economies. It was the governors from red and blue states who did it, thereby sending millions and millions to the unemployment lines. And when the curve was

flattened, Democrat governors supported stricter and longer shutdowns, while Republican governors began to reopen their state economies. Thus, it is sheer hypocrisy to complain about high unemployment when one supports state lockdowns.

This pandemic took the world by surprise.

No one anywhere was initially ready for what was to unfold.

Subsequently, much has been learned and much more still needs to be discovered about this deadly virus so therapeutics and vaccines can be used more efficiently to combat its grip on humanity.

Did the Trump administration do a great job?

No.

Along with the experts, they all made mistakes.

Any administration, whether it be Republican or Democratic, would have erred while awash in this novel realm of uncertainty.

And contrary to Democrats who disingenuously declare they had the answers, aren't fooling anybody, because it's doubtful they would have done any better.

USPS Board of Governors Announces Bipartisan Election Mail Committee

The United States Postal Service Board of Governors announced the establishment of a bipartisan Election Mail Committee that will actively oversee the United States Postal Service's support of the mail-in voting process. The committee will be chaired by Governor Lee Moak, who will be joined on the committee by Governor Ron Bloom and Governor John Barger.

The Postal Service has a long history of effectively helping Americans participate in elections via mail-in ballots, which are expected to account for less than two percent of all mail volume from mid-September until Election Day. However, because of the ongoing pandemic, many states are anticipating the expanded use of the mail for voting during the upcoming national election, and in some instances are allowing mail-in voting and no-excuse absentee voting for the first

time under statute, and each state has unique requirements and deadlines for ballots under state laws.

The Election Mail Committee will use its oversight role to reinforce the strong commitment of the Postal Service to the mail as an important part of the nation's democratic process, and will regularly monitor execution of USPS's work on election mail to ensure that our part of this election process is implemented in the most effective way possible.

In a joint statement, the Governors announced:

"The United States Postal Service will play an indispensable role in ensuring that those Americans who wish to vote by mail will be able to do so and have their votes counted. The Governors take our responsibility with the utmost gravity, and we will work to ensure that the Postal Service continues to perform for the

American people this election season.

"Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has the full support of the Governors. He was selected to help bring needed changes to the Postal Service, which has experienced over a decade of financial losses and faces the need for fundamental reform. The essential public service functions of the Postal Service must be maintained, and the

Postmaster General's reform initiatives will help ensure that they can be for many years to come."

The Governors of the U.S. Postal Service:

Robert M. Duncan, Chairman of the Board, Members: John M. Barger, Ron A. Bloom, Roman Martinez IV, Donald L. Moak, William D. Zollars.



St Peter Academy Appoints New Chief Educational Officer

Andrius Dilba to School Leadership Team



ST PETER ACADEMY

The St Peter Academy Board of Directors, announced today that they have appointed Andrius (Andy) Dilba to serve as Chief Educational Officer of the private, community based, independent Early Education and Elementary School.

"We are thrilled with Mr. Dilba's appointment and look forward to the advancement of the school's mission under Mr. Dilba's leadership. His roots to our school community run deep and his professional skills and personal values truly complement the school's mission and vision," said Maryann McLeod Crush, St Peter's Board President.

Andy Dilba's school roots do, indeed, run deep. He is a graduate of St Peter Academy's predecessor, St Peter School. Mr Dilba began his teaching career at St Peter School as a middle school teacher with a passion for Science and Math instruction where he also served as Vice-Principal. He is a founding administration member of St Peter Academy serving as its first Vice-Principal from 2004-2014 and Principal from 2014-2017. His depth of institutional knowledge and the great value he places on nurturing the whole school community will proactively serve current school members and ensure the advancement of the school's mission well into the future.

"I have missed my school and am excited to be back at St Peter Academy and look forward to, once again, being part of a community that is near and dear to my heart," said Andy Dilba. "I am especially excited to partner with the leadership team, exemplary faculty and committed parents to advance our students in their individual learning journeys through a school-wide educational belief system that recognizes the whole child – academically, socially and emotionally. This belief system and approach to education nurture's a love for learning in our students and ultimately accomplishes the most important goal of educators – to produce lifelong learners."

A former student of Mr. Dilba's, Matthew MacDonald, says it best. "Everything I know today, I learned from Mr. Dilba. He not only taught me the core curriculum of education but acknowledged that I had many other interests in Science and History. I could ask Mr. Dilba anything about any subject and he always knew the answer or guided me in finding it myself. Math was a difficult subject for me. I would get frustrated and angry. Mr. Dilba saw me giving up and losing interest. He spent time with me one on one and showed me how to break problems down so they made sense. I can now say Math is one of my better subjects and it's because Mr. Dilba had patience and was determined not to let me hide in the classroom. I see Mr. Dilba walking around the neighborhood and I can still ask him about anything to this day and he stops and takes the time to show interest, teach and guide. Once a student of Mr. Dilba, always a student of Mr. Dilba."

Welcome Home Mr. Dilba!

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. Virtual tours are being conducted and can be made by contacting the development director, Maria Blasi at 617-268-0750 or by emailing M.Biasi@StPeterAcademy.com or the school at SPA@StPeterAcademy.com

DAVID BIELE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times.

Next Tuesday, September 1st, is primary election day here in Massachusetts. It has been my greatest honor and privilege to serve you and represent our communities in South Boston and Dorchester in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for the past two years.

This term, I have worked with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass emergency legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic while also supporting major legislative efforts to improve education, transportation, and economic development.

