



Christmas Has A Curious History

Christmas is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for coming together with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated packages. But mostly, Christmas is for love. Christmas, the Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term Christmas (“mass on Christ’s day”) is of fairly recent origin. It was this love for which Jesus came to this world and sacrificed his life. Though originated by the Roman Catholics who commemorate the

CONTINUED ON page 14

WWW.SOUTHBOSTONTODAY.COM

Go to our South Boston Today page to view us online. Make sure you like & share with your favorite social media!



@SBostonToday

Office: 617.268.4032 or cell: 617.840.1355 or email at ads@southbostontoday.com

  @SBostonToday

HAVE YOU HEARD?

OUR RATE IS “ONE OF THE BEST AROUND!”

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT


1.75%

APR+ 1st 6 months then prime minus .75% for life

2.50%


APR+ current fully-indexed rate

Super-EASY Online Application at massbaycu.org/heloc, or call (617) 269-2700 or visit our South Boston branch.






MASS BAY CREDIT UNION

Serving Greater Boston since 1936.



Federally insured by NCUA

*APR= Annual Percentage Rate. 1.75% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is an introductory rate for the first six months. After the introductory period, rate on the outstanding balances will revert to Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal on the first day of the calendar month minus (-) 0.75%. Prime rate as of 04/01/2020 is 3.25%. The APR may vary monthly. Minimum rate 2.50% and maximum rate 18.00%. 10 year draw period. 15 year repayment period. Minimum \$10,000 draw at closing and \$1,000 advances thereafter. 80% combined LTV to \$200,000 (</=70% LTV \$300,000). Proof of adequate property insurance required and Flood Insurance may also be required. Subject to credit approval. Other terms and restrictions apply including 620 minimum credit score. Offer subject to change without notice. NMLS ID #615913



EDITORIAL

Yes, Even This Year, Have A Merry Christmas!

There is no other time of the year that even comes close to being similar. But even with a virus that has pretty much thrown normalcy into uncharted territory, Christmas should still be kept in our hearts and celebrated – it is just too special to go without. To children, the Christmas season is magical. It's a time in their lives when

memories are made that will live forever. Even when we become adults, those Christmas memories, especially if they are caught in photos or video will bring smiles to our faces. It's one of the good things in life; happy times to cherish forever and pass on to new family members as they grow.

The brilliantly lit Christmas trees and neighborhood

homes, the gifts, the music, the movies we look forward to year after year, the time spent with family and good friends and the image of Santa everywhere you turn adds to the tradition that so many people hold so near and dear to their very souls. That it was all started with the birth of the Baby Jesus more than 2000 years ago is the reason for the season, and makes this time

of year not only festive but also sacred to more than 2.2 billion people around the world and certainly to the people of South Boston. From all of us here at South Boston Today to our friends and neighbors, have a Merry Christmas. May this year bring good tidings to one and all and may the coming new year bring happiness, good health and a return to stability.



"And know that I am with you always: yes, till the end of time" - Jesus Christ

Church Mass and Service Schedules

Christmas Eve

- Gate Of Heaven Church: 1:pm, 3:pm and 5:pm
- St. Brigid Church: 1: pm, 3:pm and 5:pm
- St. Peter Church: 4:30 pm In (Lithuanian)
- St. Monica Church: 4:30 pm
- Fourth Presbyterian Church: 5:30 pm Service on Zoom followed by 6:45 gathering outside the church for 15 minute of Caroling and Liturgy
- Shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage: 3 pm, 4:30 pm and 6:pm

Christmas Day

- Gate of Heaven Church: 9: am
 - St. Brigid: 8:am and 10:30 am
 - St. Peter Church: 9:am and 10:30 am
 - St. Monica Church: 10:30 am (English) and 12:30 pm (Spanish)
 - St. George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral: 10: am
 - Holy Trinity Albanian Orthodox Church: 10: am
 - Shrine of Our Lady of Good Hope: 9:30 am and 11:30 am
- (Note: St. Because of the Covid situation St. Brigid and Gate of Heaven Churches will be taking online reservations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. To reserve your place you can visit the Church Website or click on the following link: www.parishresevations.com/gatebrigid)



SouthBostonTODAY Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127

Publisher • John Ciccone

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

South Boston Today is not liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. All South Boston Today produced artwork, design, and layout remain the sole property of South Boston Today. Reproduction in whole or part is strictly forbidden. South Boston Today reserves the right to cut, edit or reject any copy without notice.

South Boston Today is a Series of the Today Publications Series LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company

917 East Broadway • 617.268.4032 • Office hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm

Deadlines

Press Copy - Monday at 6:00pm • Advertisements Space Reservations - Friday at 6:00pm • Ad Material - Monday at 4:00pm • Camera Ready Ads - Tuesday at 6:00pm



The Information Center

The Stimulus Package Was Hijacked/Merry Christmas to All

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

This being the issue of the Newspaper before Christmas, I had hoped to write a nice upbeat column with a Christmas season theme. And I will. But the nice stuff will have to come only in the last half, since the contents of the Virus relief package or 'Stimulus' as its referred to, have been exposed.

We can see now why the Stimulus was delayed until after the election and it was for 3 reasons. The first was to make President Trump look bad. Because the bill he would have created would have been much easier to swallow by and far more generous to the American people. Now Pelosi, Schumer and the rest could never allow anything to pass that would make Trump look good. They actually admitted that. Second: Had the American people known before the election what these congressional 'leaders' were going to sneak into the package, many if not most members of congress would have been booted out on their tails in November. And third: They just don't care. You don't need me to tell you how bad so many of our fellow country men and women are hurting. They are losing their businesses, their homes, life savings wiped out. Some families are struggling to put food on the table for their kids. But, Christmas will be quite good for many foreign countries; some of which hate us, because of what congress did with many, MANY billions of our tax dollars in the stimulus designed to help desperate Americans.

By now, most of you have seen where much of that money is going. Millions upon millions to Sudan, Burma, Nepal, Nicaragua, Honduras, Shri-Lanka and at least a dozen other countries. They are designating a billion and a half dollars to The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act. What in Hell is that? 15 million for Gender Studies' In Pakistan? Really??

Then of course there are the pet proj-

ects in the United States that have nothing to do with giving relief to American citizens; things like forming a 'Climate Security' bureau and extra cash windfalls to Nancy Pelosi's favorite and wealthiest communities.

The callousness and arrogance of congress knows no limits; primarily because we the people keep letting them get away with it. They get voted back into office no matter what they do so they have come to believe and act like they are our masters and the public is simply here to serve them and do what we are told. If the Founding Fathers were here today, it's a good guess that these cold, calculating and corrupt elected officials would be tarred and feathered before being run out of DC on a rail.

Ok. And now for the Christmas part of this week's column. Though Americans have been told to all but cancel Christmas, they weren't about to. The season is on. Christmas trees were bought in record numbers; the country is awash and alive with images of Santa. Nativity Scenes are up and on display. The movies and music of the season are flooding the airwaves and children are excited with the anticipation and happiness that Christmas brings them. Churches are decking their halls and altars with magnificent and welcoming floral displays and families and friends; despite being bombarded with warnings and attempts to discourage, are still planning to gather and observe this festive and sacred holiday. Christmas is a time that means so much to so many; especially to the more than 2 billion Christians around the world. And while not everyone is a Christian, non Christians also enthusiastically join in the celebrating and in the festivities that are looked forward to each year.

