



The North End Of Boston Has It Figured Out-What About South Boston?

South Boston and its waterfront access, be it the Seaport Boulevard, the Edison Property location, Farragut Road, Day Boulevard, Columbia Road, Marine Road, is Mecca for developers. In the face of that, the rest of South Boston Proper boasts a real neighborhood and, as many of the locals profess, should be accommodating to those young fami-

CONTINUED ON page 12

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EDITORIAL

Local Small Businesses Need All of Us



Some people call it a pandemic of Biblical proportions. Many others call it a virus that is being way overblown by freedom hating, power hungry elites in an effort to gain total control over the lives of the masses. But whatever it is, it's taking a big toll on the lives of most people and it is devastating to so many small businesses, including, of

course, those businesses old and new that unselfishly provide services and convenience and so often financial support to the people of South Boston.

No one can or should ever be able to tell you where or how to spend your hard-earned money. What we CAN do is to request, suggest and even send out a sincere plea to our fellow residents to, whenever possible, consider supporting

our town's local merchants, service providers and store owners and spend locally this Christmas shopping season. Because, in many cases, the locals are hurting badly and with all the proposed new edicts being contemplated by out of touch people in power, it all keeps getting worse for them the longer the Covid issue continues.

We are well aware that there

are many items that cannot be purchased locally. This is an unfortunate situation. But when dining out, getting a haircut, having clothing cleaned or tailored, going for coffee, purchasing adult beverages (aka booze) and any number of other things that are available in our community, why not consider spending and shopping local and give a helping hand to those businesses which

in so many cases, have always supported local South Boston good causes?

Most places have gift certificates available and these make great stocking stuffers. The point is, shopping locally; especially during this, the busiest season of the year, will help ensure that our local business-people will still be here once this whole virus situation is gone and hopefully forgotten.

Santa Claus is coming to Southie

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Mayor Walsh

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WE WILL BE OFFERING BOTH A DRIVE UP & WALK UP OPTION TO SEE SANTA.

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Please join State Representative David Biele for a Drive Thru and Remote Toy Drive


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The Information Center

Is it Police Reform or an Attempt to Hamstring Law Enforcement?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

Well, they did it. Both houses of the Massachusetts Legislature voted for what they classify as a ‘Police Reform’ bill. It’s supporters call it a safeguard against police misdeeds. Police say it’s a radical and cruel attack on law enforcement. And when you look at who is pushing this from behind the scenes, the police have a good point.

It passed in the House by a 92-67 margin and as expected, all Republicans voted against it and surprisingly, even 30 Democrats were opposed. South Boston’s own David Biele supported the police and was one of the Democrats who were opposed. Over on the Senate side, it passed 30-7 with all Republicans in opposition. The bill was said to be a compromise. But as most know, when liberal Democrats call something a compromise, it not only means they didn’t quite get everything they want. It also means it’s just the beginning and they will be back to try and get more and eventually get it all. They have already stated that this is only the beginning. And this will all become law unless Charlie Baker vetoes it. What are the chances of that happening?

These so-called Police reform schemes are pushed by organizations like Black Lives Matter. BLM seems to have the ability to intimidate many politicians into doing whatever the group wants. Why a group with the stated ultimate goal of defunding police departments everywhere gets its way in so many places is hard to understand. Add to the fact that BLM members are involved in rioting, looting, burning and assaults on innocent civilians as well as police and it becomes even more puzzling. One only

has to review the video footage of some BLM demonstrations where the chants of “Pigs in a blanket, fry ‘em like bacon” and “What do we want? Dead Cops! When do we want it? Now!”, to get a good idea of the mindset of some of the organizers. Do Black lives matter? Of course, they do. And yes, I’ll say it, ALL lives matter. But there is a difference between affirming that the lives of black Americans matter just as much as the lives of everyone else and the BLM organization that is a leftist political movement with a Socialist, anti-law enforcement agenda.

The ‘police reform’ movement is not about reforming police in a way that makes sense. Many believe it’s actually a scheme to all but neuter law enforcement into being ineffective in the performance of their duties which are to uphold the laws of the land and protect and serve the public. The criminal element in our country would like nothing better than to be able to commit their crimes unhindered by the cops. That’s a given. But it becomes a dangerous situation when we actually have the news media and politicians giving active support to it all because; even those who know what’s really going are afraid to stand up for our police because they fear being called racist by the REAL racists.

By the way, if you want to get an idea of what happens when police are defunded, we can look at the City of Minneapolis. The Democrats in that city gutted the police budget and all but neutralized the effectiveness of the cops. As a result, violent crime is going through the roof; especially carjacking which has seen a 300% jump. Is that where Massachusetts is head-

ing in the not-so-distant future?

Questions are once again being asked about the next stimulus relief checks and why they still aren’t being sent out. Well, some answers came out this week that can speak to the curious. Both Nancy Pelosi in the US House of Representatives and Bernie Sanders in the US Senate brazenly admitted that they and the Democrats were actually and deliberately holding it all up as a political tactic. So agenda-driven are these two and their followers that they no longer even feel the need to

hide the fact that they are playing games with the lives of Americans just to suit their own moves at retaining power.