These legislative efforts include:

COVID-19 Response and Public Health

- Extended unemployment benefits and protected public health
- Increased access to healthcare services through the use of telemedicine
- Approved investments in technology for community health centers
- Authorized and food security grants
- Created opportunities for restaurants to serve alcohol, beer and wine for carry out service in response to challenges brought on by COVID-19

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Economic Development

- Kept Chapter 90 level-funded at \$200 million for key repairs for the maintenance and upkeep of city and municipal roads and bridges in Massachusetts
- Authorized \$18 billion in investments for the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure
- Approved a comprehensive economic development bill that legalizes sports betting, provides support to small businesses and at-risk populations and makes investments in affordable housing

Education and Safety

- Prohibited distracted driving from hands-held cell phone use
- Approved \$1.5 billion statewide investment in public schools – known as the Student Opportunity Act
- Strengthened oversight policies and operations at the Department of Children and Families to protect our most vulnerable children and protect persons with intellectual or developmental disability from abuse

Since taking office, I have also been committed to providing top-notch constituent services. My office has been hard at work assisting residents in navigating government, ranging from unemployment benefits to motor vehicle registrations, working with colleagues in government to distribute PPE, and attending community meetings, both in person and virtually, on development, transportation, and public safety.

I have listened closely to the needs of our neighborhood and have been advocating on issues that matter to our community, including public safety, recovery programs, mental health initiatives, veterans services, support for seniors and youth programs.

We have accomplished a great deal in two-years, however, there remains more work to do. I am honored to represent this community in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday to continue the important work of improving the quality of life for all throughout this district and throughout the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,
-David



(paid for and authorized by the David Biele Committee)

The Wine Guy

It's Getting Late



It seems that the older I get, the faster the summer flies by; however, the hot weather seems to linger for a bit longer every year, too. It would seem that we'll be looking for cold relief in a glass for a while yet, so, dipping into my "chill pill" bag, I've come up with a couple of refreshing options...

I mentioned recently that you're likely going to be seeing more from Spain's vineyards here over the next few years and I think that the country's sparkling or "Cava" wines will lead the way. They're white and pink in color, are made from native grape varieties and

are very affordable. One great example is **Juve Y Camps Cava Pinot Noir Brut Rose, (\$18.99)**. This wine, made in a double fermentation process, has notes of strawberry, mountain flowers, a slight grassiness and a long finish for a sparkling wine. It's made in stainless steel, which gives it a crisp character and it's aged for 18 months. You should try this one with Japanese, especially sushi, Chicken Cobb salad or some of the many Tapas recipes found online.

It wouldn't be a column about wines to beat the heat without mentioning at least one Sauv Blanc and just for a change, not a New Zealand wine. **Lucky Rock County Cuvee Sauvignon Blanc, (\$17.99)**, made from Lake and Napa County grapes, is a real standout. My friend Jon Thorsen, a fellow wine writer, said recently,

"The **2018 Lucky Rock County Cuvee Sauvignon Blanc** begins with a strong, enticing aroma of citrus, lime, mint and lots of melon that sucks you right into the glass. The medium-bodied wine features wonderful depth of flavor, crisp acidity, and a smooth, slightly creamy texture. The more you sip, the more layers you uncover. It ends with a mouthwatering finish

of grapefruit, zesty lime and really good length. Truly delicious!" You may want to try this one with some grilled Pork Chops, sweet potatoes and fresh green beans.

Mount Eden Vineyards is a small historic wine estate perched at 2000 feet overlooking Silicon Valley in the Santa Cruz Mountain Appellation, about 50 miles south of San Francisco. Tier Edna Valley property has been growing Chardonnay since the mid-1940's and getting better every year. The proof is in their **Mount Eden Vineyards Edna Valley Chardonnay, 2017 (\$24.99)**. The Edna Valley Appellation is one of the last major Chardonnay harvests in California and reflects the cool maritime climate which is its influence; This wine is always one of the best values in California Chardonnay. Parker has given it a 93- high praise, indeed and a great value at under \$25 a bottle.

He says, "This comes mostly from the Wolf vineyard with some fruit from the Middle Ranch vineyard. The 2017 Edna Valley Chardonnay opens with wonderful aromas of honeycomb, orange blossoms, saline, crushed shell and loads of baked apple and quince with an earthy undercurrent. The palate is medium-bodied, satiny



and intense, with seamless freshness on the finish, which lingers with honeyed notions." Grilled Ginger Peppered Chicken, BBQ Ribs and Maryland Soft Crab all complement this one perfectly.

Lastly, another Sparkling wine, closer to home from a region I'll be talking more about going forward-Long Island's North Fork. **Macari Vineyards, "Horses" Sparkling Cabernet Franc, (\$26.99)**, is uniquely East Coast- more compact, but still with notes of red berries, earthiness and a long, pleasing finish. Double-fermented in bottle and aged 9 months, it offers a great complement to game birds, especially Long Island Duck, as well as squab and wild Pheasant. If you haven't tried game birds before, don't be shy; go grab a few, find a good recipe and be pleasantly surprised.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdoris8888@gmail.com

Rep. Lynch Statement On Death Of Sergeant Elder Fernandes

"The death of Sergeant Elder Fernandes, USA, is a devastating loss for his family and loved ones. The circumstances of yet another soldier's death at Fort Hood raises important questions that must be answered. The Fernandes family raised their son to be a patriotic American. He proudly answered the call to serve his country. When young Americans like Sgt. Fernandes make that decision to put on the uniform and serve, they all become our sons and daughters. Together with U.S. Senators Warren and Markey, and U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan, we are calling for an independent inves-

tigation into Elder Fernandes' death, as well as the other deaths that have occurred at Fort Hood in recent months. I have requested multiple briefings on the circumstances that led to Elder Fernandes' death, including interviews with Defense Department investigators and Officers who serve in Sgt. Fernandes' chain of command. I have also requested that the family be allowed to accompany me and participate in the briefings, and the Department of Defense has acceded to my request. Our prayers are with Elder Fernandes and his family in their hour of grief." – U.S. Representative Stephen F. Lynch (MA-08)



