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It has been a tough year for local small businesses amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Restrictions in Massachusetts have resulted in shutdowns, event cancellations and far fewer in-store shoppers than retailers would normally see. In a quote to NBC News, "It is tough," said Charlotte Walsh, who has owned Charles River Running in

CONTINUED ON page 6

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# EDITORIAL

## Despite A Rough Year, South Boston Is Ready For Some Christmas Cheer

No one needs to be reminded that 2020 has been a rough year. It's been a strange year as well. Because of the virus issue, the social lives of millions of Americans, including thousands of South Bostonians, have been all but put on hold. Our cherished traditional holidays have been pretty much absent, as far as celebrating them and, as a result, sadness and even

depression has been slowly creeping in for some.

Well, now that Thanksgiving has come and gone, the big finale at the end of each year is upon us and of course it is called the Christmas Season. But the way we see it, and what appears to be how many of our neighbors and fellow residents also see it, we need a celebration.

Everywhere you look in our small but crowded community,

the signs of Christmas are popping up. The decorations are being dusted off and hung with care, the brilliant lights are appearing on front doors and the railings of people's homes and Christmas trees being brought in on car rooftops are becoming a common and frequent sight. The city sponsored Christmas trees have gone up on East and West Broadway and holiday music and movies fill the airwaves just about

24/7. To repeat the lyrics of that famous seasonal favorite – 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' and that's a good thing.

This is a festive and even magical season; especially for the children and its important that the tradition be enthusiastically celebrated by all of those, who look forward to it each year. Yes, we've missed out on quite a bit in 2020, but we can do our best to make up for it

now, in what is considered by so many people as 'The most wonderful time of the year'. Lord knows we all deserve it.



*"Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room" - Nora Roberts*

## Half Price Hot Dogs On The Menu

*Sullivan's At Castle Island  
Open Until December 31st*

If anything positive came out of the Covid/Virus situation, it was that something new had been added in regard to dining out in South Boston. Up and down Broadway, restaurants became creative and set up inviting accommodations – Outdoors, that resembled the type that can be found in cities in different parts of the country and even around the world. It was nice and enjoyed by many residents and visitors to our community. But alas, it's over. Well, almost. Though the tables and chairs have been pulled from the streets and outdoor dining is over for the season, those who enjoy eating in the fresh air can still go to that old standby – Sully's.

This year, Sullivan's Restaurant at Castle Island, to the delight of it's customers, has decided to remain open until December 31st, rather than close Thanksgiving week. This is a first for



this favorite landmark and the idea is being well received. And as a special bonus, they are still selling their famous 'snapper dogs' at half price. People travel for many miles for a Sully's hot dog as well as for the other great items on their delicious menu.

So, if you enjoy sitting outside enjoying a tasty meal; even if the temperature drops into the frigid category, don't forget, Sullivan's is still open and will be until the last day of 2020. Don't forget those great Sully gifts for friends and family here and afar; sweatshirts, teeshirts, baseball caps, etc. . . collars and leashes for our furry friends and the famous Sully gift certificate. So see, there are some good things happening in 2020.

## Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town!

Whether you have been naughty or nice, enjoy a neighborhood visit from Santa as he rides an antique fire truck and waves to his favorite children while distributing candy canes from his Santa Chute. Santa's elf will be driving him along East and West Broadway and look for his country music friend, Anna Daley Young, making a South Boston debut on Thursday, December 3rd, between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, stopping in front of the Christmas trees and at the following locations:

**4:30 PM – Medal of Honor Park**

**4:45 Library on East Broadway**

**5:15 West Broadway Municipal Parking Lot**

**5:30 Corner of C Street and West Broadway**

**Due to social distancing restrictions, Santa is unable to get off of the fire truck to interact with the children this year. Please be responsible – wear a mask and social distance!**

Please be sure to support your Southie small business community by shopping and dining locally this holiday season! On Thursday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th take part in the Southie Holiday Spree. Enjoy these fun-filled days with incredible savings at more than 30 local retail establishments, restaurants and salons throughout South Boston.

Visit: [SouthBostonChamber.org/shop-local](https://SouthBostonChamber.org/shop-local), for a list of participating businesses Follow us on social media for details of upcoming holiday activities, and promotions.

Facebook: [SouthBostonChamberofCommerce](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBostonChamberofCommerce)

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# The Information Center

## We WILL Have Christmas

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

“If the lockdown worked the first time, why are we having another? If the lockdown DIDN’T work the first time, why are we having another? These are questions being asked a lot in recent weeks as the Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker is said to be contemplating even more restrictions, including another lockdown. And because so many people are asking the 2 above questions, it’s a good bet that there will be far fewer people who will pay attention to any new such dictate.

New edicts are said to possibly contain even more restrictions on small businesses, as if they are not hurting enough now. But what really has so many people saying they have had enough of this, is something that will NOT be restricted by the new rules and that is ‘political expression’. Now, as Americans have come to learn, when you have a left leaning, liberal governor – don’t let the ‘R’ next to the name fool you, ‘political expression’ translated is that the radicals in BLM and Antifa can march through the streets by the hundreds. They will march, crowded together shoulder to shoulder, shouting their anti-American chants and issuing threats, and that is apparently fine. But if you want to stay in a restaurant having dinner after 10pm or gather with family in your own homes, well no, that’s not allowed.