It's always around this time of the year that acts of kindness are on the increase as so many get into the spirit in a giving way. Though in our community

of South Boston, there are constantly instances of neighbors volunteering to help neighbors, I'd personally like to make mention of 2 lifelong residents and how they gave of their time, efforts and hard work to assist others. It was the day of the recent big snow storm when as we all know, a ton of the white stuff pummeled us and it was wet and heavy, almost like cement. Well, on East Seventh Street, as they've done in previous years, Paul McDonough and Jim Cox hurried through the task of shoveling their own sidewalks, steps and vehicles. But they weren't finished and not even close. Because then, with shovels and

snow blower, they went to work for hours clearing off the property of everyone else in the area. It was hard work, but those who know Paul and Jim know that it was a labor of love. They were being good neighbors. And though they don't and didn't do it for any sort of recognition, grateful neighbors thought they SHOULD get that recognition and they made it a point to write into this newspaper to let us know. So, Paul McDonough and Jim Cox, your efforts were very much appreciated.

To all of our readers, from all of us here at South Boston Today – **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Let Our Family Help Your Family

CASPER

Funeral & Cremations Services

ESTABLISHED IN 1930

Serving Families with Dignity and Respect
through the toughest of times for
over 80 years

Home of Personal Service

Pre-Planning Specialists

Casper's specializes in
Massachusetts Cremation Services &
Veteran Services

Please visit our website for
information you may find
helpful during a time of need

www.casperfuneralservices.com

Casper Funeral Home
187 Dorchester Street
South Boston, MA 02127
617-269-1930



David Casper
Funeral Directors:
Joe, Dave & Ken Casper



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.

Senate agrees to change police-reform bill after Baker's veto threat

SHNS's Chris Lisinski sums it up well: "Aiming to find compromise with Gov. Charlie Baker over police accountability and oversight, senators agreed Monday to scale back restrictions they had sought to put on the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement and to limit the influence of a civilian led commission over police training."

MassLive's Steph Solis and the Globe's Matt Stout have more on the Senate's police-reform retreat amid a veto threat from Baker. Next stop for the amended bill: The House.

SHNS (pay wall -- free trial subscription available)

Only two other states and D.C. join Massachusetts in TCI pact

We're pushing this one up high so it doesn't get buried in the pandemic-news deluge below. MassLive's Steph Solis and CommonWealth's Bruce Mohl report that a regional carbon cap-and-trade agreement (or Transportation Climate Initiative – TCI) has indeed been reached – but only Connecticut, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia are joining Massachusetts in the pact. "You've got to start somewhere," Gov. Charlie Baker said of the low participation rate.

The Herald's Erin Tiernan has more on the deal, which is aimed at reducing carbon emissions and which nevertheless is freaking out some over likely gas-price hikes.

After 'basically begging' people not to travel, Baker hints at possible new restrictions

NBC Boston's Marc Fortier reports that Gov. Charlie Baker said yesterday that he's "basically begging" people not to travel for Christmas amid the ongoing surge in coronavirus cases – and he strongly hinted that more pandemic restrictions may be announced soon.

The local vaccine rollout: It's a 'free for all' and 'rat race' at MGH

Doses of Cambridge-based Moderna's new COVID-19 vaccine started arriving yesterday at area hospitals. But let's hope its rollout goes more smoothly than the recent Pfizer vaccine rollout. From GBH's Gabrielle Emanuel: "Mass General Brigham workers: staff vaccine program became a 'free for all.'" From the Globe's Robert Weisman and Kay Lazar: "Glitches, supply cuts, and grumbling over priorities dog Massachusetts vaccine rollout."

Good news about the stimulus bill: Funds for public transit and housing

The \$900 billion stimulus-relief package passed yesterday by Congress (Washington Post) may not include money to help struggling states and cities balance their general budgets. But it does include badly needed funds for specific programs, such as for housing and public transit, reports SHNS's Chris Lisinski (pay wall). There's also this, via the Cape Cod Times: "Stimulus bill includes plan to expedite bridge replacements."

Meanwhile, Baker presses for passage of state's own jobs bill

As he announced state grants to help 1,158 small businesses across the state (MassLive), Gov. Charlie Baker used the opportunity to press for passage of his economic-development bill on Beacon Hill, even urging residents to pressure lawmakers to pass the measure, reports SHNS's Katie Lannan (pay wall).

But from the Globe's Jon Chesto: "Will the state's economic development bill get done in time?"

Sec. of State Galvin Sanctions Retire Happy Company

Allegedly defrauding senior citizens and retirees



According to Galvin's office, Retire Happy contacts potential investors through unsolicited cold calls and other methods and convinces them to transfer their retirement savings into self-directed IRAs provided by another Nevada company, Provident Trust Group. An email to Provident seeking comment wasn't immediately returned Tuesday.

Provident, Galvin's office said, provides compensation to Retire Happy for each IRA account opened. Since 2012, the statement said, Retire Happy has sold nearly \$2.5 million in unregistered, non-exempt securities to Massachusetts investors. "Since 2012, Retire Happy has been in the business of fraudulently exploiting the retirement accounts of seniors and other individuals for their own enrichment," says the complaint from Galvin's Securities Division, according to the statement.

Massachusetts Secretary of State William F. Galvin's office on Tuesday announced sanctions against a Nevada-based company for allegedly defrauding retirees in the Commonwealth. In a statement, Galvin's office identified the company as Retire Happy. A number listed for the company wasn't in service Tuesday.

Galvin's office said his Securities Division is asking that Retire Happy "be ordered to cease and desist in violating state securities law, be barred from registration in the Commonwealth, and be ordered to provide restitution to fairly compensate Massachusetts investors for any losses. The Division is also asking for an administrative fine to be imposed."

The secretary of state's office said Retire Happy contracts around the country with issuers that provide the company with "substantial compensation" in exchange for Retire Happy helping them find investors for their unregistered securities.

Many issuers are close to bankruptcy, Galvin's office said, making it unlikely that investors could recover their funds. Yet Retire Happy, the statement said, convinces seniors, retirees, and others with significant retirement assets that the promissory notes being issued are safe, secure in-

vestments. In one case, the complaint alleges, a Retire Happy worker told a 61-year-old investor there was "no way this investment is going to fail," convincing her to use her life savings to buy unregistered securities, according to the statement.

Under federal law, a company cannot sell or offer securities unless the offering has been registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, or unless an exemption is available, according to an online primer posted to the SEC website.

"If the offering is not registered, it is often called a private placement or unregistered offering," the SEC primer says. "Generally speaking, unregistered offerings are not subject to some of the laws and regulations that are designed to protect investors, such as disclosure requirements that apply to registered offerings. Many companies engage in legitimate unregistered offerings to raise funds from investors. Fraudsters, however, may also use unregistered offerings to conduct investment scams."



Councilor Flynn Releases End of Year Report

Dear neighbors,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying this Christmas and holiday season. As we continue to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, my team and I have worked diligently with City of Boston officials, fellow neighbors, and local nonprofit partners to continue to deliver basic city services, access to nutritious food for our seniors and families in need, personal protective equipment (PPE) to our caregivers and residents, as well as support for our veterans and youth sports groups.

I am writing to provide you with an update on our work this year and some of the key areas that we focused on: public health & testing, pedestrian & public safety, housing & development, standing with our working families, civil rights, and quality of life issues. We organized over 200 volunteers to make phone calls and check in on the health and wellbeing of thousands of our seniors throughout District 2. I have also continued to advocate for families throughout our city to the best of my ability at City Hall and the Council, as well as other actions listed below.

Thank you very much for your support and your compassion for your neighbors. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy holiday season.

Public Health

- Called for a hearing to discuss the creation of a Front-line Workers COVID-19 Health Registry;
- Called for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to be more proactive in providing services, educating the public, and raising awareness for those infected with HIV/AIDS;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss large house parties and gatherings during the CO-

VID-19 pandemic;

- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our nurses and healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Sponsored and passed a resolution urging insurance carriers to provide continuous coverage to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quality of Life

- Called for a hearing to discuss after hours construction and development issues;
- Called and held a hearing on issues related to stray voltage;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss pest control and illegal dumping;
- Called and held a hearing on water and sewer infrastructure.