Recent

South Boston
Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
133 Seaport Blvd UNIT 2018 Condo	\$3,775,000	7/7/20	5	2.5	1,628
536 East Broadway Four Family	\$1,500,000	7/1/20	17	5	2,709
38 P St UNIT 8 Condo	\$1,475,000	7/1/20	5	2.5	1,799
779 East Fourth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$1,375,000	7/1/20	6	3	2,421
460 East Seventh Street Three Family	\$1,075,000	7/3/20	11	4	1898
891 East First St UNIT 1 Condo	\$915,000	7/1/20	4	2	1,175
714 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$780,000	7/8/20	5	2	1,379
4 Mercer St UNIT 4 Condo	\$675,000	7/1/20	6	2	1,416
440 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$670,000	7/8/20	5	1	1,065
9 Liberty Place UNIT 1 Condo	\$649,900	7/1/20	4	2	840
608 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$625,000	7/1/20	4	1	722
266 West Fifth Street Single Family	\$590,000	7/2/20	9	1	2,170
523 East Second St UNIT 3 Condo	\$560,000	7/10/20	3	1	574
298 Tudor Bolton St UNIT 2 Condo	\$550,000	7/9/20	4	1	641
606 East Sixth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$545,100	7/2/20	5	1	697
266 Bowen St UNIT 2 Condo	\$530,000	7/1/20	3	1.5	787
295 D St UNIT 1 Condo	\$525,000	7/2/20	3	1	650

Flynn Calls for Hearing on Water and Sewer Infrastructure in Boston

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is filing a hearing order at this week’s City Council meeting to discuss our city’s water and sewer pipes, and measures to ensure the safety of this important public infrastructure. Water and sewer pipes are critical in maintaining the sanitation, public safety, public health, and quality of life for our residents. The hearing will aim to bring attention to the importance of maintenance and the integrity of the system, as well as discussing any issues or concerns relating to the issue.

The City of Boston is one of the oldest cities in the country, and its water and sewer system began construction in the mid-1800s. The Boston Water and Sewer Commission was created in 1977 to oversee Boston’s water system, as conditions of the pipes have deteriorated by the 1970s. As the city has undergone a development boom in recent years, we need to consider how these added buildings and infrastructure can impact the maintenance and integrity of the system. When pipes rupture, it not only causes a flood, but can also affect wood pilings that support the foundations of many buildings in neighborhoods built on filled land. Any leakage can decrease the groundwater level that submerges these wood pilings, and cause them to rot and impact the buildings above. Moreover, there are many private alleys and sewers



in the city where property owners are responsible for the maintenance and repairs of pipes, which can be costly and adding difficulty to the maintenance of our water and sewer system.

“Our water and sewer system is critical in ensuring not only the cleanliness of our water supply, but also the public health and safety of our residents,” said Councilor Flynn. “We need to ensure that our water and sewer infrastructure is well maintained, and that we have measures in place to make sure that the capacity of our water and sewer pipes are not overwhelmed as we add new developments in our city. I look forward to this discussion, and working with neighbors, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and other stakeholders on this issue.”

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

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Mayor Walsh, Boston Public Schools Announce Plans for the New School Year

All students will begin the school year in remote learning, families encouraged to submit learning model, transportation preferences

Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston Public Schools (BPS) Superintendent Brenda Cassellius, and Boston Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez announced that after months of community engagement and review of crucial public health data, all students will begin the school year learning remotely five days a week. All families will have the opportunity to select to stay in remote learning for the school year or opt into a hybrid plan that will include a combination of in-person and online learning.

The announcement today outlined a phased-in approach to in-school learning, starting with students who need additional time, attention, and support to be successful. BPS will then phase-in grade levels on a staggered basis to allow for students and staff to adapt to new routines, for the City of Boston to track important public health metrics, and to provide families time to plan for the new year.

“Students, families and schools have faced incredible challenges

this year, and I want to thank them for their work and patience. I know starting school is a complex decision, and our priority has always been to ensure the safety of everyone, while keeping equity for students at the forefront of every decision,” said Mayor Walsh. “This plan was developed with the input of families, educators and public health experts, and every step will follow science and public health data. For many of our students, school is not just a place to learn, but also a place for nutritious meals, care and mentoring, and social development. Throughout the school year and beyond, we will continue the work that began long before COVID-19: to close opportunity and achievement gaps, and give every single child the quality education that they deserve.”

The City is closely tracking all public health data and has partnered with BPS to establish protocols and processes to make informed decisions on a daily basis about the return to school and continued, safe, in-person learning in school buildings. The BPS reopening plan

outlines two options for families: all remote learning with five days a week of online instruction and hybrid learning with two days a week of learning in schools and three days of remote learning.

Students in the hybrid model will be assigned into Group A or Group B. Students in Group A will attend schools on Mondays and Tuesdays and students in Group B will attend school on Thursdays and Fridays. All will learn online on Wednesdays to allow for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of buildings. There are specific plans to work with students with disabilities, students who are working towards English language proficiency, and others who require additional time and care to support their learning.

If the public health data shows that it is safe for in-school learning the district will follow the schedule below (double dates reference the Group A and Group B starts). Each step will begin no sooner than the listed date:

- September 21: All students begin remote learning

- Thursday, October 1: Students with the highest needs start in hybrid

- Thursday, October 15 (B) & Monday, October 19 (A): Grades K0, K1, K2 return

- Thursday, October 22 (B) & Monday, October 26 (A): Grades 1 - 3 return

- Thursday, November 5 (B) & Monday, November 9 (A): Grades 4 - 8 (secondary schools start grades 6 - 8) return