I’ve stated this before, but why should anyone believe what they are being told about the spreading of the virus and how to combat it, when none of these experts seem to actually know what they are talking about? Masks work we’re told, then they don’t and then they do. Some reports by doctors have stated that wearing a mask could actually be harmful.

But we are warned that, even though they’re not really sure masks are helpful or harmful, you had better wear one anyway or else. When they keep changing their stories by the week, how can we trust them?

It is now clear to many that there are some people on power trips, who would like nothing better than to have the Covid scare go on indefinitely. They really don’t want it to end. They are addicted to the control they think they should have over the lives of average Americans. We are witnessing a frantic media campaign telling us that the new cases are spiking through the roof. Is it true this time? How do we really know that they are not, once again, listing Covid for the cause of death when people die from heart attacks, car accidents, cancer or even snake bites as was exposed a few months back? And here is another question being asked: Why do we get a constant and daily updated drum beat of what they say the numbers of new cases and deaths are, but they seem to be making it a point to never mention how many recover? Think about it. When have we seen the recovery numbers?

If you walk the streets of South Boston, it’s not going unnoticed that people are putting up their Christmas decorations earlier this year. And not just here in Southie, It’s happening everywhere. The Christmas trees could be seen through the windows of many homes even before Thanksgiving. It’s a pretty sight to be sure. People are starved for something to celebrate and they are determined that they will have Christmas. One resident I spoke to, expressing the feelings of many others put it this way: “People are allowed to protest

and riot by the thousands, but we couldn’t have St. Patrick’s Day; they wouldn’t let us go to church on Easter, no parades on Memorial Day, no fireworks on the 4th of July. Halloween was a no go, and they did everything they could to ruin Thanksgiving. And now they are saying we had better tone down our Christmas. But this is where I draw the line” said the determined local woman.

“NO one is taking our Christmas!” That seems to be a growing sentiment; especially when so many are now questioning the com-

petence, the credibility and even the motives and honesty of those calling the shots about the virus.

Personally, I’m a firm believer that people need to do what they feel is best for themselves and certainly for their families. And I for one, like a growing number of you, refuse to live in fear and hide. But I respect the rights of others who feel differently than I do. It’s their choice. I intend to celebrate the Christmas season with family members and willing friends. If others don’t, it’s their right to do what they feel they must.

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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.

### State lawmakers reach deal on police reform bill

State lawmakers are poised today to finally take action on police reforms, following yesterday's release of compromise legislation that would create a statewide police certification program, restrict no-knock warrants, ban chokeholds and neck restraints, and bar use of deadly force unless de-escalation tactics have been tried first. But the 129-page bill largely sidesteps the contentious issue of qualified police immunity, creating a new commission to further study the issue. SHNS's Chris Lisinski and Sam Doran (pay wall), MassLive's Steph Solis, the Globe's Matt Stout and Commonwealth's Sarah Betancourt have more on what's being described as landmark reform legislation.

### Methuen police chief: Dispenser of patronage and favors

Speaking of police, Methuen city councilors approved one of the most

lucrative contracts ever given to a police chief in the United States. And then ... suddenly some councilors nabbed police department jobs while relatives won key department promotions. Just a coincidence? The Globe's Andrea Estes has more on an outside auditor's findings on Methuen's finest.

In other local police-contract news, from the Herald: "Walsh's administration no-shows City Council discussion of police contracts."

### Next up after police reforms: A new state budget?

Here's another major piece of legislation that lawmakers are hoping to tackle in coming days: The state's fiscal 2021 budget. And it's a race against time before the state runs out of authority to spend money. SHNS's Sam Doran has more.

### CCC approves controversial pot delivery system, setting up legal clash with marijuana retailers

As expected, the Cannabis Control Commission yesterday approved regulations creating a new class of marijuana delivery licenses that allow mostly minority business owners to buy pot from wholesalers and re-sell it directly to consumers. The next expected action: A legal challenge from bricks-and-mortar pot retailers, who say the CCC is overstepping its legal authority. SHNS's Colin Young (pay wall) and the BBJ's Jessica Bartlett have more.

### Thank goodness: No reefer madness outbreak since pot legalization

Speaking of marijuana, Commonwealth's Shria Schoenberg, in the second of a two-part series, reports that some of the worst fears about legalizing pot haven't come to pass, including big upticks in violent crime, impaired driving, and youth usage. In other words, no reefer 'apocalypse.'

## Stay Aware South Boston

The Leader Bank on Northern Avenue in Southie was robbed on November 21st at approximately 9:30 am. A white male, described as being of medium build, medium height and of light complexion approached the teller and demanded money. He was said to have told the teller that he had a gun, but no gun was shown and there was no evidence that he actually had one. At this time, South Boston Today has received no information of an arrest being made in connection and a suspect has not yet been identified according to one police source.