Pelosi, Sanders, Schumer and those who follow their lead are among the country’s biggest problems. Whatever side America is on, they always seem to be on the opposite side. Their typical liberal desperate insecurity and seething intolerance of all things pro America is consistently on display. And yet, some people still support them which proves beyond a doubt that some people never learn.

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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.

Backing down: MBTA retreats from deep service cuts, delays decisions until later this winter

After receiving overwhelmingly negative feedback about its proposed service cuts, the MBTA is backing off threats of eliminating many transit services to balance its pandemic-era operating budget, with GM Steve Poftak suggesting final decisions should wait till later this winter, after officials see if the feds pass an emergency relief bill for states. The BBJ's Greg Ryan, SHNS's Chris Lisinski and Commonwealth's Bruce Mohl have more on the T's service-cuts retreat. The governor doesn't seem too keen on the move. From SHNS's

Colin Young (pay wall): "Baker: Running Empty T Vehicles 'Bad Public Policy'."

Is Baker bending? Governor curtails elective surgeries at hospitals while dropping hints of more restrictions to come

Amid a spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations across the state, Gov. Charlie Baker, who has resisted new restrictions amid the second coronavirus surge, yesterday ordered that hospitals curtail elective surgeries in order to free up beds for virus patients. The governor noted that coronavirus cases "took off like a rocket" in the days after Thanksgiving, report the Herald's Lisa Kash-

insky and the BBJ's Jessica Bartlett and Allison DeAngelis.

But here's a line that caught our attention in a piece by SHNS's Matt Murphy (pay wall): "The governor also said his administration was reviewing the post-Thanksgiving data and considering additional restrictions that might be necessary, and would have more to say 'soon.'" The Herald's Kashinsky and Boston.com's Nik DeCosta-Klipa also caught the gubernatorial "hint" of possibly more pandemic restrictions on the way.

No hints here: Mayors and city administrators call for tough new restrictions amid second surge

Gov. Charlie Baker may or may not be hinting at more pandemic restrictions to come in Massachusetts. But 14 mayors and city administrators from around the state aren't mincing words, bluntly writing at Commonwealth magazine that it's imperative that the state impose new restrictions to battle the second surge.

Meanwhile, the Globe's Dasia Moore and Gal Tziperman Lotan report how, in the absence of new restrictions, "personal responsibility" seems to be the state's de facto second-surge policy.

Baker: 'Americans need help while awaiting a vaccine'

Gov. Charlie Baker, in an op-ed at the Wall Street Journal, says Congress can do something really helpful for Americans while they await the arrival of coronavirus vaccines: Pass another relief bill.

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Virtual Public Meeting

776 Summer St.

Wednesday December 16

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/36plrD4

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 471 0801

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 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



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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Councilor Flynn Hearing on Water & Sewer Infrastructure Dec. 14th

Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn will be chairing a virtual hearing on issues relating to water and sewer infrastructure in the city next Monday. The aim of the hearing is to discuss the safety and maintenance of our water and sewer infrastructure, which is critical for the sanitation and public health of our residents. The hearing will be on Monday, December 14th, at 5pm.

Boston is one of the oldest cities in the United States, and its water distribution system began construction in the mid-1800s. By the 1970s, the conditions of

the city's water system began to deteriorate, and in 1977, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission was created to oversee Boston's water system. With the recent development boom, we need to ensure that the added buildings to our water and sewer lines do not overburden the system, and that the integrity of our infrastructure is maintained. Back in April, there was unfortunately a water main break in the South End, which flooded many businesses and buildings, and caused additional hardship to residents and business owners during the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to ensure that something like this can be prevented in the future.

Moreover, neighborhoods such as Back Bay, South End, Bay Village, Fort Point Channel, and other nearby neighborhoods were built on filled land that rely on wood pilings for support, and these wood pilings need to be submerged in groundwater in order to prevent rotting. There-

fore, maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure is important for groundwater level also, as any rupture or leakage not only causes flooding, but also decreases the groundwater level that submerges the wood pilings beneath foundation in many parts of the city. Some Boston neighborhoods also have private alleys and private sewers that abut commercial and residential properties, where property owners are responsible for the maintenance of these alleys and sewers. However, the costs of maintenance and repair for private alleys and sewer lines can be expensive, as well as a point of confusion and contention.

"Our water and sewer infrastructure is essential for our residents' health, public safety, and quality of life, and we need to ensure that our water and sewer pipes are well maintained and secure," said Councilor Flynn. "Access to clean water and quality waste management is always critical,



and I look forward to having this discussion with stakeholders about how we can maintain the integrity of this important infrastructure."

For more information on the hearing, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/13675546>, or contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

Three Ways for Older Adults to Stay Safer This Season

By Angela Patterson, Chief Nurse Practitioner Officer, MinuteClinic at CVS

Even without the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the winter months can mean increased risk of disease for more vulnerable populations such as older adults. The good news? There are precautions they can take to help stay healthy this season. Below are the top three readily available vaccines you should consider receiving if you're 60+:

1. Flu vaccine: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation's medical community is stressing the critical importance of getting an annual flu shot to protect yourself and others. Although everyone older than 6 months should consider getting the flu shot, flu vaccination is especially important for adults 65 years and older, who account for most hospitalizations and deaths from flu and from COVID-19 (source – CDC).

a. MinuteClinic offers flu vaccines for seniors, adults and children. A high dose shot is available for adults who are 65+.