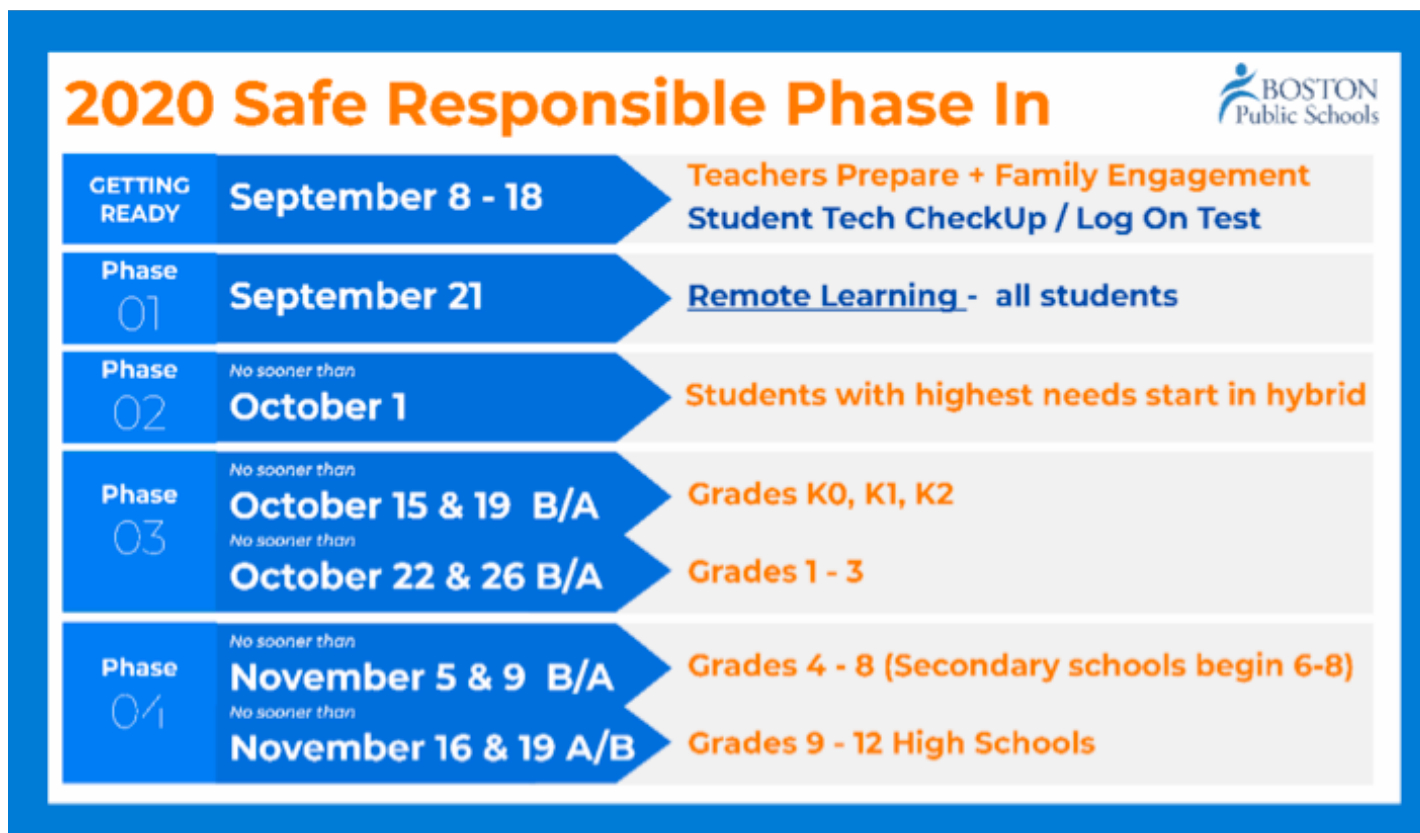
- Monday, November 16 (A) & Thursday, November 19 (B): Grades 9 - 12 return

“Science and data is at the forefront of every single plan as we work to gradually and safely reopen the City of Boston,” said Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez. “By phasing grades in every two weeks, teachers and school staff will have the time they need to get comfortable with the safety of their buildings and classrooms before students arrive, and allow us to monitor for any COVID activity between phases. As we have said from the beginning, these dates are dependent on public health data, and we will be closely monitoring the public health situation while creating a safe space for Boston’s students to learn.”

To inform planning, this summer BPS has engaged in more than 33 community meetings with more than 4,000 stakeholders, held in 10 different languages, including meetings with unions, nurses and public health officials, two School Committee meetings and one City Council meeting. The district has released two drafts of the reopening plan. The feedback gathered shaped the planning process, especially between the first and second drafts.

“Equity remains at the center of Boston Public Schools’ planning for a safe and successful start to the school year. This plan prioritizes meeting the needs of our most vulnerable learners, respects family choice, and is thorough, thoughtful-

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Virtual School Means Extra Screen Time And Added Eye Strain For Kids

This school year is beginning in much the way the last one ended, with many districts opting for virtual learning, which means children sit at home in front of computer screens rather than in a classroom in front of teachers.

But that extra screen time – mixed with the screen time many children and teenagers spend on their own – brings with it the potential for serious eye strain, says Dr. Jeff Kegarise, an optometrist, clinical management expert, and co-author with his wife, Susan, of *One Patient at a Time: The K2 Way Playbook for Healthcare & Business Success* (www.theK2Way.com).

“Spending too much time in front of screens on computers, phones and tablets can lead to headaches, blurry vision, dry eyes and more,” Kegarise says. “Gritty, scratchy, watery, or irritated eyes can be common

because of all the digital devices people use these days.”

And if things aren’t bad enough, even without this added time staring at computers, about one-fourth of children in the U.S. have a vision problem significant enough to affect their performance in school, Kegarise says.

It’s not unusual for some children to spend hours staring at a video game screen, perhaps so caught up in the game’s action that they fail to notice or care about any eye discomfort that results.

Add several hours of online school, though, and eye strain becomes more difficult to ignore. Kegarise says parents can help their children alleviate some of the eye strain by making sure they do the following:

- **Take breaks.** To a certain extent, students won’t have control over this because teachers will decide when breaks happen during the school day. But ideally, they should take a break from the screen every 30 minutes, Kegarise says.
- **Choose the right lighting.** The type of lighting used in the student’s work space can make a difference. Incandescent lights work better than fluorescent lights because they give off less glare, Kegarise says. “It’s also better if the light is placed over your shoulder than if it’s shining straight down on the screen because that will cause fewer reflections,” he says.
- **Adjust the position of the computer.** The computer monitor and



the keyboard should be positioned to conform with the child’s size. Make sure the screen isn’t too high in the child’s field of view. A report by the National Institutes of Health suggests an adjustable chair is the best option to get height just right.