If anyone has information regarding the identity of the robber, they are being asked to contact the Boston Police detectives investigating the case at 781-751-9312.

Also: Did you know that there is a program in place which could provide money as a reward for

information leading to the arrest of people who commit bank robbery? It's called the 'Mass Most Wanted Program'. This is a fund has been created by a coalition of banks to reward citizens who step forward with accurate information about the suspects that commit bank robbery. For more information on the Mass Most Wanted Program you can contact the Boston Police Department.

### Disabled Woman in Wheel Chair Assaulted near Andrew Square

MBTA Transit Police have reported that they have arrested 26 year old Tasheeka Buchanan of Dorchester for the assault of a 61 year old disabled woman in a wheel chair. It was alleged that Buchanan and the disabled woman got into a verbal exchanged when Buchanan pulled the older woman out of her wheel chair and then proceeded to kick her in the head while she was on the ground.



The assault took place last Wednesday, November 25th, at around 9:30 pm near the Andrew Square T station in South Boston.

Buchanan has been charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (Shod Foot) and assault and battery on a disabled person. The victim was treated at the scene by EMT First Responders. There are no reports as to her condition as of this time.

### CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. SU20P2158EA

**Commonwealth Of Massachusetts**

**The Trial Court**

**Probate and Family Court**

**Estate of: Brian Keith Lee**

**Date of Death: 10/25/2020**

Suffolk Probate and Family Court

24 New Chardon Street

Boston, MA 02114 (617) 788-8300

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been

filed by

**Robert Lee of Stoughton 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:

**Robert Lee of Stoughton MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without 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 12/30/2020.**

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.**

November 18, 2020

Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

**December 3, 2020**



# Flynn Hearing On Pedestrian Safety

**B**oston City Councilor Ed Flynn held a hearing last week to discuss pedestrian safety and infrastructure improvements, traffic enforcement, and speeding cars as a Public Health Emergency. This was a joint hearing on the two hearing orders filed by Councilor Flynn and his co-sponsors on this issue: one was on pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement, and Vision Zero, while the other one was to discuss speeding cars as a public health emergency. The hearing was attended by officials from the Boston Transportation Department, as well as transportation advocates and concerned residents.

The hearing was held in response to serious and fatal car crashes that happened in recent weeks in various parts of the city. Two pedestrians were fatally struck by vehicles in South Boston, one at Andrew Square

and another on First St, and another pedestrian was struck by a pickup truck at the entrance of the Public Garden when the truck crashed into a stone pillar. Last month, there were four separate incidents in just one week where cars crashed into buildings or light poles in South Boston - on L St, East Broadway, West Broadway, and on Old Colony Ave - causing not only injuries, but also displacing families and businesses. In Dorchester, there was a motor vehicle crash that resulted in an SUV rollover with a baby inside, as well two pedestrians struck while in the crosswalk during broad daylight - both on the same day.

In the hearing, Councilor Flynn highlighted the importance of pedestrian safety, and advocated to recognize speeding cars and road safety as a public health emergency, so that traffic safety

will be provided the urgency needed to make the infrastructure improvements required to address this public health and safety issue. He also spoke about the need for changes to concurrent signals that give both pedestrians and vehicles the right of way at the same time, as well the need for speed enforcement. The Boston Transportation Department for their part highlighted some of the ongoing projects that they are working on in key corridors in the city, including reducing lanes, expanding bike networks, and updating pedestrian crossings.

"Pedestrian safety is one of the most critical issues we face in the City of Boston, and this hearing was an opportunity to continue our advocacy for traffic calming measures and safer streets," said Councilor Flynn. "To prevent the serious and fatal crashes we've unfortunately witnessed in our city, it



will take a constant focus on infrastructure improvements like speed humps, raised crosswalks and road diets, as well as lowering the speed limit in our residential neighborhoods and enforcement."

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

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## Go Local continued from front page

Norwood for nine years. “There are no marathons. No road races.”

As the coronavirus pandemic has triggered shutdowns and restrictions across the state, a staggering number of small businesses in Massachusetts have closed their doors amid plummeting revenues, according to Harvard researchers. The number of Bay State small businesses that are still open has dropped by 37%, since the start of the year, the researchers at Opportunity Insights estimate on their Economic Tracker. Total small business revenue has nosedived by 44% compared to January.

“Massachusetts is seeing the same sort of national pattern with the economic crisis hitting smaller businesses particularly hard,” Sebi Devlin-Foltz, on the Opportunity Insights’ policy team, told the Boston Herald on Monday. “Most people are staying home and not spending as much,” said Devlin-Foltz, adding, “There has been a lot of spending for online retailers.

That’s going through the roof.”

Certain small businesses have been harder hit than others, including and especially restaurants. While the total number of open small businesses has decreased by 37%, the leisure and hospitality industry has seen a 55% crash. Revenue in that industry has plunged 64%. Reduced capacities and limited hours in restaurants are having a major impact, said National Federation of Independent Business Massachusetts State Director, Christopher Carlozzi.

