



## Biden, Baker and the BTU

President Biden announced plans to use federal authority to offer coronavirus vaccinations to K-12 teachers and child care workers, with the aim of getting at least the first shot administered to all educators by the end of March. The goal is to remove one of the major barriers to reopening schools — an urgent step for parents and children alike — but one that has been enormously controversial and complicated. Teachers, who have resisted going back in many communities, have said that they would be much more willing to return to school buildings if they are vaccinated first.

More than half the states have already put teachers into a high-pri-

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# EDITORIAL

## South Boston Community Health Center Doing Well With Covid Shots

In last week's issue of South Boston Today, our editorial focused on the many problems Massachusetts was having with the roll out of the Covid-19 virus vaccine. In far too many locations, the distribution and application weren't going well. Some towns received far too few doses, if any at all, and just getting on the list to actually get the shot(s) was a long and stressful task in and of itself. Some of the links, websites and phone numbers set up had some

frustrated folks going in circles to the point of just giving up trying to get those appointments. This state had plenty of time to prepare for this process, so in the opinion of many, there really isn't an excuse for the mix up and disarray that has plagued some facilities.

That's the bad news. The good news, at least for some people, is that not every distribution location falls into the above categories. Some are working well. And it gives us pleasure to report, as we

hear from quite a few locals, that the South Boston Community Health Center is one of those facilities that is running smoothly. Some have described it as operating like a well-oiled machine, as far as providing the vaccine to those who seek it.

At least from the reports that this newspaper has received, at the SBCHC there are few problems getting an appointment and there are no backups and long lines to deal with on arrival. The lines are short and fast moving, as



people are in and out in a more than reasonable time. The staff is friendly, helpful, professional and knowledgeable and can answer the many questions that some people have. And this is very important;

especially when dealing with a new vaccine for what is to some, a scary situation. Many people need to be informed and reassured and it seems the staff at the health center is more than capable in every way.

South Boston can be proud of the way its local health center has risen to this difficult task. We hope those other areas across the state that aren't doing nearly as well will take a lesson from South Boston and become just as successful and very soon.

**"You need to be intent on reducing size, scope and influence of government" - Florida Governor Ron DeSantis**

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# The Information Center

## *The Recent Election Brought Lunacy Back In Fashion*

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

Those who follow such things are well aware that control of the federal government tends to run in cycles. Sometimes the liberals wrest control from Conservatives and Moderates and other times it is reversed. And while in the most recent election, the Conservatives have pretty much taken over the majority of state level governments, the 'libs' now hold the reins of power in DC. With the way things have been going over the last six weeks, they will probably get the boot from Congress in 2022 in a losing landslide and they most likely know it. So, they are going full speed in their effort to impose every ridiculous scheme they can think of, and so we seem to be stuck in a rut that gets loonier by the day.

Our country is facing many problems. The virus, the faltering economy, the elimination of so many jobs and shutting down of businesses etc. But these problems are being put on the back burner – WAY back, as the priorities of the left element in America are taking over. Pelosi and Crew's first order of business, when the new Congress began, was to make a long list of words that could not be used in DC. Words like mother, father, brother sister etc. were taboo. And that started it off, giving America a hint of the lunacy that would follow.

Some Democrat Congressman even wants all Conservative-leaning media outlets kicked off cable news platforms. They want FOX, News-max, One America News and others silenced. Nothing shocks and offends liberals more than when they learn that there are viewpoints different than theirs, except maybe when they find out that they are actually allowed to have a forum to be heard. This was one of Adolph Hitler's biggest complaints.

When the leftists do take power, things always get crazy, but in this

day and age, they are taking it to new levels of insanity. There is a social media meme going viral across America that reads as follows: "I can't believe we live in a world that is reassigning the gender of a plastic potato". Most of you have seen it and it refers of course to the Hasbro Toy company announcing that it's Mr. Potato Head toy will shed the 'Mr.' and become just 'Potato Head', because the gender designation was offensive to someone. Not to be out done by Hasbro, The Disney company has slapped a warning label on 'The Muppets', because now the Muppets are offensive. Who knew? Certainly, they had to keep up with the other companies that were pressured to make changes to pancake syrup bottles, butter containers, cereal boxes and restaurant chains.