- **Remind them to blink.** Parents should remind children to blink when they spend a lot of time in front of a screen. That helps spread tears across the eyes, keeping the eyes lubricated and aiding in the prevention of dry eyes, Kegarise says.

Even without all this added screen time, children often develop vision issues that hurt their performance in school and sports, Kegarise says. Forty percent of children develop nearsightedness, he says, and it’s an even higher percentage for those who have a parent who is nearsighted.

“In addition, reading difficulties and attention problems are

often the result of eye muscle, visual processing, and function problems,” Kegarise says. “Parents who feel that their child has a tougher time reading and comprehending than others should consider an eye exam for them. It’s possible through vision therapy to make life-changing and long-lasting improvements to their learning and confidence.”

About Dr. Jeff Kegarise

Dr. Jeff Kegarise, a board-certified optometrist and clinical management expert, is co-author with his wife, Dr. Susan Kegarise, of *One Patient at a Time: The K2 Way Playbook for Healthcare & Business Success* (www.theK2Way.com). He has lectured for many years on clinical disease, and his management methods were recognized by The Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Kegarise is a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Walsh continued from page 10

ful and responsive to the feedback we have received from families and teachers,” said BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius. “We are excited for the new school year and will continue to support the social, emotional, and physical wellness of our students, staff and community as we lift up equity, promote health and safety, and ensure educators, staff, and families are prepared to support our students in their learning.”

The City and BPS have been hard at work preparing school buildings for the return of students and staff, through cleaning, ordering of sup-

plies and personal protective equipment, fixing windows, updating options for air flow, and developing health and safety protocols.

All students and staff in schools will wash and sanitize their hands frequently, wear masks, and practice safe distancing. Classrooms have been reconfigured and new daily procedures have been developed for routine cleaning of classrooms, hallways and bathrooms. Students who use yellow bus transportation will follow the same process, and BPS is in contact with the MBTA to plan for student transportation.

The district has also spent the

summer reviewing data and feedback on spring remote learning and is strengthening this option with additional clarity on learning expectations; support for teachers, students, and families; and accountability for students making progress. This includes adopting districtwide technology platforms, a renewed focus on social and emotional learning, and additional outreach to families.

This week, BPS sent a selection form to families, available in 10 languages, asking them to indicate a learning model preference for each BPS student in their household. Next week, BPS will begin making

calls to families who have not completed or may not have received the form to assist them with completing it. BPS will also email all families to confirm their selections and will later provide a school schedule and yellow bus transportation information, as applicable. Families may also request a change in their initial preferences selected in the form before the start of the school year.

For more information about learning models, as well as the most recent draft of our reopening plan, please visit bostonpublicschools.org/reopening. Families with questions can contact reopening@bostonpublicschools.org.

Reminder for MBTA Customers: Fall 2020 Service Changes Effective Sunday, August 30

CharlieTicket and Cash Fare Lowered to CharlieCard Levels Effective Tuesday, September 1



The MBTA is reminding customers that service is being added on twenty-three bus routes effective this Sunday, August 30, and that the T is expanding service on certain routes due to ridership demand, to avoid crowding on vehicles, and to allow for physical distancing in keeping with health and safety protocol guidance. Meanwhile, some bus routes with low ridership or routes with other service options nearby will have service frequency reduced or will continue to have service suspended.

Additionally, effective Tuesday, September 1, CharlieTicket and cash fares will be lowered to CharlieCard prices.

For complete fall 2020 service information, customers continue to be encouraged to visit mbta.com/servicechanges.

The MBTA is altering some bus route schedules effective August 30. Twenty-three routes that were not operating during the initial phases of the pandemic will resume operations. Some bus routes that had been operating on a reduced Saturday schedule will begin operating weekday service or close to it with service on some routes increasing above pre-pandemic, regular weekday levels to accommodate observed high ridership. Some bus routes will have reduced frequency on weekdays, weekends, and/or during off-peak times, and some routes have been combined,

extended, restructured, or will still have service suspended.

Ridership levels are also leading to some schedule changes on other MBTA modes of travel. Effective August 30, minor service adjustments will also be made on the Blue and Green Lines in response to both COVID-19 ridership and as part of the Lechmere Viaduct/Green Line Extension work, respectively. Service on other subway lines, Commuter Rail, ferry, and The RIDE will remain at their current levels through the fall.

The MBTA encourages essential travel only. Customers should make efforts to distance and face coverings are required within the MBTA system. The MBTA reminds the public that providing safe transit service during the pandemic is a shared responsibility among the MBTA, its customers, employers, and cities and towns. The MBTA urges employers to continue to allow telecommuting and to consider staggered work schedules to promote social distancing on public transit. The MBTA also encourages cities and towns to assist in this effort by expanding available space at busy bus stops and working with the T to implement dedicated bus lanes.

More About CharlieTicket and Cash Changes:

Effective September 1, Charlie-

Ticket and cash fares will be lowered to CharlieCard levels with all fare payments the same, regardless of whether a customer is using a CharlieCard, CharlieTicket, or cash:

- \$1.70 for local bus (a \$0.30 reduction for those using CharlieTicket/cash),
- \$4.25 for inner express bus (a \$1 reduction for those using CharlieTicket/cash),
- \$5.25 for outer express bus (a \$1.75 reduction for those using CharlieTicket/cash), and,
- \$2.40 for rapid transit (a \$0.50 reduction for those using CharlieTicket/cash).

These fare tariff changes are part of the first phases of the MBTA's Fare Transformation program, which aims to make paying for transit easier and more convenient.