2. Pneumonia vaccine: Millions of people in the US get pneumonia, a breathing problem caused by an infection in the lungs, each year. Anyone can get pneumonia, but children under 2 years of age, people with certain medical conditions, adults over 65 years of age, and cigarette smokers are at the highest risk.

a. For adults 65 years or older, MinuteClinic offers both Prevnar 13® and Pneumovax® 23 pneumonia vaccines.

3. Shingles vaccine: Shingles is a painful rash that usually affects people over the age of 50. Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk of getting shingles.

a. If you are 50 years of age or older, getting the shingles vaccine can help to prevent the disease. Healthy adults age 50 and older are recommended to



get two doses of Shingrix, two to six months apart, to prevent shingles and reduce the course and severity of the disease. The Shingrix vaccine is considered more than 90 percent effective at preventing shingles.

These vaccinations are available at MinuteClinic and CVS

Pharmacy locations, including inside select Target stores. MinuteClinic is pleased to be the largest retail clinic network in the U.S. to adopt age-friendly care system-wide and is committed to helping older adults and caregivers by providing walk-in, scheduled and virtual services.

MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

Martin J. Walsh announced new leadership at several key City of Boston departments, including the Mayor's Offices of Women's Advancement, Intergovernmental Relations, Neighborhood Services, and the Inspectional Services Department.

"Each of these individuals are dedicated public servants that have gone above and beyond to serve their city, especially during difficult times like these," said Mayor Walsh. "The work of all City departments is crucial to our overall mission of serving the residents of Boston in the best way we can. I am incredibly proud and excited to welcome Alex, Katilin, Eddie and Jessica into their new roles and look forward to what we can accomplish together."

Mayor Walsh tapped Alexandra Valdez to serve as executive director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Advancement, following Tania Del Rio's transition to the nonprofit sector. The Office of Women's Advancement creates specific programming and opportunities that support economic equity, safety, and empowerment, and representation. Some of the office's most recent work includes: research on paid parental leave and childcare affordability; a multi-pronged approach to closing the gender pay gaps; reducing the demand for commercial sexual exploitation; and creating specific programming for women entrepreneurs.

Valdez is currently serving as director of engagement for the City's Economic Mobility Lab, a team of social entrepreneurs centrally located in the Mayor's Office of Policy that researches and tests ideas with the potential to dramatically increase upward economic mobility for low- and moderate-income Bostonians. Prior to that role, Valdez served as Mayor Walsh's neighborhood liaison for Jamaica Plain and the Latino community in the Office of Neighborhood Services since 2016. She holds a bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State University and is finalizing a master's degree from Suffolk University. She was born in the Dominican Republic and lives in Egleston Square.

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Kaitlin Passafaro has been named director of the office of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR), which coordinates interactions between municipal, state and federal governments, assists City departments with advocacy and pro-

specting for public and private grants, and determines the Mayor's legislative agenda. Passafaro most recently served as director of policy in the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, advancing the goals of reducing barriers relative to conducting business in Boston and promoting the economic upward mobility of all Bostonians.

Passafaro first joined the City of Boston in 2010 serving as a correspondence and advance assistant in the Office of the Mayor before becoming the Mayor's liaison to the Boston City Council. She then became deputy director of State Relations in 2013 and director of State Relations in 2016. A lifelong resident of Dorchester, she is a graduate of Boston Latin School and holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College and a master's degree from Suffolk University.

Current chief of staff for the Civic Engagement Cabinet, Edward M. McGuire III, will assume the role of director of the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS). McGuire will serve under the leadership of Aisha Miller as the Chief of Civic Engagement and alongside Faisa Shariff as the Deputy Director of ONS. McGuire started working at City Hall in 2014 as a project manager at the then Boston Redevelopment Authority before transitioning to the Civic Engagement Cabinet in 2016. McGuire holds a bachelor's degree from the Catholic University of America. He's a lifelong resident of South Boston.

In addition to McGuire and Shariff, ONS is composed of 18 public servants who serve as liaisons between Mayor Walsh and the City's neighborhoods and communities. The staff attends community meetings, assists residents with city services, shares important information directly with neighborhoods, and helps the City respond to emergencies.

Following Aisha Miller's transition from ISD to the Civic Engagement Cabinet, Jessica Thomas, the Mayor's current liaison to Roxbury will assume the role of Assistant Commissioner of Constituent Services at ISD, which aims to improve the quality of life for all residents by protecting the health, safety, and environmental stability of Boston's business and residential communities.

Thomas was born and raised in Bos-



Alexandra Valdez



Kaitlin Passafaro



Edward M. McGuire III



Jessica Thomas

ton, attended John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science in Roxbury, and holds a Construction Management degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology and a Real Estate Paralegal Certificate from the University of Miami. Prior to working for the City of Boston, she worked in consumer banking and real estate for 15 years. Thomas lives in Roxbury.