Traffic and Public Safety

- Called for a hearing to discuss security at high-rise garages;
- Called for a hearing to discuss establishing a Traffic Master Plan for South Boston;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss safety of construction sites;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss speeding cars as a public health emergency and address infrastructure improvements;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement, and Vision Zero.

Civil and Human Rights

- Called for a hearing to discuss ways for the City to prevent and investigate incidents of hate crimes and discrimination;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting our immigrant communities during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting H. RES 908, "Condemning All Forms Of Anti-Asian Sentiment As Related to COVID-19";
- Sponsored and passed a resolution supporting Congressional Bill S. 2043, "Jabara-Heyer No Hate Act";
- Sponsored and passed a res-

olution supporting our Chinese and Asian communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Housing and Development

- Called and held a hearing to discuss ways to support tenants facing eviction and displacement;
- Opposed projects unfavorable to abutters & neighborhood associations;
- Brought Inspectional Services to meet with concerned neighbors.

Social and Economic Justice

- Called for a hearing to discuss renewal fees for restaurants and food establishments during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Called for a hearing to discuss the impact of 3rd party delivery commission fees on restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Called and held a hearing to discuss the impact of CORI on access to employment and other opportunities;
- Called and held a hearing on internet access and digital equity;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of Marriott Copley workers and support of a statewide "Right To Recall" for Boston hotel workers;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of Four Seasons Hotel workers and support of a statewide "Right To Recall" for Boston hotel workers;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution in support of Revere Hotel workers and support of a statewide "Right To Recall" for Boston hotel workers.

Veteran Affairs

- Called and held a hearing to discuss resources available through Boston's Veteran Services during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution commemorating Veterans Day And honoring all those who served our country;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution celebrating the centennial Of Disabled American Veterans (DAV);
- Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing National



Purple Heart Day;

- Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing African American Veterans achievements during Black History Month;
- Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing Women Veterans during Women's History Month.

Other Actions

- Called and held a hearing to discuss Boston's electoral recount process;
 - Called and held a hearing to discuss ways to promote a complete and accurate count for the 2020 Census;
 - Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing Braille Literary Month;
 - Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing International Week Of The Deaf;
 - Sponsored and passed a resolution celebrating the Centennial adoption of the 19th Amendment granting women's right to vote;
 - Sponsored and passed a resolution celebrating American Disabilities Act's 30th anniversary;
 - Sponsored and passed a resolution recognizing Native American Heritage Day;
 - Sponsored and passed a resolution commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Great Famine (Gaelic: An Gorta Mor).
- For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 and Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.*



I Was Just Thinking...

by Kevin Devlin



“May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; The spirit of Christmas which is peace; The heart of Christmas which is love.” — **Ada V. Hendricks**

Although it goes without saying, it's been a really tough year for all of us. To a great degree, our leaders have let us down. Hypocrisy and double standards are alive and well in Washington, D.C. The media is as biased as a Patriot's fan watching the team play at Gillette Stadium. Covid-19 has taken its deadly toll, but these vaccines developed at warp speed should put this deadly virus on its proper course to oblivion. And with Hope standing beside us, we can pray for a return to normalcy.

The year 2020 reminds me of

Kevin Devlin's trilogy of the "Southie Pact" - along with his book - "A Collection of Stories" - is now available on AMAZON. COM

Christmas when I was a little boy and saw my mom and dad sneak by my bedroom with gifts from Santa. I knew right then and there that my guy from the North Pole wasn't who I thought he was. But that was only a momentarily setback and this revelation didn't crush my belief in the spirit of Christmas.

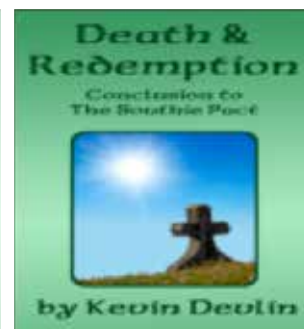
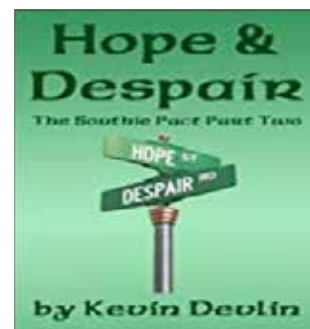
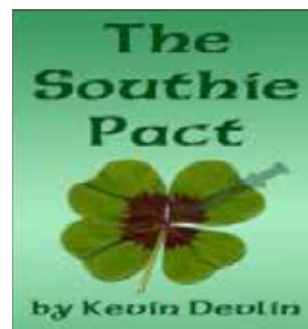
Christmas is a time to rejoice in life. It is a time to give thanks to God. It is a time to embrace family and friends and tell them how much we love them. It is also a time in which we reflect on those who no longer walk among us, because we

never forget our love for them. We keep our memories of them alive in our minds, in our hearts, and by doing so, they forever live within us.


I would like to wish all the South Boston Today readers-and everyone else-a Merry Christmas. We have much to be merry about. We have much to be thankful about.

Enjoy Christmas with your family and friends and let the outside world fade away while you do so. It will still be there when you return from this merry journey of love, warmth, and solemnity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



Kevin Devlin grew up in Savin Hill, a tight-knit Irish Catholic community. He worked for the City of Boston for thirty-eight years, and he's officiated local basketball games for over forty years. His work has appeared in South Boston weekly papers for the past twenty-two years.