Enhanced Decontamination, Cleaning, Disinfecting, Social Distancing, and More:

In addition to encouraging good hygiene practices and social distancing, the MBTA is continuing its enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Protocols include:

- Stations and facilities: disinfecting touch points in high-traffic facilities twice a day; disinfecting touch points on surfaces such as handrails, fare gates, and fare vending machines in subway stations once every four hours; and hiring additional vendors for disinfecting

using chemical fogging, electrostatic sprayers, and manual disinfecting wipes/solutions.

- Bus and rail vehicles: decontaminating all vehicles nightly with disinfecting wipes; performing mid-day decontamination at layover locations daily by wiping down operator cabs and high-touch locations; wiping down cabs, fare boxes, and entrances for first/second shift bus pullbacks; performing electrostatic fogging for 100 percent decontamination every two weeks for all bus vehicles; isolating and electrostatic decontamination of any vehicle reported as operated by an employee who tested positive for COVID-19.

Crowding threshold standards have been temporarily lowered for each bus and subway fleet to accommodate social distancing measures. Customers can find real-time crowding information for a number of bus routes with more information at mbta.com/crowding.

The MBTA continues to follow guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and face coverings are required within the MBTA system. The MBTA encouraging its riders and the public to:

- Practice social distancing at all times when leaving the home for essential trips;
- Stay home if sick and avoid close contact with others;
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least twenty seconds;
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizing gel with at least 60 percent alcohol if soap and water are not available;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Clean areas that are frequently touched with sanitizing spray or wipes;
- Cover coughs and sneezes, and use a tissue or the inner elbow, not hands.

For more information, visit mbta.com/ServiceChanges, mbta.com/coronavirus, mbta.com/RideSafer, mass.gov/COVID19, or connect with the T on Twitter @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, or Instagram @theMBTA.

BBB Warning: Puppy Scam Reports Skyrocket During COVID-19 Pandemic

Some families have turned to the internet to look for a pet, thinking a pandemic puppy or kitten would help ease some of the uncertainty of current events. Many have come across scammers advertising animals that don't exist and are never shipped. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has given scammers the idea to ask for money up front, or to make excuses as to why buyers can't see the pet in person-- before heartbroken, would-be pet owners figure out they have been conned. This practice has also led to a jump in online shopping fraud in general. BBB suggests, be aware of these pet scams and avoid falling for phony websites.

According to BBB's Scam Tracker, pet scams in July caused losses in Massachusetts totaling over \$8,000, almost \$4,000 in Maine, and just shy of \$1,000 in both Rhode Island and Vermont.

Nationwide, BBB received 1,681 reports of pet scams in the past few months, up from 583 for the same period last year – almost triple the

number reported last year. Overall, pet scams comprise 25% of online scams reported to BBB's Scam Tracker. During the same period last year, it was 18%. The typical dollar amount lost to pet scams also rose from \$655 last year to \$700 this year, one of the highest for all categories. The percentage of people who reported losing money inched up from 68% last year to 70% this year.

- The biggest increase in online shopping fraud is pet scams, more than triple compared to previous years.

- Pet scams now comprise 25% of online scams reported to BBB Scam Tracker (up from 18% in 2019).

- Pet scams are now the riskiest scam, according to the BBB Risk Index.

- Of those targeted for a pet scam, 70% end up losing money.

- The typical dollar amount lost to a pet scam is \$700, one of the highest for all categories of scams.

- Pet scams are not only the riskiest scams, they are also one of the most heart-breaking.

These increases truly make sense

when pet adoptions and pet-related purchases are booming during the pandemic as well. Legitimate online pet supply retailer Chewy (a BBB Accredited Business) is seeing record revenues. Animal shelters across North America are seeing their animals being adopted out and fostered at record rates. Some shelters even have waiting lists - something unheard of not long ago.

Puppy scams like these were the subject of a 2017 in-depth investigative study by Better Business Bureau (BBB), and they are prolific during the holidays.

Many victims who contacted BBB's Scam Tracker reported they wanted to adopt a puppy in order to ease their isolation and brighten their lives during the pandemic.

Victims were often told that they needed to send money for special climate-controlled crates, insurance and a (non-existent) COVID-19 vaccine. There also were several instances where the consumers wanted to see or pick-up the animal but

were told that wasn't possible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

One victim from Maine lost nearly \$4,000 last month. She explained that she bought the puppy online and then was told that the puppy's flight was on hold because "a temperature regulated crate is required" and was asked to pay an additional fee. Then, they asked her for an insurance deposit. She never received the puppy and instead lost thousands of dollars.

Tips for avoiding puppy scams:

- Don't buy a pet without seeing it in person. If that isn't possible, conduct an internet search of the picture of the pet you are considering. If the same picture appears on multiple websites, its likely is a fraud. You also can search for text from ads or testimonials, to see if the seller copied it from another website.

- Avoid wiring money, or using a cash app or gift card. These payment methods offer no recourse and no way to get your money back if you are the victim of a fraud. Fraudsters may claim to accept credit cards, but may steal your credit card information to use it in other scams or inform you that payment didn't go through and request the payment via wire service or gift cards.

- Research prices for the breed you are interested in adopting. If a purebred dog is advertised for free or at a deeply discounted price, and then other payment is required for services like vaccination or shipping, it could be a fraudulent offer.

- Consider reaching out to a local animal shelter. Many shelters are looking for fosters to help relieve the animal's stress and reduce overcrowding at their facilities. Humane Society of the United States refers consumers to local shelters.

- If you think you have been scammed or have found a suspicious website, report it to BBB Scam Tracker and the Federal Trade Commission. In Canada, contact the Canadian Antifraud Centre.

- Consider reaching out to a local animal shelter. Many shelters are looking for fosters to help relieve the animal's stress and reduce overcrowding at their facilities. Humane Society of the United States refers consumers to local shelters, or refer to Humane Canada for information.