Reps. Lynch And Green Target K2 Veterans Health Concerns In Final NDAA

The U. S. Congress and the Senate agreed to the final version of the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which includes a key provision championed by U.S. Representative Stephen F. Lynch (MA-08) and U.S. Representative Mark Green (R-TN). The measure requires the Department of Defense to conduct an epidemiological study on the toxic hazards that more than 15,000 servicemembers and veterans were exposed to while deployed to Karshi-Khanabad (K2)—a former Soviet air base in

Uzbekistan—between 2001 and 2005. Reportedly, the Soviet base had been formerly used to destroy nuclear weapons and contained various toxic substances. To date, K2 veterans have reported 491 cancers and hundreds of other health conditions they believe are connected to their service at K2. This key provision was first introduced in February 2020 by Rep. Lynch and Rep. Green as *H.R. 5957, the K2 Veterans Toxic Exposure Accountability Act of 2020*.

“I am very pleased to see this important part of the K2 Veterans Toxic Exposure Accountability Act included in the final version of the NDAA” said Rep. Lynch. “K2 veterans and servicemembers were among the first boots on the ground after the September 11, 2001, attacks. Now, as many of these brave men and women are battling devastating health conditions, they are asking for our support in return. The Department of Defense’s study will assist them in this effort, and I thank my colleague Rep. Mark Green for his support and work on this bill. While this is an important step, we must continue to fight for these American patriots who risked their lives for our country and work to ensure they and their families receive the health care, benefits and

respect they have earned.”

“As a conferee representing the House Homeland Security Committee to the 2020 NDAA Conference Committee, I was honored today to sign the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act that will be passed and sent to the President,” said Rep. Green. “I’m proud that my legislation on K2 veterans’ toxic exposure made it into the bill. It’s a partial step forward. I will continue to fight for a strong military and to ensure our warriors and their families are cared for when they return. It’s been an honor to serve on the Conference Committee.”


As Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Rep. Lynch has led a bipartisan investigation, including holding two hearings in February and November, to address the health concerns of K2 veterans. This investigation has revealed new information showing that the men and women who deployed to K2 were exposed to multiple harmful toxins and environmental hazards, including jet fuels and volatile organic compounds, depleted uranium, burn pits, particulate matter, and other cancer-causing chemicals.

Despite this evidence, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)




continues to deny that a service connection exists between the health conditions of these veterans and their service, and has not granted presumptive status and service-connected benefits to veterans who deployed to K2.

The bipartisan, bicameral NDAA provides authorization of appropriations for America’s defense programs and policies. Last month, Rep. Lynch was named a conferee to the NDAA for the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and signed the final version of the NDAA on December 3rd, 2020. The NDAA is expected to pass the House and the Senate and be signed into law by the President imminently.



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BE MENTALLY & PHYSICALLY ACTIVE
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The Wine Guy Beat That Chill!



You probably heard that old line, “It was so cold out today that I saw some politicians with their hands in their own pockets!” Well, it was so cold out the day I wrote this column that the politicians weren’t even out-like everyone else who didn’t have to be. It’s definitely time to stay in and warm up with something hearty; here are a few ideas...

If you haven’t tried it before or you have tried it and would like a

really easy recipe, **Mulled Wine** is a wintertime favorite all over the world! Here’s a great recipe from my friends at Delish.com:

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (750-ml.) bottle red wine
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds, plus more for garnish
- 6 whole cloves
- 3 cinnamon sticks, plus more for garnish
- 3 star anise
- 1/4 c. honey
- 1/2 c. brandy

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine all ingredients. Bring to a simmer not a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer gently over low heat for 10 minutes.

2. Serve warm and garnish with more citrus slices and cinnamon sticks.

Joe Wagner has been making great wines for over half of his 34 years. In 2006, he created the Meiom brand and he’s never looked back. He has a new wine out and it’s another winner. **2018 Quilt Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Val-**

ley, (\$28.99), is a dark beauty with intense notes and flavors of black currant, berries and bittersweet chocolate. On the palate, it’s a meaty and velvety wine with an edge that makes you want another sip. Turn this new classic from Joe Wagner into your new steak dinner wine!

If you’re in the mood for a really satisfying blended Cab, try another new label. **2018 Unshackled Cabernet Sauvignon, California, (\$27.99)**. If you’re a fan of The Prisoner Wine Company, you’ll recognize something special in Unshackled, which blends together familiar varietals from California’s premier wine regions to create a distinct collection with a personality all its own. Bold and flavor-forward, with aromas of plum, blackberry and a hint of olive, this Cabernet is blended with small amounts of Petite Sirah, Syrah and Merlot. Its flavors of black stone fruit and dried herbs are complemented by solid tannin structure and balanced acidity.

Finally, this is definitely the time of year for a good Port and South



African Ports continue to deliver great value. **De Krans Cape Vintage Reserve 2016, (\$21.99)** is the standard for quality at a real value price point. The first grapes were planted on this farm in 1936, mainly for raisins, and today they are producing Port-style wines in the old tradition as well as a wide range of others worth trying when you get round to it. This particular bottle is a serious player—great structure, great fruit aromas and a long finish. It’s intensely dark and irresistible. Get the best gorgonzola in town, cool the bottle slightly and be prepared for something really irresistible.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

Our Christmas Tree Ritual



by Kevin Devlin

I always knew when it was time to go out and buy our family Christmas tree, the one that would play a special part in our lives over the holiday season, when I saw the red and

green tree holder lying on the parlor floor. My father, along with my brothers and I, would walk to Dorchester Avenue to purchase that perfect tree.