“These businesses need to remain open and operating,” he added. “We can’t be rolling back at this point. The financial implications will be dire... We don’t want dark storefronts on our Main Streets.” Small business closures have been more dramatic in cities, including in Boston — where the number of open small businesses has plummeted by 44% since the start of the year. Total small business revenue in Boston has cratered by 52%. Many restaurants

have shut down across the city. “It’s a ripple effect with people not coming into Boston on a daily basis for work, not grabbing a coffee in the morning, or a salad at lunch,” Carlozzi said. “People aren’t going into the office and doing things that are associated with a normal workday.”

Downtown Boston was empty on Monday, November 3, Jon Hurst of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts said after his train ride with very few people aboard. Hurst said it’s critical to urge consumers to shop and dine locally. They need to know that they can do it safely with masking, sanitizing and social distancing, he stressed.

Another key is the federal government passing a relief package for small businesses, he added. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) money has dried up, and businesses are dealing with higher costs because of the pandemic along with lower sales. “We need the government to step up and deliver more of a lifeline to give

them an opportunity for survival into next year,” Hurst said.

Massachusetts is trying to provide support with the My Local MA campaign, which encourages people to shop at the 700,000 local businesses and restaurants across the Commonwealth. “We’re saying, please we need your help, now more than ever,” said Keiko Matsudo Orrall, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. “Make one change. Make one purchase. Make one Christmas gift or holiday gift from a local store.” Like so many things in 2020, Black Friday shopping was different, but people say they understand the COVID restrictions in place, including masks and social distancing.

Small business owners know the next few months will be critical and are optimistic that the economy will improve in the spring. “Just try and get to a good place with inventory so we can hunker down in February and March,” Charlotte Walsh said.

## FREE PARKING AT METERS ON SATURDAYS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

**A**s a way to support Boston’s small businesses during the holiday season, Mayor Martin J. Walsh today announced that the City of Boston will provide two hours of free parking at the city’s 8,000 metered spaces on Saturdays during the holiday season, beginning this Saturday, November 28 (Small Business Saturday). Parking meters are located throughout Boston’s downtown, as well as in several of the city’s residential neighborhoods that host commercial districts, including Boston’s Main Streets.

The City is also offering a holiday discount for the Bluebikes bike-sharing program, including a 30 percent discount on annual memberships on Monday, November 30 (Cyber Monday). Additionally, free 90-day passes are still available for employees in retail shops and restaurants in Boston. These efforts build on the City’s ongoing commitment to support small

businesses that have been hit hardest during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“While shopping during the holiday season will look different this year, we are doing more than ever to help our small businesses get through a very difficult time,” said Mayor Walsh. “Our small businesses contribute so much to our local economy, and I encourage everyone to shop safely and shop local this year.”

Two hours of free parking at metered spaces will be offered in Boston on the following days:

- Saturday, November 28 (Small Business Saturday)
- **Saturday, December 5**
- **Saturday, December 12**
- **Saturday, December 19**
- **Saturday, December 26**

While payment at meters will not be required on these five days, the time limit on the meters will be in effect. The purpose of this is to allow as many customers as possible a chance to take advantage of this opportunity.

“We are pleased to provide this incentive for Boston residents to shop locally this holiday season,” said Boston Transportation Department Commissioner Greg Rooney. “Parking meters are located throughout several of Boston’s neighborhood commercial districts, and I encourage drivers to take advantage of this opportunity.”

The City is asking everyone who partici-



pates in in-person shopping this weekend and this holiday season to take steps to stay safe from COVID-19, including: wearing a face covering in public, staying 6 feet apart from others whenever possible, avoiding crowds and crowded places, bringing an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and washing your hands often, and staying home if you are sick. The City is also encouraging shoppers to consider alternative, safer options including shopping online, using contactless services, such as curbside pick-up, and shopping in open air markets.

# Councilor Flynn to Hold Hearing on Construction Safety this Friday

**B**oston City Councilor Ed Flynn will be chairing a virtual hearing regarding safety of construction sites this Friday, December 4th, at 11:30am. Councilor Flynn filed this hearing order to discuss the existing safety procedures and precautions at construction sites due to tragedies, accidents and fires in recent years that have impacted workers, neighbors and pedestrians. In the age of COVID-19, this hearing will also place an emphasis on ways that the City can ensure the protection and well-being of our workers and residents as we continue to be in the midst of a pandemic.



In recent years, the City of Boston has been experiencing an unprecedented building boom, with large scale construction sites in various neighborhoods. These

sites have heavy machinery, tall cranes, and the equipment that is in close proximity to their workers, as well as our residents, our workforce, pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists. Construction workers are often at high risk of suffering occupational injuries and fatalities, and according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 20.7% of worker fatalities were in the construction industry in 2017.

We have unfortunately witnessed several accidents in recent years of injured or even killed construction workers, including an incident where a construction worker was struck and killed by equipment while setting up “First Night” celebrations in Boston late December last year. As we are also still dealing with the pandemic, we also need to ensure that our construction workers are provided with the adequate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while on the job. It is therefore critical that

we ensure the safety of our construction workers, as well as our residents and workforce, that we make sure that safety procedures and precautions are adhered to at these worksites.