Were there throngs of Alaska's indigenuous people protesting about Eskimo Pies? No. But the odds are, some busy body white progressive found the name to be cruel and hurtful and had to step in and save the world from this crisis of hate. In California, a new bill by democrat politicians has been introduced that would make it illegal, with a penalty of a fine, for retail stores to have separate sections for boys and girls toys. Of course, it's California and things like this are expected, as most of the sane people have fled that state. But it's apparent that there is no shortage of kooks in elected office still there, thinking up ways to make that state look even sillier.

Many Americans were surprised to learn that the Hollywood award show known as 'The Golden Globes' still existed. The surprise came to so many because hardly anyone still watches it. It's boring and nobody cares about it. But this year, it did get a bit more attention than recent seasons, because of one of the top award recipients. The infamous Jane

Fonda, considered by millions of Americans to be a national traitor, was the top honored guest. Now it comes as little surprise that anyone who is considered to be a traitor to the United States would be praised, honored and worshipped by Hollywood and its groupies. But, it did cause quite a stir in the country and probably accelerated the decline in interests and respect for Tinsel Town and all of its other self-congratulating awards and America bashing shows.

And finally, if there was ever any doubt as to the level of hate and venom that lurks in the hearts and minds

of so many people on the left, the response to the death of Rush Limbaugh and the serious injury to Tiger Woods dispelled that doubt, by the reaction on social and even the main stream media and of course Hollywood celebs. They were all but dancing in the streets when Rush passed away from lung cancer 2 weeks ago. And what they are wishing upon Tiger Woods is unbelievable, with many of them hoping he is paralyzed and is never able to play golf again. Why? Because both Mr. Limbaugh and Mr. Woods voted for President Trump. What does this tell us?

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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.

### Lawmakers: Let teachers get the first one-dose Johnson & Johnson shots

Dosages of the new Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine haven't even arrived yet and 21 lawmakers are already expressing their collective opinion on how they should be distributed – to teachers. MassLive's Steph Solis has more.

So when do the first J&J vaccines arrive? Probably next week, Gov. Charlie Baker says, cautioning their numbers will be limited and their arrival gradual over time, reports SHNS's Chris Liskinski and MassLive's Solis. Meanwhile, the fact there will soon be three different vaccines available – via J&J, Pfizer and Moderna -- raises concerns that some people might engage in "vaccine shopping," reports the Globe's Robert Weisman. Public health officials' advice on 'shopping': Don't. Just get a shot. Any shot.

### Vaccine rollout hell: Volunteers to the rescue

The Herald's Rick Sobey and the Globe's Felice Freyer report on volunteer efforts to help desperate people register for vaccine appointments – and allowing them to spend less time on the state's free-for-all registration website.

And, oh, the Herald's Meghan Ottolini reports on a new poll showing that most voters believe Gov. Charlie Baker blundered on the vaccine rollout.

### Reopening concerns: 'Please hear me clearly'

She's not naming any state in particular. But MGH's very own Dr. Rochelle Walensky, now director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, clearly had Massachusetts on her mind when she reiterated yesterday her concerns about states moving to reopen their economies, as the Globe's Amanda Kaufman and

SHNS's Chris Liskinski report. But Gov. Charlie Baker yesterday was defending his recent decision to move to the next reopening phase in Massachusetts, saying coronavirus-case and vaccine-rollout data support "some adjustments," as the Herald's Erin Tiernan reports.

### The Massachusetts Lottery: It's pandemic resilient

So much for the pandemic hurting the Lottery's revenues. MassLive's Heather Morrison and SHNS's Colin Young report on the Lottery's latest positive sales numbers and the agency's upgrade of its fiscal year 2021 profit projection.