In the sixties and seventies, up and down the avenue, there were always empty lots that were seemingly transformed, in seconds, into temporary open-air Christmas tree outlets. My father would take his time and proudly choose what he considered, a flawless, symmetrically shaped, wholesome holiday tree.

My father would let my brothers and I help him decorate the tree, but he made sure we all clearly understood that this was his project, and we would follow his lead and instructions throughout the entire operation.

The lights and ornaments were stored away down in the cellar. With caution they would be brought up into the living room and placed carefully on the couch. The ornaments, previously maintained for years, were individually wrapped in old newspaper and tissue, to safeguard them against being broken.

The lights were the first to be strung up on the tree. Six, eight and some-

times as many as ten sets of lights would be put on the tree. He would start from the bottom and go up and around the branches of the tree to the top. My father then checked each individual light to make sure every light was tightly secure in their sockets, and in good working order. Then he would replace whatever bulbs necessary. Blue, red, green, white, yellow, and orange lights were now in place, and would eventually light up the tree like fireworks on the Fourth of July.

The ornaments came next. Beautiful, bright and shiny ornaments depicting the glory, excitement, and enthusiasm of the Christmas celebration. Each ornament was carefully selected and hung in its designated area. Each ornament complemented the other, like the musical sounds of instruments in a symphony orchestra; and would magnify the tree light effect through their brilliant and distinct reflections.

The garland, along with the glittering, silver tinsel, would then be placed on the branches of the tree. This was my favorite part of the entire undertaking. Shining brightly, the stringy tinsel would hang down from the branches

like chilling icicles, visibly and strikingly pointing downward from rooftops on a frigid, wintry day.

The final phase, the piece de resistance, was to place the beautiful, snow-white angel on top of the tree. An Angel of God overlooking the safety and security of the family during this season of peace, love and giving.

After spending the better part of the day slowly and painstakingly piecing together (with our limited assistance) his masterpiece, our Dad would sternly warn us not to touch or go too close to the tree, lest we cause a disturbance that would alter the delicate balance of the finished product.

So, with his tree complete and his message conveyed, we would have our own tree lighting ceremony.

And without failure, throughout those (now) cherished years, we would all simultaneously nod in silent, happy recognition, acknowledging Dad had indeed again captured the essence of the holiday and produced yet another glorious and stunning Christmas tree.

(This Christmas Tree Story first appeared in SouthBostonOnLine in December 1998)

Purple Shell

Incredible Asian Fusion Cuisine and a Unique Dining Experience

SBT Staff Report

When most people make special plans to dine out, two of the requirements when choosing which restaurant to go to are usually that there is great food and good service. Of course there are other considerations like location and atmosphere and the type of cuisine offered. But very often, trying a new place is also desired to get the sought after change in the regular routine. Well, if trying out new and unique places for dinner is what you're looking for, you are in luck. We'd like

to recommend the 'Purple Shell'. Because if you're looking for pretty much all of the afore mentioned, the Purple Shell just might be the answer to your desires.

Located at 11 West Broadway in South Boston, and owned by Jerry Chen, Purple Shell, which specializes in Asian Fusion cuisine, has it all.

The food is absolutely incredible and the Asian Fusion is of the highest quality. Fresh ingredients, fresh fish from the docks, the menu offers fabulous choices and pairings, from cold or hot Tapas, main dishes, rice and noodles, soup and salads to Sushi, the Classic Maki, Signature Maki and so much more. A blending your taste buds will crave more of and keep you coming back. The drinks are another good reason to give Purple Shell a try. They have a good variety of Craft and standard beers and the mixed drinks themselves are a must to try. Their varieties of Craft Signature Cocktails are very popular and are one of the many specialties Purple Shell has become so well known for. To add to the selection of superb food and drinks that makes Purple Shell

one of the most popular and unique places to dine, is the fast and friendly service they boast. This combination is what is making this incredible restaurant the place to go. But you don't have to take our word for it. The many numerous 5 star reviews that can be found on Google and other social media sites say it all. Typical of the comments by so many satisfied customers who have taken the time to send in reviews are "...loved every bite..", ".Definitely going back..", "...Best Sushi in the city..", "...it's a hidden jewel..", "the food and drink is the best, "I would recommend Purple Shell to all of my friends..", "Love the lamb and the fast takeout service", and there are more reviews like this coming in every day.

In addition to dining in, Purple Shell also provides takeout and delivery service. They will deliver to any place within South Boston. They accept reservations and of course walk-ins are welcome too. Gift cards are also available and make great stacking stuffers. You can check out their website at www.purpleshellboston.com to see the menu, confirm the

days and times they are open which could be subject to change due to additional compliance with changing state and city regulations and to find all the many easy ways to make reservations and to order takeout and delivery. You can also call by phone at 617-989-9982.