“Construction workers are a critical part of our workforce in the city, and it is imperative that our these sites have the appropriate measures in place to ensure their health and safety, especially in the age of COVID-19,” said Councilor Flynn. “Moreover, we need to ensure that construction sites and equipment are secured, and that there are strict measures in place to prevent any accidents that can harm pedestrians, motorists, and neighbors. I look forward to working with city officials and safety advocates on this issue.”

For more information on the hearing, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/13674681>, or contact Councilor Flynn’s office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

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# The Wine Guy

## The Home Stretch

I seem to say it every year about this time: “where did the year go?”, only this year, I’d like to add, “I don’t know, but wherever it went, I hope it never comes back!”. In any event, whether you’re planning just family-type events or digital gatherings of family and friends, here are some wines that I hope will make whatever type of gathering you’re having as “Christmasy” as possible...

Here’s one that you may have seen in the store, but haven’t tried yet, possibly because of its off-putting name. **Frisk Prickly Riesling, Victoria, Australia, (\$9.99)**, is a naturally sparkling wine that’s crisp and refreshing,

with notes of lemon and pineapple and a sweet and spicy medium-bodied finish. This is a great wine for spicy appetizers and finger foods, like potstickers, Crab Rangoon, as well as main dishes like Pork Roast with a Cayenne pepper/honey crust or Basil Chicken with extra peppers. Versatile and a value, you’d do well to have a case on hand for the Holidays.

If you love reds like I do, you probably like to have a good Pinot Noir around, whether it’s for Roast Beef or Turkey. The **2018 Decoy Limited Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir, Sonoma, California, (\$24.99)** is just the thing. Crafted using grapes from the finest Pinot Noir regions on the Sonoma Coast, including the Russian River Valley, Green Valley, and Carneros, this alluring wine combines silky sophistication with a bright cool-climate energy. On the palate, soaring flavors of blackberry, red currant, cherry, cedar, and sweet baking spices glide to a long, vibrant finish. This wine dazzles with aromas and flavors of pure red fruits and mineral notes. Enjoy it with grilled salmon, alongside mild chiles and crushed black peppercorns.

Every year about this time, I like to point out that some of the



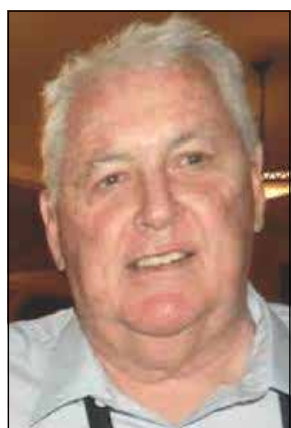
best white sparkling wines in the whole country are grown right here in Massachusetts, along the South Coast at Westport Rivers Vineyards. Winemaker and second-generation owner Rob Russell has sought to ensure that all the wines produced here are made using sustainable methods and unfiltered, or “ancient” techniques from Burgundy and Champagne. This year, in addition to their staple, **2009 Westport Rivers Brut RJR**, (a bargain, by the way, at \$20.99/bottle), they produced a new, Prosecco style wine, **Farm-er’s Fizz** (\$16.99). This one is a classic-tart, with citrus and lemon notes, it’s pleasant finish and “sparkle” makes it a natural for any part of the meal-aperitif, main course or dessert.

**Domaine Yves Martin Chavi-**

**gnol Sancerre 2019 Sauvignon Blanc**, Sancerre, Loire, France, is the embodiment of finely crafted wine. Marked by its charming hilltop village in the easternmost territory of the Loire, Sancerre is famous for its racy, vivacious, citrus-dominant Sauvignon blanc. Its enormous popularity in 1970s French bistros led to its success as the go-to restaurant white around the globe in the 1980s. In the town of Chavignol, the Martin family make powerful, yet elegant Sancerre. Structured notes of citrus, lemongrass and minerals are all wrapped up in a delicious mouthfeel, filled by a long, strong finish. This wine will complement any white meat, as well as many types of seafood. So have at it!

**Talk To The Wine Guy at**  
**jdris8888@gmail.com**

## I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

Doubt in the minds of those concerning the results of this election has cast a dark shadow across this nation. Consequently, millions and millions of

Americans who voted for President Trump have lost faith in the election process.

Was there voter fraud? How widespread was it? We don’t know and may never know, but division has once again reared its ugly head. Like it or not, many people simply do not believe the election was legit. That it was rigged. And they are not going to change their minds unless changes are effectuated.

I get it. The winning side has declared there wasn’t any widespread voter fraud (which thus far hasn’t been proven by the losers) just the usual hiccups found in every election which allegedly doesn’t have an impact on election results.

Yet I still don’t trust the universal mail-in ballot system. Ballot harvesting shouldn’t be legal. Votes shouldn’t be bought. Absentee ballots should be scrutinized to prove their validity and authentic-

ity. People should show an ID when voting, something we need for everything else we do in this world. Otherwise, it leaves the door wide open for devious people to play the system and gain power illegally.