M STREET SOFTBALL – SURVIVE AND ADVANCE

By Mark Senna

The playoffs are upon us in this COVID shortened season that means the action on the field is going to heat up over these next four weeks. Starting this Thursday and running into next week, nine single elimination games will be played with game times set for 6:30 and 8:15pm.

At press time, all of the playoff pairings were still undecided. In fact, the races are so tight that we really won't know any of the playoff pairings until that last regular season game between Lincoln and the Kekambas is completed on Wednesday night. Players and coaches are instructed to keep checking the league website (www.sbsports.com) for the latest schedule announcements.

We do know one interesting scenario that is hinging on that last game. If Lincoln (5-3) is victorious over the Kekambas (1-6-1) then they claim sole possession of second place in the Lucas ("A") division. That would leave the Bravos (5-4) and STATS (5-4) tied for third and with the teams splitting the season series, league rules call for a coin flip to decide seeding. Now if the Kekambas pull off the upset and take down Lincoln, then we will finish with a three-way tie for second place. However, league rules say that when we have three or more teams tied we use the combined head-to-head records against the tied teams. That would give the Bravos 2nd, Lincoln 3rd, and the STATS 4th place. Stay tuned!

Two teams that can sit back and rest up is the Pat Simpson Club and Roza Lyons. Both won their division with the best record and each is rewarded with a first round bye. The Moran division was still unsettled and will likely be decided on Wednesday when the Dukies (3-4) take on Banshee (4-2-2). After the single elimination round games are completed, the playoff format moves to a best of three semi-finals followed by a best of

five finals. You don't want to miss these, as they can be very intense.

As we mentioned last week, the league is hoping to broadcast all of the playoff games on FaceBook via "live." At this time, these games do not come with play-by-play commentators but are often updated with the score and inning. Check it out!

In closing, a recent conversation with a longtime M Streeter got me thinking about how the league has evolved over the years. When the league began play in the seventies, the roster of every team was constructed of South Boston residents only. You couldn't be an "outsider" and play in the M Street Softball League. I think there was one player (Dom Gentile?) who went to school at South Boston High but lived in Milton so the league made the exception and gave him a pass. You had anywhere from 16-20 teams made up of residents from different sections of the neighborhood battling it out on the field every season. This stayed true through the eighties and early nineties as well.

Along came the 1996 season and league participation hit an all-time low of seven teams. It was like all those local residents who were longtime members in the league, moved out overnight. There was some talk of disbanding the league entirely as we barely survived and didn't even crown a champion that dreadful season. Now in crisis mode and with new leadership, a different approach was taken for the 1997 season and that was to open up the league to all interested parties. This was met with some strong resistance from the remaining locals who made it difficult and often uncomfortable for that first wave of new players.

The following season (1998), the World Wide Web took off commercially and the league just happened to have a web developer in their upper ranks. A dynamic and informative website was built that rivaled MLB's at the time. The web presence gave the league



an address and a way for interested people to get in touch. Suddenly, we had more teams than we could accommodate as the league was quickly changing its face from a local driven league to a more inclusive one. For the first time in league history, many of these teams that were joining had players who weren't born and raised in South Boston but were now calling it home. This trend would only get stronger and stronger to the point where we are today.

Seventeen! Just seventeen active league players were born and raised in South Boston. The defending champion Pat Simpson

Club leads the way with seven locals while the Dukies (5), Fat Baby (2), Pirates (2), STATS (1), and DRC (1) also feature a local or two. Times have certainly changed but thankfully the M Street Softball League had the foresight to change with them or the league wouldn't be around for all of us to enjoy today.

That will wrap up the last week of the regular season at this address. Remember, "Like" our page on FaceBook. M Street Softball playoff games are played Monday through Friday starting at 6:30pm and 8:15pm. Enjoy your week everyone!



This week, Danny reacted to the NFL's issue of in-game attendance for the 2020 season:

As of now, it looks like the NFL is ready to rock and roll for its regularly-scheduled Week 1 kickoff on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Training Camp is ongoing for every team, and testing has showed that Coronavirus is nearly non-existent — to this point — inside NFL facilities. And that's without any type of "bubble" system that leagues like the NBA and NHL are currently using to see their success with the handling of Coronavirus.

The only real issue now seems to be in the stands. Will there be fans allowed into games? And if so, how many fans will be allowed? And will we ever get to a point during the 2020 season or playoffs where we'll see sold-out stadiums?

The real problem with the answers to those questions is that the NFL is allowing the teams to manage their own stadium attendance rules. And the teams have to comply with their state and local Coronavirus guidelines, which, so far, hasn't been ideal for some teams.

Take, for example, the New England Patriots. Last week, the Patriots announced that they will not be allowed to have fans in attendance for home games at Gillette Stadium through the month of September. Here's the official statement from their website:

"Following consultation with the Massachusetts Reopening Advisory Board, Gillette Stadium officials learned today that we will not be permitted to host fans at any events through at least the end of September. As a result, the Patriots home opener on September 13 and the game on September 27, as well as the next three Revolution home matches on August 20, 29 and September 2, will be played without fans in attendance. We will communicate directly with our respective ticket holders regarding refunds.

Gillette Stadium fully supports the state's position and this decision in the interest of public safety. We would have welcomed the opportunity to host fans in August and September, but are hopeful to do so later in the season. We greatly appreciate the time and support the Massachusetts Reopening Advisory Board has provided throughout this process and respect their efforts as they continue to navigate the state's phased reopening."

This announcement came one month after the Patriots announced that they were preparing to allow fans into home games throughout the 2020 season, at 20 percent capacity. Here's the statement on their

website in mid July:

"While Patriots fans eagerly await the kickoff of what is sure to be a unique season, the organization has been working diligently to ensure the game day experience is safe for everyone when football resumes. Although there is still much to be decided, and state and local approvals will be required before any fans are permitted inside the building, the Patriots informed ticket holders today of some preliminary protocols they can expect if they visit Gillette Stadium in 2020.