South Boston Today had the pleasure of speaking with Jeremy Hatfield, who is the manager at Purple Shell. It was clear by the conversation that he likes his job, is proud of the restaurant and is very enthusiastic about the great and unique dining experience Purple Shell has to offer and how satisfied the customers are when they leave after a delicious meal. And why wouldn't he be proud? It's all good – everything. The uniqueness of it is what Jeremy Hatfield says is one of the many things that is making Purple Shell so popular. It is quickly becoming the place to be if you enjoy dining on some of the best Asian Fusion food that can be found anywhere in Boston and beyond, great drinks to go with it, excellent service and an atmosphere that will make the experience memorable.



South Boston's Holiday Helpers Will Not Be Stopped

Due to Covid-19, the traditional Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell and Frank Kelley Thanksgiving Dinner could not be held at St. Monica Hall. What to do?

This talented, dedicate and creative group of South Bostonians would not allow the need of our residents and seniors to go without

a Thanksgiving dinner. The plan was formulated and executed with such precision and hard work, the generals would have been proud. Of course these community leaders and helpers have years of experience!

Meals were delivered on November 25th with safety protocols in place. Volunteers met at the BCEC

loading dock. Bags carrying the dinners were decorated by local children with wonderful artwork and greetings to bring cheers and smiles to the recipients. A shout out to BC High and CM volunteers as well as local youth and young adults for stepping up and assisting in the community. A special thank

you goes to David Gibbons of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority and Levy Restaurants.

The helpers will be active during Christmas as well. If you need a meal call, if you can volunteer, please do so. More hands make less work and you get to have a bit of fun while serving our community.



Msgr. Thomas J McDonnell and Frank Kelley Christmas Dinner Update

Please call 617-586-5824 if you would like a meal delivered to your home. Meals will be delivered on December 24th between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Safety protocols in place).

We will not be able to gather in person or accept food donations this year. Our greatest need for support is drivers to deliver meals to our neighbors. Volunteers should meet at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St Boston, MA 02124 @ 10:45 a.m. on December 24th.

Any questions email: manning.danielr@gmail.com



Checks can be made payable to:
South Boston Seaport Collaborative (memo: Holiday Dinner)
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Special thanks to the Boston Firefighters Local 718 IAFF



Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post#561 – Outstanding Job!

The members of the Fitzy Post put forth their call for their annual donation drive for the Chelsea Soldiers Home on Saturday, December 5. The outpouring of new donations from the South Boston community was phenomenal and

most certainly not surprising. The torrential rains couldn't stop the good people of South Boston from answering the call to support the Veterans in Chelsea. A special shout out to Mary and Tom Ryan, friends of the Post. Mary and Tom brought in boxes of

new coats, footwear, sweatshirts, tee shirts and so much more, all donated in memory of **R.Russo (deceased) Vietnam Vet.**

The Post members delivered the boxes of donations on Monday, December 7. Does that date sound

familiar? Pearl Harbor Day! Well done Fitzy Post, South Boston community and elected officials. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to the men and women living at the Chelsea Soldiers Home. Thank you for your service and God Bless.



South Boston Catholic Academy News Highlights from Music Class!

From our Music Teacher, Ms. Eleanor Tynan... This year we are focusing on the fundamentals of music and emphasizing the “fun”! During this year of challenges, the students are exceeding expectations and showing great resilience in the face of so much change. As the

older students study music, history, and famous composers, fourth grade works on building their ukulele skills and creating their own books of chords, with which they will write songs later in the year.

K1 is working on developing our sense of pitch by playing with vari-

ous silly songs, folk songs, and sliding scales. Our lovely Kindergarten students are studying American and international folk songs, while learning to play simple songs on the xylophone, and identify high and low pitches within a song! They love playing the high low game, where they get to jump up and fall to the ground to demonstrate low noises and high sounds.

In first and second grade we are working on learning our rhythms!

They impress with their ability to internalize a beat and write their own rhythmic patterns. For a fun change of pace they used their musical notes to create silly pumpkin faces, as seen here. Overall, the children of South Boston Catholic Academy are showing me every day that music and joy cannot be thwarted by quarantines, or pandemics. Their sense of play abounds, and I am blessed to help guide them in their musical journey.



North End vs. SB continued from front page

lies and others, who want to live here for a period of time, give their children or themselves an urban experience, avail of the tremendous amenities it offers, while making their prospective economic benefit secondary to their primary decision. Affordability is the key, not only for the indigenous families, whose commitment to community laid the foundation that so many wish to enjoy, but for those who want to make South Boston their home.

The North End gets it, with a primary and cultural focus on their elderly, and acts on it. The East Boston Community Development Corporation (CDC), along with Mayor Marty Walsh and the Knights of Columbus (K of C) announced the redevelopment of the vacant K of C building located on 41 North Margin Street in the North End. The project will create 23 units of supportive, affordable housing for Older Bostonians, furthering the commitment by the City of Boston to create more affordable housing for older residents. So, the public policy exists. It needs ‘further action’ as it relates to South Boston projects.

The Mayor thanked the Knights of Columbus for partnering with Affirmative Investments and the East Boston CDC to create affordable apartments for 23 senior households, as the first new af-

fordable housing built in the North End in many years. With an aging Boston, as in most major urban centers, the need for safe, affordable housing remains essential. Community advocates applauded this new development as an incredible asset to the North End neighborhood, with a forward look ahead to make more projects like this a reality.