Congress loves to hold congressional hearings about everything else under the sun, so it would be the right move to begin a new chapter concerning the issue of election integrity. For four years the Dems screamed Russian interference in the 2016 election. It was investigated and so should the results of the 2020 election be put under a microscope for dissection. Let them investigate voter suppression, as well as the role of social media censorship, fake polling predictions, and relentless media bias, which colluded in unison to interfere with the election outcome, merely other forms of voter suppression exposed in plain sight.

“Voting is the most precious right of every citizen, and we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of our voting process,” said Hillary Clinton, not long ago.

She was right.

And there it is in a nutshell.

We have a moral obligation to make sure that this voting process is fair because our faith in this matter has been shaken to its core and might never regain its composure if something isn’t done to restore belief in the integrity of our elections.

The late Soviet tyrant, Joseph Stalin, who ruled with a deadly fist for decades, once said that “The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything.” Stalin was correct.

But that was in the former USSR.

I’d hate to think that could possibly be our future in the USA.



# MAYOR WALSH APPOINTS AISHA MILLER AS CHIEF OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



**M**ayor Martin J. Walsh announced the appointment of Aisha Miller as the Chief of Civic Engagement for the City of Boston, effective Monday, December 7, 2020. The Civic Engagement Cabinet is composed of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Mayor's Office of Public Service and Community Outreach, Boston 311, and SPARK Boston and is dedicated to the efficient and effective delivery of City services, as well as creating opportunities for Boston residents to participate with local government. Miller is currently the Assistant Commissioner of Constituent

Services for the Boston Inspectional Service Department (ISD).

"Aisha brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in civic engagement to this new role, and I am proud and excited to appoint her as my Chief of Civic Engagement," said Mayor Walsh. "Managing the Constituent Services Division at ISD required building relationships with the community, outside stakeholders and various city agencies to ensure each Boston resident is afforded the best quality of life. I am confident that she will also excel in this new role and all City departments will benefit from having

her as a Cabinet Chief."

"I am excited and esteemed by this opportunity to lead one of the essential departments in the City of Boston that connects to all Boston residents. I look forward to continuing the initiatives spearheaded by Chief Jerome Smith and creating new initiatives under the leadership of Mayor Martin J. Walsh," said Aisha Miller. "I was born and raised in Mattapan, enriched with families and hard-working parents like my mother that instilled values in their children. Moments like these prove to young people of color that opportunities are at their fingertips through hard work and dedication. For me, it's simple; a girl from Mattapan has the chance to give back to the people who have prepared her for this moment."

Aisha will take the role of Jerome Smith, who served as director of the Office of Neighborhood Services and Chief of Civic Engagement for over six years. Current Chief of Staff for the Civic Engagement Cabinet, Edward M. McGuire III, will assume the role of Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services effective Monday, December 7, 2020. Faiza Shariff was recently appointed as the Deputy Director of ONS.

Jerome Smith's last day working at the City of Boston will be Friday, December 4, 2020. As Chief of Civic Engagement and

Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services, he advised the Mayor on efforts to preserve and enhance the quality of services delivered to residents, including overseeing Mayor Walsh's Civic Academies and NEW (Neighborhood Engagement Walks) Boston, developing neighborhood partnerships, resolving problems related to code enforcement, rebranding and managing Boston 311, and spearheading Mayor Walsh's Problem Properties Task Force, Fireworks Task Force, and Police Reform Task Force.

"Jerome has been an integral part of my team for many years, and greatly contributed to the continual improvement of delivering City services," said Mayor Walsh. "It has truly been a pleasure to work with him and we wish him the best in his future endeavors."

"It was a privilege to serve the City of Boston under the Walsh administration doing such meaningful work as the Chief of Civic Engagement and Director of Neighborhood Services," said Jerome Smith. "I was dedicated to bridging the gaps between our communities and local government as I firmly believed that it is only by strengthening our neighborhoods that we can succeed as a city. With the support of the Mayor, my excellent staff and I were able to improve the delivery of services to constituents and to find innovative and meaningful ways in which to engage the residents of Boston. I am confident that the Cabinet will continue to do incredible work."



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# South Boston Catholic Academy News

SBT Staff Report

Each year we usually gather, as a school community, in the School Gym for our Thanksgiving Prayer Service and we give Thanks to God for our many blessings. This year, being as it is, the school conducted this annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service over the intercom system so that all the students could still participate in this prayer service while being in their individual classrooms.

Students in grade 6 and grade 3 did a wonderful job of leading us all in this Thanksgiving Prayer Service by saying prayers of Thanksgiving to God, praying for all those who help us each day and for those in need of our prayers, especially during this very chal-

lenging year of the pandemic.

Students in K0 made some terrific turkey decorations for their families. Students in K2C were ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, too. Thumbs up for Turkey Day!

The children in first grade learned how grateful the pilgrims were when they landed at Plymouth Bay and they thanked God they finally made it to land. We also talked about how everyone worked together to start their new lives and were thankful for the food and shared with each other. Examples of how our students show evidence of living their faith.