Pending state and local approval, should Gillette Stadium be allowed to have fans in the stands this season, it is expected to host about 20 percent of its total capacity. Ticketed parties will be asked to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from other parties, tickets will be arranged in blocks of 10 seats or less, and the first eight rows of stadium seats will not be used. Additionally, face coverings will be required at all times inside the stadium to keep all attendees safe.

Although game days will look different this year as a result of the many safety precautions being implemented, the Patriots organization is committed to delivering a positive experience for all who attend."

But as of now, nobody will be at-

tending. This decision is controversial for many reasons, but I won't use this space to get political on you. For football reasons, the controversy lies in some states allowing their teams to host fans at home games, while other states — like Massachusetts — are not.

Will this be an unfair advantage? In a vacuum, of course it will be. But then you have the news this week that the NFL is considering the use of artificial crowd noise in the range of 70 to 85 decibels for games that have no fans in it. According to Pro Football Talk's Mike Florio, "the sound level likely would be constant throughout the game, regardless of whether the home team or the visiting team has the ball."

So, what I'm about to say should be obvious. But apparently, it's not yet obvious to Roger Goodell:

The NFL needs to ban fans from all stadiums until every state allows fans at the same capacity.

There you go. I fixed it. Now I'm ready for some football.

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SPORTS TODAY

NFL FALSE-POSITIVE COVID TESTS COME BACK NEGATIVE

SBT Staff

The NFL faced a brief Coronavirus scare last weekend, as a total of 77 tests came back positive, from multiple teams.

After much success with testing over the previous two weeks, the league immediately worked with its testing partner, BioReference, to investigate the severe increase in positive test results, which all came back from the same lab in New Jersey.

All 77 of those positive tests were rerun on Sunday night, with all 77 tests coming back negative.

BioReference blamed the false-positives on “isolated contamination” during test preparation. The company released a statement on Monday:

Tweet of the Week



Dan Graziano
@DanGrazianoESPN

NFL chief medical officer Allen Sills says from 8/12-20, NFL administered 58,397 COVID tests to 8,573 players/personnel. 23,260 to players, 35,137 to personnel. Zero confirmed positive tests among players. Six new confirmed positives among the other personnel.

“On August 22, BioReference Laboratories reported an elevated number of positive COVID-19 PCR test results for NFL players and personnel at multiple clubs. The NFL immediately took necessary actions to ensure the safety of the players and personnel. Our investigation indicated that these were most likely false positive results, caused by an isolated contamination during test preparation in the New Jersey laboratory. Reagents, analyzers and staff were all ruled out as possible causes and subsequent testing has indicated that the issue has been resolved.

All individuals impacted have been confirmed negative and informed.”

This all comes after NFL chief medical officer Allen Sills revealed that from Aug. 12 to Aug. 20, the league administered a total of 58,397 Coronavirus tests to 8,573 players and personnel. Out of those 58,397 tests, there were only six confirmed positives among personnel, and zero confirmed positives to players.

Since training camp began, more than 100,000 Coronavirus tests have been conducted, with a positivity rate less than 1 percent.

SOX TRADE WORKMAN, HEMBREE AHEAD OF TRADE DEADLINE

SBT Staff

The Boston Red Sox started trade deadline season early, sending relief pitchers Brandon Workman and Heath Hembree, a player to be named later, and cash considerations to the Philadelphia Phillies over the weekend.

In return, the Red Sox received 27-year-old right-handed pitcher Nick Pivetta and 24-year-old right-handed pitching prospect Connor Seabold.

The official MLB trade deadline for the ongoing 2020 season is this Monday, Aug. 31 at 4 p.m. That's a month later

than it normally would be, but given the unique circumstances of a shortened 60-game schedule because of the Coronavirus shutdowns from March through July, this year's trade deadline will come just a month before the Postseason begins.

Boston could conceivably make more moves before Monday's deadline, but this trade with the Phillies lands the Red Sox two young pitchers with starter potential, something the team desperately needs the rest of this season and beyond.

Pivetta was a starter with the Phillies during his first two-and-a-half MLB seasons in 2017, 2018, and the

first half of 2019. He has struggled out of the bullpen, but will most likely get a chance to prove himself in a depleted Red Sox starting rotation.

Seabold was drafted by the Phillies in 2017. He is 11-10 with a 3.52 ERA in 40 total minor league games, 34 of which were starts. In those 40 minor-league appearances, Seabold recorded 203 strikeouts and walked 46 batters.

As for what the Red Sox are giving up, it should be recognized that both Workman, 32, and Hembree, 31, won World Series championships in Boston. Workman was part of the 2013 and 2018 championship teams, while Hembree was part of the 2018 championship.

WHAT TO WATCH

NBA THURSDAY, AUG. 27
Eastern Conference Semifinals
Gm 1: Boston vs Toronto
6:30 P.M. ESPN

SATURDAY, AUG. 29
Eastern Conference Semifinals
Gm 2: Boston vs Toronto
TBD

NHL FRIDAY, AUG. 28
Eastern Conference Semifinals
Gm 4: Tampa Bay vs Boston
7:30 P.M. USA

SUNDAY, AUG. 30
Eastern Conference Semifinals
Gm 5: Boston vs Tampa Bay
TBD NBCSN

GOLF THURS, AUG. 27 - SUN AUG. 30
BMW Championship
2 P.M. GOLFC/NBC

PATRIOTS RE-SIGN FOLK TO COMPETE FOR KICKING POSITION



SBT Staff

The New England Patriots announced on Monday that they have re-signed veteran kicker Nick Folk.

Folk, 35, was signed by the Patriots midway through last season, after Stephen Gostkowski had season-ending hip surgery. Folk played in seven games for the Patriots in 2019, making 14-of-17 field goals and all 12 extra points. In the Patriots' play-off loss to the Tennessee Titans, Folk made both of his field-goal attempts and his only extra-point attempt.

He's expected to compete with rookie kicker Justin Rohrwasser, who the Patriots drafted in the fifth round of this year's NFL Draft.



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