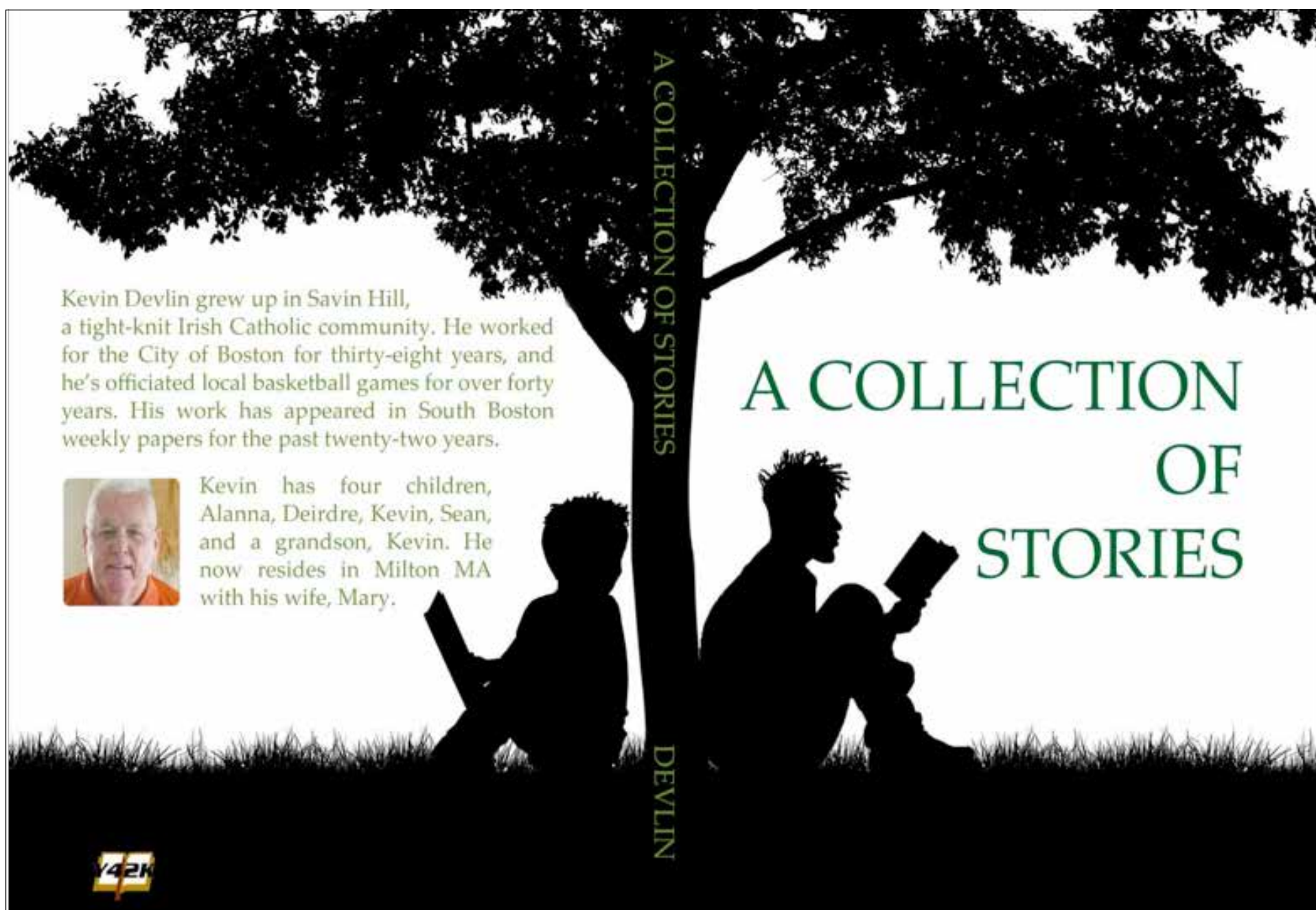



Kevin has four children, Alanna, Deirdre, Kevin, Sean, and a grandson, Kevin. He now resides in Milton MA with his wife, Mary.

A COLLECTION OF STORIES

A COLLECTION OF STORIES

DEVLIN



MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO CREATE BOSTON FIRE CADET PROGRAM

Cadet program would help Boston diversify its Boston Fire Department



Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced that H. 4919 An Act to Create a Boston Fire Department Cadet Program has received key approval from the Massachusetts Legislature, and will now head to Governor Charlie Baker's desk to be signed into law. Once enacted, this bill would allow Boston to create a cadet program within the Boston Fire Department in an effort to diversify its firefighter force. As part of his legislative agenda, Mayor Walsh first filed the proposal as a Home Rule Petition in January 2019. It was approved by the Boston City Council before reaching the Massachusetts State Legislature.

"The passage of our legislation to create a Boston Fire Department Cadet Program is a victory for our commitment to an equitable Boston. We'll continue to take steps to create opportunities for all Bostonians and ensure our firefighters represent the residents of the city they service," said Mayor Walsh. "Thank you to Representative Chynah Tyler, House Speaker Bob DeLeo and Senate President Karen Spilka for your advocacy and support."

"It is imperative that every resident of Boston is offered a fair chance, through an equitable process, to serve our city. Signing this legislation into law is a very valuable step in reduc-

ing barriers to civil service and ensuring that these positions are available to all. I look forward to the work ahead in making these quality careers accessible to all of the residents of Boston, especially those that are historically marginalized," said Representative Chynah Tyler.

If signed into law by Governor Baker, the bill would allow any qualified resident of Boston between the ages of 18 to 25 to be appointed as fire cadet by the Boston Fire Chief. Following the completion of the two-year program and passing the civil service exam, a cadet would then become a firefighter. There are typically two classes of firefighters per year, with roughly 50 members in each class. This bill would limit cadet appointments up to 33.33% of all appointments in a year. The Fire Commissioner will be responsible for deciding when the City of Boston accepts fire cadets, and is responsible for how many cadets can be taken on.

"I thank the Mayor for his tireless efforts in pursuing the cadet legislation that was passed by the Senate today," said Boston Fire Department Commissioner Jack Dempsey. "This legislation gives the Boston Fire Department another tool within its toolbox for its recruitment and hiring efforts. We look forward to working with the City administration and the union to create and implement a model fire cadet program for Boston for the fire service."

"This is a major step forward in ensuring all Boston residents have a chance to become firefighters in the City of Boston. It's important that the voices in the neighborhoods in Boston are heard, and I thank Mayor Walsh and Representative Chy-

nah Tyler for working tirelessly on this bill. I look forward to working with them to continue addressing any challenges ahead," said Darrell Higginbottom, the President of the Boston Society of Vulcans.

Currently, 410 of the 1,474 firefighters in the Boston Fire Department are people of color, representing over 27 percent, including 275 Black firefighters, 120 Hispanic/Latino firefighters and 15 Asian firefighters. There are currently 1,455 men and 19 women firefighters, reinforcing the need to further recruit diverse candidates to serve as active firefighters in the Department.



The legislation is modeled after the Boston Police Department's (BPD) cadet program, which has seen significant success. The BPD 2016 Cadet Class included 30 aspiring police officers, 69% of whom were men and 31% of whom were women. 69% of the class were people of color and 31% were white. In 2018, the Cadet Class had 35 aspiring police officers including 66% men, 34% women, 63% people of color and 37% white. Between both classes languages spoken other than English included: Cantonese, CaboVerdean Creole, French, Haitian Creole, Urdu, Portugese, Spanish and Vietnamese.



bpda

Virtual Public Meeting

776 Summer Street

Wednesday, January 6

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3aynUhV

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 160 491 2840

Project Proponent:

HRP 776 Summer Street LLC

Project Description:

HRP 776 Summer Street LLC proposes to redevelop an approximately 15.2-acre site located at 776 Summer Street in the South Boston neighborhood. The proposal entails approximately 1.78 million square feet of occupiable space, including: approximately 636 residential units, approximately 960,000 square feet of office/research and development uses, approximately 80,000 square feet of retail uses, 240 hotel rooms, and up to 1,214 parking spaces. The proposal will also preserve several historic buildings on the site and provide 5.5 acres of new outdoor public spaces, including approximately 2.5 acres of open space on the waterfront.

mail to: **Stephen Harvey**

Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.4418

email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



WISHING YOU A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH PEACE & JOY



CONGRESSMAN & MRS.
STEPHEN F. LYNCH
and family

Paid for by Lynch for Congress Committee. Nancy Conroy, Treasurer



Nick Collins
STATE SENATOR

Merry Christmas
from my family to yours!

The Wine Guy Don't Forget Your Gift....



Virus or no virus, it seems that we're all running around like we do every year, making sure that we've purchased something for everyone on our list; this year, though, with all that's gone on, I think we all need to remember to get a gift for ourselves. So, don't be stingy; get at least one of the following (and it's okay to act surprised when you open the gift bag!).

In the "are you worth it?" depart-

ment, **The Prisoner, 2018 California 1.5 Ltr., (\$74.99)**, is the latest iteration of the famed Red Blend and this vintage is spectacular! You are likely already familiar with this remarkable wine phenomenon, a unique blend of high-quality, old vine Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Syrah, and Charbono. It's a fantastic alchemy that has won renown and fans all across the country for almost 16 years now.

The 2019 Prisoner is bursting with expressive aromas of boysenberry liqueur, dried cherries, sweet pipe tobacco, dark chocolate, black figs, and clove. This wine sweeps over the palate with an unctuous, immensely pleasurable texture.

If your taste is running towards white wine, then open a bottle of **The Whale Watcher, 2018 Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough, New Zealand, (\$14.99)**. From the limestone character of Sancerre to the green, herbaceous Sauvignon Blancs of Marlborough, this style of wine often shows off fresh cut

grass and wet stone, along with tinges of melon fruit, citrus and just a bit of mineral notes at the finish. Try this one with some lamb chops, broiled along with sage and rosemary, along with wild rice and fresh asparagus. I have to say that, for the money, this one is a true value! Grab a few bottles for the Holidays and I think you'll be reaching for it again and again.

2016 Brancaia Tre Rosso Toscana, Brancaia TRE presents a dense matrix supporting flavors of black cherry, iron, earth, tobacco and coffee. This blend is 80% Sangiovese, with 20% Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, pushing the border on tannins but keeping them firmly in line on the finish. Perfect for pairing with any pasta or grilled seafood, this is a great cold weather red from Tuscany. If you've got a few bottles of this one on your holiday table, they won't stay full for long! Another reason for having this wine is its versatility; it's one of the few Italian Reds that really goes with everything, so, have it with anything you

like and be assured that whatever it is will be enhanced!