It's that time of year when our children think of what they have and how other people aren't as lucky as them. They talk about how they are grateful that they have certain people in

their lives and the other gifts God has given them. The children composed a Prayer of Thanks to God for all He has given us.

After the children were done, we put them on our classroom door so they could be shared with everyone.

All the children at South Boston Catholic Academy decorated place-mats for the people at the senior centers for their Thanksgiving. The seniors appreciate the thought and they always enjoy looking at the work that our young children do! Our students also donated toys to the Marine Toys for Tots Program. They were excited to be part of this "gift giving!"

They couldn't believe all the toys when they saw them lined up in the gym ready to be collected.

Fourth grade worked on their Fourth Grade Gratitude Journal tuning into what they truly felt grateful

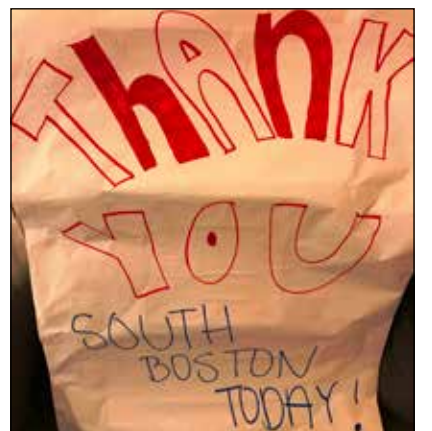
to God for in their lives. Over the course of three weeks, the children used their 5 senses to think about one thing in every 24 hours that touched their hearts. The students wrote about the warmth of cuddling with a pet or the taste of hot chocolate on a cold and wintry day. Often, they felt grateful to God for the help they received from a family member or the smell of brownies baking and in the oven. After journaling for 3 weeks, each student assembled a book to give to their families that was held by an adorable turkey. In grade four, giving thanks to God became a morning ritual; one that made this Thanksgiving even more meaningful.

Know the children are beginning the season of Advent and the lighting of the candles over a four-week period as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.



## THANK YOU TO THE 6TH GRADERS AT SBCA

From all of us here at South Boston Today – It was an honor to receive your wonderful gift. You added something very special to our Thanksgiving.







**A**s I make my picks for Week 13, one game that I picked in Week 12 has yet to be played. That would be the postponed game between the Baltimore Ravens and Pittsburgh Steelers, which was originally scheduled for Thanksgiving night. But because of positive COVID-19 tests, it's been pushed back to a Wednesday afternoon kickoff. Yes, you read that right. A Wednesday afternoon kickoff.

When I picked this game last week, it was my "Lock of the Week" that Baltimore (+4) would go into Pittsburgh and cover, if not win the game outright. Well, now the Ravens are a 10-point underdog because of all the Coronavirus uncertainties. I'll stick with the points. A bet's a bet. Can't change it once the pick is in!

Other than that, I went 2-1-1 with my other four picks against the spread in Week 12. My record on the season is now 31-20-3.

Let's hope for no more COVID postponements. Here are my picks for Week 13:

**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (-3.5)** over Houston Texans  
-The 4-7 Texans host the

7-4 Colts on Sunday at 1 p.m. The way the AFC playoff race looks now, Houston will most likely have to win out to even have a chance to grab one of the three Wild Card spots. And even then at 9-7, it still might not be enough. But with two wins in a row, the Texans are showing some fight. Problem now is, their top receiver, Will Fuller has been suspended six games for PED use. Ouch. For the Colts, no playoff spot is guaranteed for them, but they're still in a very good position to either win their division or grab a Wild Card spot. I try to avoid betting a Philip Rivers game at all costs, but on Sunday I expect the Colts to beat up on the Texans and officially put an end to their season. Give me Indy by two touchdowns.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (-10)** over New York Giants

-The 4-7 Giants are in first place in the NFC East after just barely beating the two-win Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday, 19-17. Now they head to Seattle to take on the 8-3 Seahawks on Sunday at 4:05. Giants QB Daniel Jones is expected to miss the

game with an injury, so backup Colt McCoy will take over. Seattle is 5-0 at home this season. And now the Giants — who have one of the worst offenses in the NFL, averaging just 19.5 points per game — have to travel across the country with their backup quarterback. That's not exactly ideal. The Seahawks should win their third straight and stay on top of the NFC West in the process. But will they cover? I think so. Seattle by 13.

**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-14)** over Denver Broncos

-This is a rematch from Week 7. The Chiefs went into Denver and won 43-16. I don't expect things to be much different this Sunday night in Kansas City on national TV. The Chiefs are 10-1 and have won six straight. The Broncos are 4-7 and are in shambles after all their quarterbacks missed last Sunday's game because they had to be placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list. The spread is high here, and usually I stay away from any spread over 13 points. But the Chiefs already covered for me as a 19-point favorite earlier this season. They might run the table. Give me the Chiefs by three touchdowns.

**WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM (+9)** over Pittsburgh Steelers

-Washington covered for me on Thanksgiving by whooping the Cowboys in Dallas, 41-16. Now they head to Pittsburgh in a game that's been pushed back to Monday at 5 p.m. because the Steelers had their Week 12 game against the Ravens pushed back to Wednesday, thanks to COVID. The Steelers are one of the best teams in the NFL, but Washington — even at 4-7 — still has a good chance to win the NFC East and get into the playoffs. What a story that would be. I don't think Washington will win this game, but I do think they're good enough to put up a fight and cover the spread. I'll take the points.

**LOCK OF THE WEEK: LAS VEGAS RAIDERS (-8.5)** over New York Jets

-The Jets are 0-11. What else needs to be said? The 6-5 Raiders have lost two straight and just got embarrassed by the Falcons, 43-6. I expect Las Vegas to bounce back strong on Sunday at 1 at MetLife. Raiders by 10, at least.

*Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.*


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# SPORTS TODAY

## PATRIOTS KEEP PLAYOFF HOPES ALIVE WITH WIN OVER CARDINALS

SBT Staff

**N**ick Folk kicked a game-winning 50-yard field goal as time expired on Sunday, giving the New England Patriots a 20-17 win over the Arizona Cardinals at Gillette Stadium.

The Patriots are now 5-6 on the season. They'll now play three straight road games, two in Los Angeles against the 3-8 Chargers and 7-4 Rams, and then in Miami against the 7-4 Dolphins.

If the playoffs began after Week 12, New England would be on the outside looking in. With the 8-3 Buffalo Bills looking to be in pretty good shape at the top of the AFC East, the most likely playoff scenario for the Patriots — if they're to make the playoffs, of course — is one of the AFC's three Wild Card spots.

The final two Wild Card spots are held by teams with 7-4 records. So it's

## Tweet of the Week

Delivering some Fenway to the feed. 🍷



Red Sox  
@RedSox



still an uphill climb for the Pats.

That uphill climb continues this Sunday in Week 13 in LA against the Chargers, who are in last place in the AFC West and are coming off a loss to the Bills in Week 12.

Bill Belichick has a history of owning rookie quarterbacks, but he'll go up against a rookie QB on Sunday that loves to throw the football.

Justin Herbert threw the ball 50 times in each of his last two games. He has 23 passing touchdowns and has thrown for over 3,000 yards in 10 games this season. Herbert is one of just two qualified quarterbacks in the league that averages over 300 pass yards per game. The other is Patrick Mahomes.

Still, it should be a winnable game for New England. A win would get the Patriots back to .500 for the first time since coming off the bye in Week 5.

## EDELMAN PLACED ON COVID-19 LIST

SBT Staff

**T**he New England Patriots placed wide receiver Julian Edelman on the reserve/COVID-19 list this week.

At the time of the move, it was not known whether Edelman tested positive or if he had recently been in contact with someone who

has. A player can be placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list for either reason.

Edelman is currently on injured reserve after having a knee procedure in Week 8.

The Patriots were also fined \$350,000 this week for violating COVID-19 protocols back on October, when Cam Newton tested positive.

## WHAT TO WATCH

**NFL SUNDAY, DEC. 6**  
New England at LA Chargers (PK)  
4:25 P.M. CBS

Denver at Kansas City (-14)  
8:20 P.M. NBC

**MONDAY, DEC. 7**  
Washington at Pittsburgh  
5 P.M. FOX

Buffalo (-2.5) at San Francisco  
8:15 P.M. ESPN

**TUESDAY, DEC. 8**  
Dallas at Baltimore  
8:05 P.M. FOX

**NCAAF SATURDAY, DEC. 5**  
#1 Alabama (-28.5) at LSU  
8 P.M. CBS

## CELTICS' WALKER TO MISS START OF SEASON

SBT Staff

**T**he 2020-21 NBA season begins on Dec. 22, but the Boston Celtics will be without All-Star point guard Kemba Walker until January.

Walker received a stem-cell injection in his left knee back in October, according to a team press release this week. As a result, Walker avoided surgery and was put on a 12-week strengthening program.

Here's the statement from the Celtics' "Training Camp Medical Update": "Following consultation with multiple specialists in early Octo-

ber, Celtics guard Kemba Walker received a stem cell injection in his left knee, and was put on a 12-week strengthening program to prepare for the upcoming season. He is expected to return to on-court activities in early December, and a further update regarding his game availability will be provided during the first week of January."

Walker, 30, missed time because of the knee last season, playing in a career-low 56 games during his first season in Boston. He signed a four-year, \$141 million max contract with the Celtics last offseason.

## RODRIGUEZ, RED SOX REACH DEAL TO AVOID ARBITRATION

SBT Staff

**T**he Boston Red Sox and starter Eduardo Rodriguez have agreed to a one-year, \$8.3 million deal for

the 2021 season.

Rodriguez, who'll turn 28 in April, was arbitration eligible for the final year on his contract with the Red Sox in 2021, but came to an agreement this week. Rodriguez is scheduled to be an unrestricted free agent after the 2021 season.

The lefty missed all of 2020 after testing positive for COVID-19 and then developing a heart issue as a result of the virus.



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