### After 18 years, Somerville Mayor Curtatone won't seek re-election. So ... what's next?

He barely got the words out of his mouth and the Herald, to its tabloid credit, was already asking about his future statewide ambi-

tions. Yes, Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone announced yesterday that he won't seek a 10th two-year term this fall, as Julia Taliesin at the Somerville Journal and Michael Jonas at Commonwealth magazine report. But the Herald's Joe Dwinell quickly brushes past that news to report Curatone, a progressive Dem, also "refused to say if he's ready to run for governor." Curatone pronounced such speculation as pure "science fiction," and then proceeded to criticize Gov. Baker's pandemic re-opening and vaccine rollout plans, etc.

### Polito or Diehl versus Healey?

Speaking of 2022, Commonwealth's Bruce Mohl reports on an interesting poll by the conservative Fiscal Alliance Foundation showing that Republicans are split on who to back for governor if Gov. Charlie Baker doesn't run for a third term next year -- Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, a moderate, or former state Rep. Geoff Diehl, a conservative.

Meanwhile, the Herald, in an editorial, sees a potential Polito vs. AG Maura Healey matchup in **continued on page 6**

## I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

**T**he difference between education and indoctrination is education is supposed to

open the mind to the world of ideas and inquiry while indoctrination closes it shut. Without being apologetic, some scholars of the American educational tradition believed indoctrination in the civic virtues was a necessary part of a student's education, that it was important to teach students to be good citizens.

But it didn't mean indoctrinating children with ideologies harmful to some and not to others, such as critical race theory, which claims American institutions, laws, and history are inherently racist. The theory posits that white people have put up social, economic, and legal barriers between races to maintain their elite status in the economic and political realm. And the reason for poverty and criminal behavior in minority communities is due to these barriers.

Fostering guilt isn't the goal of education. Students shouldn't be told

some people are bad due to the color of their skin. Harmful ideologies bent on sowing discord and division, bent on indoctrinating our children with monocultural viewpoints is harmful and doesn't deserve life in our classrooms.

It is the responsibility of parents to guide their children down the right path in life. They must teach their children to accept others without being negative or racist if differences exist. They must teach their children the differences between what is right and what is wrong. Teach them to embrace goodness and dismiss evil. Teach them to act morally and avoid the pitfalls of immorality. Such matters, right and wrong, goodness versus evil, as well as moral or immoral acts, are absolute and must be treated thusly, without exception.

They must teach their children that they should treat others in the same manner they want to be treated, fair-

ly and without undue bias. Yes, as corny as it may seem to some, they must teach their children to love and respect their neighbors as they love and respect themselves.

Parents must provide the moral compass for their children, that is their job, not the job of educators. The oft-used phrase "getting back to basics" is apropos at this moment in time. Educators should be teaching our children how to think and form opinions on their own without being pressured to accept one viewpoint over another, and not to feel guilty for who they are.

So, let's get back to educating our children in a healthy and productive manner so they can have a well-rounded education in civics, history, math, and science which will help them successfully navigate the future, instead of using them as political props to promote harmful political ideologies.



## Councilor Flynn Session on Property Taxes, Assistance Programs for Seniors



**B**oston City Councilor Ed Flynn will hold a working session to discuss possible assistance programs for our seniors and long term city homeowners who have difficulties paying property taxes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The working session will be chaired by Councilor Kenzie Bok in the Committee of Ways and Means and held next Monday, March 8th, 3pm, and is a follow up to the public hearing held in February. To watch the working session, you can go to

[boston.gov/city-council-tv](https://boston.gov/city-council-tv).

After speaking with many neighbors concerned about the significant property tax increase in recent weeks, Councilor Flynn was informed by the Assessing Department that values are based on the sales activity within each assessment district and that the city must adjust and keep at full fair cash value as required by law.