We should probably finish things off with something sparkling, so why not try that old dependable label, **Veve Clicquot, NV, Epernay, France, (\$ 55.99)**. Always tremendously delicious, but not too overt, it goes well with everything!

I hope you and yours have a very Merry Christmas!

Talk to the Wine Guy at
jdris8888@gmail.com

Brancaia TRE presents a dense matrix supporting flavors of black cherry, iron, earth, tobacco and coffee. This blend is 80% Sangiovese, with 20% Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, pushing the border on tannins but keeping them firmly in line on the finish. Perfect for pairing with any pasta or grilled seafood, this is a great summer red from Tuscany






*From Our Family To
Yours, Wishing You A
Merry Christmas & Joyful
Holiday Season!*


Councilor Ed Flynn & Family

(paid for and authorized by the Friends of Ed Flynn)




Warmest Thoughts
and Best Wishes for a
Joyful Holiday Season!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a Safe and
HAPPY NEW YEAR



David Biele
State Representative

(paid for by the David Biele Committee)



From our Home to Yours, Wishing you
Peace and Joy this Christmas Season and A
Healthy & Happy New Year!

Kevin, Kathy and Greg

(Lally Compound)



Quality Heating Oil &
Expert Heating Services

Customer service is our business

- Heating Oil Discounts
- Automatic Delivery
- Budget Payment Plans
- Complete Heating Service



641 East Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127 • 617-268-4662
www.metroenergyboston.com



Wishing You
A Very
Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year!

C. I. A.
Castle Island Association



Yes Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus!

State Representative David Biele saw a need in his district for the second consecutive year at Christmas time. Children of the 4th Suffolk District were in need of toys under the Christmas tree. This year has been an extremely difficult year for most but every child deserves a gift at Christmas. Many local groups reached out to Rep. Biele in hopes he could provide some help. Well help he did! Rep. Biele sponsored a toy drive called **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** and **collected over 1,000 new toys and giftcards for ages 0-15 years for 850 children.** It truly takes a village and that's what South Boston is and has always been; a kind, giving, caring group of residents, neighbors

and businesses of which the Rep. reached out to.

The Massachusetts Convention Center was transformed into Santa's workshop. Toys, mounds of toys were dropped off, Amazon packages opened, sorted by age and delivery locations. Santa's Elves and Helpers for this massive undertaking were Rep. David Biele, Thomas Mannion (Rep. Biele's office), MCCA-Bob O'Shea and Mark O'Leary (Community Affairs at Convention Center), MCCA Drivers-Omar Arias and Johnny Figueroa and volunteers Kelley O'Shea, Caroline and Stephen Flynn.

The Families Served and Distribution Locations included; West Broadway/D Street BHA via Task Force, Anne Lynch Homes at Old

Colony and Mary Ellen McCormack via Tierney Learning Center, Mary Ellen McCormack BHA via South Boston En Accion, Harbor Point on the Bay via Task Force.

The Donors/Shoppers/Helpers for Neighbors Helping Neighbors in our village are

Residents from across South Boston and Dorchester, South Boston MOMS Club Rachel Pearson and Tracey Callahan were point persons, BPD C-6 Community Affairs, West Broadway Neighborhood Association, Seaport Strong, Moonshine 152 (Chef Asia Mei), South Boston-Seaport Catholic Collaborative, Core Cares/Core Investments (Dave P.), Pappas Enterprises/Oxford Properties, City of Boston Credit Union,

US Postal Service Credit Union, The Broadway and Amazon.*Neatly Nested accepted deliveries.

This was an impressive operation put together with the goal of no child goes without a gift at Christmas time. Under the leadership of Rep. David Biele, the goal was accomplished and surpassed. When asked if he was worried about not being able to collect enough toys/giftcards so that every child receives atleast one toy, **Rep. Biele said "failure was never an option."**

Children will wake up on Christmas morning, knowing that Santa thinks they're special with a gift directly from the big guy! So yes, in this magical time of the year, we must believe.



Convention Center – Santa's Workshop and Loading Zone ↑ 🎁 🎁 🎁 ↓ Tierney Center Delivery On The MCCA Sled. Made Millie Cry Again!





 **West Broadway Task Force Drop Off** 

   **En Accion Gifts En Route** 





Southie is Lit Up for Christmas and Acts of Kindness are Everywhere

SBT Staff Report

This week in December is known for the longest night of the year. Winter officially began this past Monday, December 21st, (The Winter Solstice) and the darkness will last longer than at any date in 2020. And for those who aren't really crazy about the long, cold, darkness that winter brings on, you can take heart, because from here on in, the days will get longer with more daylight.

And yet, there is a special treat in store for anyone who likes taking evening walks in the brisk air. There is a beautiful Christmas light show in view and South Boston is lit up like a Santa's Village from one end of town to the next.

The neighborhood is lit up with brightly colored lights and decorations every year. Its part of that long standing tradition that comes

with the season. But this year – 2020, seems to be even more colorful and bright as people seem to be determined to have a celebration since more than half of the holidays within the calendar year of 2020 were either cancelled or downsized because of the Covid Virus. So in South Boston and it seems to be the case in the rest of this great country, Christmas is still on and in a big way.

From City Point to Fort Point, from the Heights to the Lower End to CitySide and Andrew Square, from one end of East and West Broadway to the other, the homes and the businesses and even the public buildings are decked out in Holly and lights. There are lit up reindeer and snowmen, Christmas trees and wreaths, Santa Clauses and even a Polar Express Train from the movie fame. And of course, the beautiful Nativity Scenes are on display

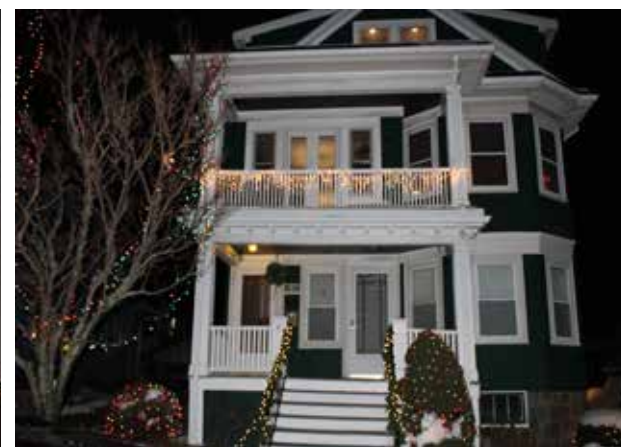
in their full religious splendor in front of our local churches and in the windows some of our residential homes to remind us all what the real 'reason for the season' is and what Christmas is all about.

Even some of the cars are decorated with red ribbons and wreaths affixed to the front, the back or both and some even have reindeer antlers attached to the roof. It's plain to see that a festive mood is growing in our town as the big day approaches.

But it's not just the lights and decorations that remind us all that regardless of any of the virus concerns or political banter that's been shouting at everyone for far too many months, this Christmas season might be a bit different, but it will be big. The caring and concern shown by South Boston's many dedicated volunteers is enough to warm the hearts of anyone. There are the dozens of locals who give of their time

and energy to put on the Annual Msg. Thomas McDonnell and Frank Kelley Christmas Dinner each year. They are gathering food to make delicious dinners that will serve hundreds. There is the massive toy drive organized by State Rep David Biele and his many volunteers that has collected more than a thousand toys to be distributed to needy children and the gift cards donated by local businesses which will also go to families in need. The volunteers who are helping to decorate the beautiful church altars which look so festive and welcoming each Christmas and so many other acts of kindness that go un mentioned but certainly not unappreciated by people with hearts of gold all around the neighborhood.