The new building will create much needed affordable housing for older Bostonians in the North End, as well as new meeting space for the K of C to continue their work in the community. Developer Affirmative Investments, Inc. plans to renovate the vacant building, creating a mixed-use development with 23 affordable one-bedroom and studio apartments for older Bostonians, a 2,000 square foot new meeting hall for the K of C Ausonia Council #1513, and 13 off-street parking spaces. Six of the new units will be for extremely low-income senior households earning less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or \$26,850 yearly, with three units set aside for formerly homeless individuals and 17 of the units will be affordable to those earning less than 60% of AMI or \$53,760 yearly.

The strategy became such that the K of C proactively approached the East Boston CDC and Affirmative Investments “hoping to use their property in the North End to meet the pressing

housing needs in the community that they have been dedicated to for over 50 years,” said David Ennis, President of Affirmative Investments. The members of Ausonia Council 1513, K of C worked with East Boston CDC, Affirmative Investments and the City of Boston to give residents an opportunity to remain in the neighborhood. This project is made possible in part by a combination of \$5.6 million investment by the City of Boston, more than \$1.9 million from Boston’s Community Preservation Act funding, \$2.3 million in funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, \$4.9 million of 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity from Boston Capital, a \$1.1 million permanent loan and \$5.8 million in construction financing from Eastern Bank, and \$800,000 from the Knights of Columbus.

This project will revitalize a portion of Boston’s North End community, bringing an entire vacant site back to productive use. Throughout the community process, it had received overwhelming support from the community, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Recently, the K of C offered to incorporate the Christopher Columbus statue into their new development after being recently vandalized in June. The City reached an agreement to have the statue live permanently in the development at 41 Margin Street

after the City repairs it.

The City’s housing goals is to produce more affordable housing for seniors as outlined in Housing a Changing City: Boston 2030. 2014 was the last year that the Federal 202 program funded elderly housing production. The Housing and Urban Development 202 program had provided capital advances to finance the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of structures that would serve as supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons and provide rent subsidies for the projects to help make them affordable. In that same year, the new HB2030 Plan committed to restarting elderly production despite the Federal withdrawal, and shortly after that, a first-of-its-kind new line-item in the City’s General Fund budget was created to advance that goal.

Since then, year-by-year, the City’s pace of production has increased as it has worked toward fulfilling that promise. Through Housing A Changing City: Boston 2030, the City’s housing plan, the City set a target of creating 2,000 low-income elderly units by 2030. Along with Grace Apartments, The Barton Rogers School in Hyde Park, Hearth at Four Corners in Dorchester and a number of other projects, the City has permitted or constructed 627 of the 2,000 units of new low-income units for older residents to date.



This week, Danny gave "Pic's Picks" for Week 14 in the NFL:

I went 2-3 against the spread in Week 13, bringing my record on the season to 33-24-3. Some of these losses are starting to catch up to me. But the NFL is back to a normal schedule this week — knock on wood — as there are no game-altering COVID-19 cases as of Wednesday morning.

That's great news, because these Tuesday and Wednesday games are really starting to throw me off. Let's get back to normal, shall we, and let's get back to picking some winners after a few bad weeks.

Here are my picks for Week 14:

ARIZONA CARDINALS (-2.5) over New York Giants
-The 6-6 Arizona Cardinals have lost three straight, and it's been a disappointing stretch for Kyler Murray and the crew, to say the least. Now they travel to New Jersey to take on a 5-7 Giants team that's won four straight, including a somewhat shocking 17-12 win over the Seahawks in Seattle last Sunday. If the playoffs began today, the Giants would be in as the first-place team in their division, and the Cardinals would be out. Arizona still has a very good chance to get in, but they must win this game, and they

know that. I expect the Cardinals to snap out of their funk and beat the Giants on Sunday at 1 p.m. Give me Arizona by 10.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

(-3.5) over Denver Broncos
-So this might seem like a weird game to pick, but sometimes, when you see one you like, you take it, regardless of how strange it may seem. That's what I'm doing by taking the 4-8 Panthers to beat the 4-8 Broncos on Sunday at 1 in Carolina. The Panthers are coming off the bye, and yes, they are dealing with some COVID-19 issues right now, but that shouldn't force this game to be postponed. Also, running back Christian McCaffrey is returning from injury, so I expect him to have a big day against Denver's run defense, which is one of the worst run defenses in the league, allowing 132 rush yards per game. That's all I needed to know. I'll take the Panthers to win at home by a touchdown.