So the question that was asked for the last couple of months as other holidays were being all but ruined – would there even BE a Christmas this year? Well the answer is obvious. There will be Christmas this year, next year and forever. There will ALWAYS be Christmas and we can thank GOD for that.



Santa Pays A Visit To The Children Of South Boston

Haley Dillon, the Mayor’s Liaison from the Office of Neighborhood Services for South Boston, assembled her team of elves and holiday helpers to give the children of South Boston the gift of what is being described as an amazing neighborhood event!

Haley used her network to reach out to Santa at the North Pole. It was explained the children of South Boston have been very good in this pandemic year and asked if he could possibly

spare some time to visit South Boston before his big night on Christmas Eve? Once Santa (being the holly, jolly soul that he is) said yes, the plan went into action.

The Boston Police, Area C6, Captain Boyle and the CSO team hosted the event. Santa wanted to follow social distancing so he stood out on the C-6 balcony with his elf Katie sending toys and gifts down the shoot to the hundreds, yes hundreds of children and families below. There was

such a large turnout that Santa’s helper Kevin Coyne had to reach out to the Neighborhood House seeking toys for the long line of children awaiting to see Santa.

While the children waited their turn to go to the toy shoot built by Abacus Builders, other characters joined in the festivities; Chase from Paw Patrol, Spiderman, Poppy from the Trolls, Sponge Bob and lastly, the Grinch.

continued on page 20





Who Were The Shepherds At That First Christmas?

Who were the shepherds that were present at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem has long been a story that has fascinated the masses over the centuries? Even today, in 2020, and with all the nonstop talk of virus es and politics, this ancient question remains a topic of discussion with theologians and historians, especially during this time of year.

Over 2000 years ago, some of the most notable people present after the Baby Jesus was born were the humble shepherds tending to their flocks. These shepherds of the time were considered to be of little importance; almost lowly as far as most people living then were concerned. The shepherds were wandering nomads thought to not even have dwellings to live in but rather actually lived out in the fields with their flocks. This was a lifestyle that existed long before the birth of Christ and still to this day, in parts of the Middle East, nomadic shepherds can be found living pretty much the way they did at the time of the birth of Jesus.

These shepherds have traditionally been without means or influence, yet God chose them over lawyers and scribes and wealthy landowners and other people of great wealth to send a group of Angels to announce that the

Son of God had been born in a manger in the town of David.

As the story of the first Christmas goes, an Angel appeared to the shepherds who were at first terrified at the sight of the Angel. The Angel then said to the shepherds “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born

to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger”. Then other Angels appeared and helped reassure the shepherds. When the Angels had left them, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem to see for themselves, this event that had happened. And they did and found it to be true. They then went in all directions; far and

wide to spread the story of the birth of the Baby Jesus, the Son of God.

It has long been debated why it was shepherds that were chosen by God to be the first to receive the announcement of the birth by the Angels. But most believe that it is because God values all people, no matter what their status in life and chose the most humble and unassuming to be blessed with the good news first.



Christmas Story continued from front page

December 25th as the day of birth of Christ Child, it has gradually come to be celebrated by the non-Catholics as well. Much of the world was already well into Christmas celebrations by the time the United States began to wake up. By 1893 all the states and territories had made similar acknowledgements.

Here is a story of the Birth of Christ Child offering a short tour across the world to know the way Christmas is celebrated in different parts. The whole world goes into the celebration mood during the mid-winters. Long back even before the arrival of Jesus, Europeans started celebrating the light in the gloomiest days of winter.

Norse celebrated Yule from December 21 in Scandinavia. To celebrate the magic of sunlight, fathers and sons used logs and set them on

fire. People around enjoyed these 12 days until the logs were not burned out completely. It was their belief that each fire spark represented a new pig or calf that would be born in the coming year.

Mesopotamians used to celebrate 12 days long New Year festival before 4000 years. This festival was called Zagmuth. The Mesopotamians, believers of multiple deities, started the celebration to honor their chief deity, Marduk. They used to believe that Marduk fought against the monsters of chaos at the onset of each winter season. It was believed that this was the festival where from the 12 days long Christmas had originated.

During mid-winter, German people honored the time-honored Pagan God Oden. People of Germany were afraid of the nocturnal sky flights. They used to think that the Almighty

had created that to observe and monitor his people of this world. They had also thought that the Almighty had the power to decide who would live and who would perish. Many of them decided to stay inside due to his presence.

Saturnalia Rome celebrated holidays in honor of the God of agriculture, Saturn. Beginning in the week leading up to the winter solstice was a special period when residents had bountiful food items and drinks to celebrate with. The month-long celebration had the charm to convert slaves to even masters. Peasants used to control the city. To celebrate the time with fun and frolic all the schools and business organizations had decided to close their shutters.

Juvenalia, the feast honoring the Children of Rome, celebrated during winter solstice, was a prime carnival for Roman people as well. On De-

cember 25, the upper class of Rome used to celebrate the birthday of the infant God of the unconquerable sun, Mithra who was born of a rock.

By the Middle Ages, Christianity had, for the most part, replaced pagan religions. On Christmas, believers attended church, then celebrated raucously in a drunken, carnival-like atmosphere similar to today's Mardi Gras. Each year, a beggar or student would be crowned the “lord of misrule” and eager celebrants played the part of his subjects. The poor would go to the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink. If owners failed to comply, their visitors would most likely terrorize them with mischief. Christmas became the time of year when the upper classes could repay their real or imagined “debt” to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens.

2020 National Wreaths Across America Day Sees the Placement of 1.7 Million Veterans' Wreaths at 2,557 Participating Locations Across the Country



On December 19, 2020, National Wreaths Across America Day at 2,557 participating locations, dedicated Americans in every state honored our nation's heroes by safely placing a total of 1.7 million veterans' wreaths on their headstones and remembering them, by saying each name out loud.

"The 2020 theme for Wreaths Across America has been 'Be an American worth fighting for,' and this year I have been blessed to see my fair share," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "The determination of the American people and their commitment to the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, made it possible for us to move forward this year, safely. We are humbled, and forever grateful for the outpouring of support from all across the country."

Wreaths Across America would like to thank the dedicated volunteers in every state for overcoming the many obstacles presented and remaining focused on the mission over the last year. From the individual Location Coordinators working with local officials on modified wreath placement plans, to the professional truck drivers who have been keeping this country

moving but found time to help deliver these truckloads of respect, each person has played an important part in the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those that serve and their families, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Each live, balsam veteran's wreath is a gift of respect and appreciation, donated by a private citizen or organization and it is placed on graves by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy. For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually. Wreaths Across America believes the tradition represents a living memorial that honors veterans, active duty military and their families and when volunteers say the name of a veteran out loud, when placing a wreath, it ensures they live on in our memory. For more information, visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

For more information or to sponsor a wreath please visit www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Wishing You a Merry Christmas along with A Happy & Safe New Year 2020



3 Locations

106 Dorchester Street - South Boston

10 Commercial Street - Braintree

4252 Washington Street - Roslindale

(All Locations Closed on Christmas Day)



"Like" Us by Buying a Gift Certificate and "Sharing" it with a Friend



South Boston Catholic Academy News

Merry Christmas to all!

From our Principal, Dr. Helennann Civian... This year we can all use some extra holiday cheer so the South Boston Catholic Academy Student Council hosted our first Holiday Spirit Week that began on Monday, December 14. The Student Council members decorated the hallways hoping to spread holiday cheer to all who are near! The students, faculty and staff dressed up to match the theme of the day! We started each day of the week with a Morning Sprite Week Sing-along led by our Music Teacher, Ms. Tynan and some of the Student Council Members. The Student Council, also, raised funds, with raffles, to be able to supply party favors to help all the students have a

Christmas Party in their classrooms.

On Monday, December 14, 2020, the theme was to come to school dressed in your coziest Christmas/Holiday jammies! Three of our Student Council Members in the 4th grade, started our Morning Spirit Week Sing-along off by singing: Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells.