ATLANTA FALCONS (-2.5)

over Los Angeles Chargers
-The Falcons are a disappointing 4-8. After losing their first five games of the season, they've managed to win four of their

last seven. However, Atlanta's last two losses were to a very dangerous Saints team, even without Drew Brees. As for the 3-9 Chargers, they've been officially eliminated from playoff contention after getting smashed by the Patriots last Sunday, 45-0. This game is Sunday at 4:25 in LA. I expect the Falcons — who are still mathematically alive in the NFC playoff race — to take care of the Chargers, who, at this point, are now playing for a better draft choice.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

(+2.5) over Buffalo Bills
-This was almost my lock of the week. Almost. The 11-1 Steelers are coming off their first loss of the season, falling to Washington at home on Monday night. I picked Washington to cover the spread as a 9-point underdog. Now, I'm picking Pittsburgh to bounce back strong by beating the 9-3 Bills in Buffalo on Sunday Night Football. If the playoffs began today, the Steelers would get the first-round bye in the AFC, while the Bills would be the No. 3 seed and would host the No. 6 seed Dolphins in the Wild Card round. Pittsburgh

holds the tiebreaker for that lone first-round bye over the 11-1 Chiefs because of their undefeated conference record. So, beating the Bills is crucial in the Steelers' quest for a first-round bye. They know this, and will take care of a very good Bills team in primetime. Give me Pittsburgh by a field goal.

LOCK OF THE WEEK: **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**

(-6.5) over Minnesota Vikings
-The 7-5 Buccaneers are coming off the bye and are licking their wounds after two straight 27-24 losses to the Rams and Chiefs. Rumors of dissension are flying in Tampa. Are Tom Brady and coach Bruce Arians on the same page? Regardless, the media loves a juicy Tom Brady story, even if there's no truth to it. On the other end, the 6-6 Vikings have won two straight. Both teams are Wild Card playoff teams as it currently stands. On Sunday at 1 in Tampa Bay, I expect the Buccaneers to get back on track with a big win against a vulnerable Vikings defense, and get one step closer to officially securing a spot in the playoffs.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.

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SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS CRUSH CHARGERS, STAY OUT WEST FOR THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

SBT Staff

The good news for the New England Patriots is that they're finally back to .500 for the first time since coming off the Week 5 bye with a 2-2 record, thanks to a 45-0 win over the Chargers on Los Angeles in Week 13. The bad news is, every team that currently holds a Wild Card spot in the AFC playoff picture, also won their Week 13 games.

The Patriots ran the Chargers out of their own building on Sunday with three Cam Newton touchdowns and two special teams touchdowns. Newton rushed for two scores in the first half and threw for another in the third quarter.

But the game was sealed at the end of the second quarter, when Patriots defensive back Cody Davis

blocked an attempted 57-yard field goal attempt by the Chargers. The blocked kick was quickly recovered by Devin McCourty, who ran it 44 yards for the touchdown, giving New England a commanding 28-0 lead at the half.

The Patriots' other special teams touchdown came in the form of a Gunner Olszewski 70-yard punt return in the opening minute of the second quarter, giving the Pats a 14-0 lead. Olszewski caught the punt at his own 30-yard line, and found a hole that he burst through along the right sideline for the score.

It was a vintage Bill Belichick win. The Patriots special teams outscored the opponent with the help from an undrafted free agent in Olszewski.

And the Patriots defense completely shut down a rookie quarterback in Justin Herbert, holding him to 209 pass yards and no touchdowns, while forcing him to throw two interceptions.

The only thing missing was, well, Tom Brady. But this type of win on the road in December was much needed, to prove that they're capable of making things interesting down the stretch without the greatest quarterback of all time.

New England still has plenty of work to do in order to make the playoffs. And they'll also need some help from other teams losing. With four games left in the regular season, the Patriots will have to win at least three of those four and finish with a 9-7 record. And even that might not be

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL THURSDAY, DEC. 10
New England at LA Rams (-5)
8:20 P.M. FOX/NFLN

SUNDAY, DEC. 13
Minnesota at Tampa Bay (-6.5)
1 P.M. FOX

Pittsburgh at Buffalo (-1.5)
8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, DEC. 14
Baltimore at Cleveland (pk)
8:15 P.M. ESPN

NCAAF SATURDAY, DEC. 12
Michigan at #4 Ohio State (-30)
12 P.M. FOX

#17 North Carolina at #10 Miami (-3.5)
3:30 P.M. ABC

LSU at #6 Florida (-23)
7 P.M. ESPN

Tweet of the Week



.@CameronNewton goal line masterpiece.



New England Patriots
@Patriots

NHL PREPARING FOR MID-JANUARY START TO 2020-21 SEASON

SBT Staff

The National Hockey League is planning for a Jan. 13 start to the 2020-21 regular season, in the form of a 56-game schedule, according to reports.

Among the changes to the shortened season caused by COVID-19 include temporary realignment to each division, for the purpose of limiting travel during the

"second wave" of the pandemic this winter.

ESPN's Greg Wyshynski has reported that the 2020-21 NHL season would consist of four divisions: Canada, East, Central, and West.

The Canada division includes all seven Canadian teams. The East division includes the Bruins, Sabres, Hurricanes, Devils, Islanders, Rangers, Flyers, and Capitals. The Central division includes the Blackhawks, Blue Jackets, Red Wings, Panthers, Preda-

tors, Penguins, Blues, and Lightning. The West division includes the Ducks, Coyotes, Avalanche, Stars, Kings, Wild, Sharks, and Golden Knights.

According to another report from Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman, at least four teams are looking into the possibility of playing some home games at outdoor stadiums in order to push for fans attending those games. Those teams are the Bruins, Ducks, Kings, and Penguins.



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