On Tuesday, December 15, 2020, the theme was to come dressed to school as either Santa, his elves, reindeer, or any other Santa related character. Four of the Student Council Members in the 2nd grade, started our Morning Spirit Week Sing-along off by singing: Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer.

On Wednesday, December 16, 2020, the theme was: Dreaming

of a White Christmas and we came dressed up in blues and whites to look like snowflakes. Some of the Student Council Members in the 4th grade, started our Morning Spirit Week Sing-along off by singing Winter Wonderland. We had a school Mass, our Parochial Vicar, Father Christopher Boyle, was the presider and the 6th Grade class did a great job participating at this Mass while the rest of the students and faculty were able to watch this Mass in their classrooms that was livestreamed on the Parish Website. The 6th Graders also did a fantastic job taking part in this year's Christmas Pageant. They were able to record their Christmas Pageant, celebrating Jesus' Birthday, so that the rest of the students were able to see this Christmas Pageant on their Smart Boards in their classrooms.

Since, Thursday, December 17

and 18, 2020, were snow days, we celebrated the traditional Ugly Sweater Day on Monday, December 21 and on the 22 we all took part in a Christmas Prayer Service.

A Big Shout Out to our Student Council Members, Class Representatives and to Ms. Eleanor Tynan for her guidance with this year's Student Council and to Ms. Sarah Hoisl and her wonderful 6th Graders, to Mrs. Denise Moriarty, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction and to all our wonderful families, faculty and staff who worked so hard to make this past school week extra special for all the students at South Boston Catholic Academy.

From all of us at South Boston Catholic Academy, we are all looking forward to Celebrating Jesus' Birthday on Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 and we wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



The Best Christmas Events In Boston 2020

reprinted from [timeout.com](https://www.timeout.com)

It's that most wonderful time of year, even if it's a little different this time around. You can still deck the halls and get festive this holiday season. Whether it's a holiday movie, a seasonal pop-up, a virtual holiday show, or a glittering display of holiday decor, there are plenty of Christmas events in Boston.

Be sure to also check out the many unique holiday markets in Boston, as well as the twinkly Christmas lights in Boston. The holidays are also a great time to check out the best ice skating rinks in Boston and the best hot chocolate in Boston.

1. The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker is one of the season's most beloved traditions, enjoyed by generations. Seeing the Boston Ballet's performance at the Opera House—artistic director Mikko Nissinen's production features opulent Georgian-era sets and costumes—is memorable for all ages. This year, enjoy the production from home on NBC10 across New England. Check listings for dates and times.

2. Holiday Pops

This holiday tradition sees Keith Lockhart leading the Boston Pops in spirited performances of holiday

classics and new arrangements. Usually performed in the seasonally-bedecked Symphony Hall, this year the Holiday Pops concert will be streamed online. See the website for details.

3. Downtown Holiday Magic

This outdoor winter celebration keeps the holiday traditions alive in Downtown Crossing. The Stage Windows installation is a series of prominent storefront window displays created by some of Boston's top arts organizations. Design firm Black Math will transform the Downtown Crossing floral kiosk into a glowing, three-dimensional lantern in celebration of the Winter Solstice. There will even be socially-distanced Santas taking orders from kids via microphone.

Nov 24 - Jan 31

4. Maccabee Bar Pop-Up

This Hanukkah-themed pop-up is the brainchild of award-winning bartender Naomi Levy. Now in its third year, the pop-up will be held at Bow Market's Variety Bar. Enjoy the spirit of Hanukkah with special decor, themed cocktails and traditional bites. Limited outdoor seating is available and reservations are recommended.

Dec 2 - Jan 3

5. Christmas Celtic Sojourn

Brian O'Donovan's A Celtic

Sojourn has entertained WGBH radio audiences since 1986. This Christmastime live version of the show draws on Pagan, Christian and Celtic musical traditions. It's an eclectic blend of accordion, harp, bass and cello performances featuring a top-notch lineup of musicians, Irish step-dancing, and plenty of surprises. This year, the Christmas Celtic Sojourn goes virtual, streaming from partner venues. See website for dates.

6. Snowport at the Seaport

This holiday season, the Boston Seaport has been transformed into Snowport, a magical winter wonderland. Shop for gifts, play games, view festive art and encounter plenty of surprises. Stroll the Winter Wonder Walk and keep an eye out for Betty the Yeti. You can even take curling lessons from the North End Curling Club.

7. Holiday Cheer at Encore Boston Harbor

The horticultural team at Encore Boston Harbor has transformed the property into a Winter Wonderland. Get into the holiday spirit by checking out dozens of Christmas trees, 500 poinsettias, oversized wreaths and garland, ornaments, and snowflakes. Stroll through the cheerful decor free of charge.

Nov 16 - Dec 31

8. GoPixelYourself

This 'instagrammable museum' is an experience for all ages. Themed rooms create multi-dimensional, immersive experiences with innovative camera and motion-activated technology. The carefully curated exhibition will include rooms featuring a 747-jet ready for holiday flight, a virtual blizzard of snowflakes, Santa's sleigh with live Santa visits each weekend, and other magical holiday surprises.

Nov 20 - Jan 1

9. Urban Nutcracker

This unique performance is Tony Williams' reimagining of the classic tale as a Boston inner-city story. Showcasing a broad diversity of dance forms—classical ballet, tap, hip hop, jazz, flamenco, and more—the show follows Ruby and her Nutcracker guide as she explores iconic Boston scenes such as Make Way for Ducklings, Chinatown, and the Boston Public Garden. While the 2020 performance will not take place, you can stream the 2019 performance to relive the magic.

10. Mendon Christmas Drive In

The Mendon Twin Drive In will become the Mendon Christmas Drive In for the holiday season. Every weekend through the end of December, the Drive In will have a double feature of a Christmas Carol Singalong Laser Light Show paired with a holiday movie (Elf, The Santa Clause, Christmas Vacation). Wear your PJs and decorate your cars for extra holiday cheer.

Nov 13 - Dec 31

11. Holiday fun at the Four Seasons Hotel One Dalton Street

Housed in the city's newest skyscraper, Four Seasons Hotel One Dalton Street offers the luxury amenities and fine service the Four Seasons is famous for, all in the heart of the Back Bay. Treat someone special to a visit or overnight stay, and time your arrival to enjoy festival holiday offerings such as "Champagne and Shopping" on Dec 3, 10 and 17 (3pm-8pm); "Wine Down with Julia," a wine series on Friday nights (5pm-9pm); "Mixology with Molly," a cocktail series on Saturday nights (5pm-9pm); and Sunday afternoon tea service (11am-3pm).





This week, Danny gave "Pic's Picks" for Week 16 in the NFL:

I had my worst week of the year in Week 15, going 1-4 against the spread with my picks. On the season, I'm now 36-31-3. At this point, I'm just trying to stay above .500.

We've got two weeks left in the regular season, and I'll be leaning on a few teams that have must-win games in Week 16, with playoff spots and seedings on the line.

Here are my picks for Week 16:

MIAMI DOLPHINS (-3) over Las Vegas Raiders

-With the Buffalo Bills clinching the AFC East, the 9-5 Dolphins have only one route to the playoffs: a Wild Card berth. If the playoffs began after Week 15, Miami would get the final Wild Card spot in the AFC. As the No. 7 seed, they would actually go to Buffalo in the Wild Card round. Problem is, the Dolphins haven't clinched anything yet, mainly because the 9-5 Baltimore Ravens have won three straight and have a pretty easy schedule in the final two weeks of the regular season. Right now, Miami owns the tiebreaker over Baltimore because of a better conference record. This is all a

roundabout way of saying that Saturday night's game against the 7-7 Raiders in Las Vegas is a must win. The Raiders have lost two straight and are still alive for a Wild Card spot as well. But Vegas is now playing with their backup quarterback in Marcus Mariota because of an injury to Derek Carr last week. The Raiders can be beat, and I expect the Dolphins — with the best defense in the NFL, allowing just 18 points per game — to beat them. Give me Miami on the road by a touchdown.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (+1.5) over Indianapolis Colts

-What has happened to the Steelers? A few weeks ago they were the last undefeated team remaining in the NFL. Now, they're 11-3 after losing three straight, including a brutal loss to the lowly Cincinnati Bengals this past Monday night. But as bad as it's looked the last three weeks, Pittsburgh can clinch the AFC North with a win at home over the 10-4 Colts on Sunday at 1 p.m. Indianapolis hasn't clinched anything yet, but if the playoffs began today, they'd get a Wild Card spot as the No. 6 seed, and

would be playing the Steelers in Pittsburgh in the Wild Card round. So this could very well be a playoff preview. I think the Steelers will snap out of it and win a close one. Pittsburgh by a field goal.

BALTIMORE RAVENS (-11) over New York Giants

-The 9-5 Ravens covered for me last week as a 13-point favorite with a 40-14 win over the Jaguars. That's two straight games that Baltimore has scored 40 points. The Ravens know that they need to win out to have a chance of getting into the playoffs as a Wild Card team. They should have no problem with the 5-9 Giants on Sunday at 1 in Baltimore. New York has lost two straight, and they may or may not be playing with their backup QB again in this game. The Giants are still alive for a playoff spot because the NFC East is brutal. But Baltimore is just the much better team, top to bottom. The question isn't whether or not the Ravens will win. It's, by how much will the Ravens win by? I think they cover for me again. Give me Baltimore by two touchdowns.

GREEN BAY PACKERS (-3.5) over Tennessee Titans

-This game is in Green Bay on Sunday night in primetime. If Seattle loses to the Rams earlier in the day — which they could — then the 11-3 Packers can clinch the No. 1 seed and a first-round bye in the NFC with a win over the 10-4 Titans, who are still trying to clinch their division and a playoff spot. The Titans have won two straight. The Packers have won four straight. People might think I'm crazy saying this, but this is a potential Super Bowl preview. Both teams are playing for something. But I'll take the Packers to win by a touchdown and clinch a first-round bye.

LOCK OF THE WEEK:
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-10.5) over Atlanta Falcons

-The 13-1 Chiefs have won nine straight and can clinch a first-round by and the No. 1 seed in the AFC with a win over the 4-10 Falcons who have been eliminated from playoff contention. This game is Sunday at 1 in Kansas City. The Chiefs can smell that No. 1 seed. They score 40 and win by 30.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.



**649 EAST BROADWAY
SOUTH BOSTON
617-752-4729**

NO MORE WAITING IN LINE!

BOOKING YOUR BARBERSHOP APPOINTMENT
HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER



**SCAN QR CODE WITH
YOUR CAMERA PHONE
OR BOOK ONLINE**

LUXURYBOXBARBERSHOP.COM



OPEN!

501 East Eighth Street, South Boston, MA 02127

Thursday & Sunday 10:00 am – 10:00 pm
Friday & Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 am
 Serving full menu till 8:00 pm - Revised menu after 8:00 pm

www.shamrockpubboston.com

SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS OFFICIALLY ELIMINATED FROM PLAYOFF CONTENTION

SBT Staff

In case you needed to be slapped in the face with reality during these abnormal times, the New England Patriots' dynasty is officially over after being eliminated from playoff contention with a 22-12 loss to the Dolphins in Miami on Sunday.

Next up for the Pats is a Week 16 game against the Bills this Monday night, followed by the season finale on Sunday, Jan. 3. Both games are at Gillette Stadium.

For New England, neither game matters, as they'll miss the playoffs for the first time since 2008. That was the year Tom Brady tore his ACL in Week 1. This time around, Brady is

in Tampa Bay leading the 9-5 Buccaneers into the playoffs, while Cam Newton and the Patriots are wondering what's to come in 2021.

The top storylines heading into the offseason for New England will be the quarterback situation, offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels' in more head coaching rumors, and the future of banged-up veterans like cornerback Stephon Gilmore and wide receiver Julian Edelman.

The short-term answer at quarterback should be to give 24-year-old Jarrett Stidham the start in each of the last two games this season, then go from there. Newton will be 32 next season. He only signed a one-year

deal with the Patriots. Bill Belichick shouldn't feel any type of attachment to a guy who clearly can't throw the way he used to, having thrown only five touchdowns while throwing 10 interceptions in 13 games this season.

As for McDaniels, if he gets the right opportunity, the time for him to leave New England is right now.

And with Gilmore and Edelman, both players are in their 30's, are dealing with injuries, and have one year left on their contracts. Edelman will make less money than Gilmore, but seeing that Gilmore tore his quad last week against the Dolphins, the Patriots might not be able to get full value in return for the All-Pro cornerback's services.

CELTICS BEGIN 2020-21 SEASON AT HOME

SBT Staff

The Boston Celtics are back at the Garden.

Last season ended inside a bubble in Orlando, as the Celtics lost to the Miami Heat in six games in the Eastern Conference Finals, in September. Now, a new 72-game regular season begins, as Boston hosts the Milwaukee Bucks on

Wednesday night, Dec. 23, inside an empty TD Garden.

The C's will follow that up by hosting Kyrie Irving and the Brooklyn Nets on Christmas Day.

Only the first half of the NBA schedule has been released thus far, with a six-day All-Star break beginning on March 5. The league is said to release the second half of

the schedule shortly before the first half ends.

The Celtics enter the new season with the fourth-best odds of winning the 2020-21 NBA Championship, at +1300. The defending champion Los Angeles Lakers are the favorite, at +275. In between are the Los Angeles Clippers and Milwaukee Bucks each with the second-best odds at +550, and the Brooklyn Nets with the third-best odds to win it all at +600.

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL FRIDAY, DEC. 25
Minnesota at New Orleans (-7)
4:30 P.M. FOX/NFLN

SATURDAY, DEC. 26
Tampa Bay (-9.5) at Detroit
1 P.M. NFLN

SUNDAY, DEC. 27
Tennessee at Green Bay (-3.5)
8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, DEC. 28
Buffalo (-7) at New England
8:15 P.M. ESPN

NBA FRIDAY, DEC. 25
Brooklyn at Boston
5 P.M. ABC

SUNDAY, DEC. 27
Boston at Indiana
8 P.M. NBCSB

Tweet of the Week



Boston Bruins @NHLBruins
Two #ReverseRetro jerseys are better than one.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SET FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

SBT Staff

After a somewhat wacky start to the college football season under unique Covid-related circumstances, a traditional end to the season is expected, with a four-team playoff beginning on Friday, Jan. 1, resulting in the National Championship on Monday, Jan. 11.

Those four teams have been announced. Alabama is the No. 1 seed, Clemson is the No. 2 seed, Ohio State is the No. 3 seed, and Notre Dame is the No. 4 seed.

No. 1 Alabama will take on No. 4 Notre Dame in the Rose Bowl Game on Jan. 1 at 4 p.m. Because of rising Covid-19 cases and more shutdowns in southern California, the game has been moved to AT&T Stadium in Texas.

Then, in the second semi-final game on Jan. 1, No. 2 Clemson will take on No. 3 Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl at 8 p.m. That game will be held inside the Superdome in New Orleans.

The National Championship will take place at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami at 8 p.m. on Jan. 11.



PLAY FOR FREE WITH PROMO CODE: PIC

**Santa pays a visit continued from page 13**

Don't worry though because Commissioner Gross, Mayor Walsh and C-6 all made sure the Grinch was behaving and couldn't steal Christmas from the boys and girls of South Boston.

This was such a great, well organized, fun community event. Volunteers from the Tynan, Condon, Boys & Girls Club and local community members chipped in to make this event special. Santa was certainly impressed and perhaps Haley Dillon will find a special present under the tree this year. Ho, Ho, Ho, and To All A Good Night!