As a result, Councilor Flynn filed a hearing earlier this year to discuss possible assistance programs for our seniors and long term city homeowners who have difficulties paying property taxes during the pandemic. Property taxes can be a heavy financial burden for many long-term residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes and families who may have bought their homes years ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed in the city.

In January, Councilor Flynn also coordinated a meeting with Councilor Michael Flaherty, Representative David Biele, Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George, and neighbors to discuss the concerns that residents have expressed and provide information on property

tax exemptions and assistance that neighbors can apply for. In the meeting, Councilor Flynn spoke about how many residents are facing additional financial difficulties and may not be able to afford paying their property taxes. Councilor Flynn is advocating for additional assistance programs, such as potentially doubling the exemption for seniors over a certain age, while considering their income and evaluation. Councilor Flynn and Councilor Lydia Edwards also passed an ordinance two years ago aimed at low-income seniors to provide them the ability to enter payment plans with the city for up to five years, as well as cutting the interest rates by 50%. Representative Biele, Councilor Flaherty and Councilor Essaibi-George also spoke about their attention to this issue.

At the hearing in February, Assessing Commissioner Nick Ariniello spoke to neighbors about how the department calculates property taxes, deferral programs and the different types of exemptions that qualified homeowners can apply for. The City of Boston offers a number of property tax exemptions for residents who

qualify, including for seniors who meet income limits and residency requirements, those who experience hardship, surviving spouses, minors with a deceased parent, veterans, and others. Residents need to apply for those exemptions by April 1st. For more inquiries about whether you qualify for certain exemptions and deferral programs available, please call the Taxpayer Referral & Assistance Center (TRAC) at (617) 635-4287 or Department of Assessing at (617)-635-4288.

"I know that many neighbors have serious concerns about the recent increase in property taxes, especially amidst the pandemic when so many of our residents are facing difficulties" said Councilor Flynn. "Our seniors and long time residents are an indispensable part of the soul of Boston, and it's important that they continue to stay and thrive in our city. I look forward to the working session and having an in-depth conversation about what we can do to help those in need."

**For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or [Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov](mailto:Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov).**

## MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES OUTDOOR DINING TO BEGIN ON APRIL 1



**M**ayor Martin J. Walsh announced that in collaboration with the Boston Licensing Board and City departments, outdoor dining for restaurants in Boston will begin on April 1, 2021. The 2021 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program will continue many of the successful initiatives from last year's program, such as streamlined permitting and outdoor patios on roadways that enable

restaurants with narrow sidewalks to offer patio seating to patrons, while offering new features based on community feedback. Applications for outdoor dining licenses on both public and private property are now open, and businesses can apply online. A start date of April 1 is weather-dependent, and City departments are meeting regularly and observing the weather forecast to determine whether an earlier start date is possible.

The 2021 Outdoor Dining Pilot Program season will begin on April 1, 2021, or earlier if weather permits, and will end on December 1, 2021, weather permitting. Restaurants who took part in the 2020 temporary outdoor dining program and who wish to do so in 2021 must re-apply, and the City will also be accepting applications from restaurants who did not take part in the 2020 temporary outdoor dining program.

The City has held a series of virtual training sessions to help businesses with the application process. Outreach to businesses on outdoor dining is a coordinated effort through the Licensing Board, Office of Economic Development, Office of Neighborhood Services, and Boston Main Streets.

Updated support for businesses includes:

**Waived fees** to reduce barriers to applying to the program including Licensing Board fees and fees for the use of the public way.

**Continued technical support and additional targeted outreach** to help support underrepresented restaurant owners. Businesses can get direct support by emailing [smallbiz@boston.gov](mailto:smallbiz@boston.gov).

**Centralized online application** that allows City departments to reduce administrative load of reviewing and approving applications and increases transparency in the review

process for restaurant owners

Clearer guidance and instructions that improve upon the guidance offered in 2020 (more standardized site plan, clearer language around barrier requirements, etc.)

The Boston Disabilities Commission will also again work closely with restaurants to distribute ramps throughout the City.

The online application went live on December 10, 2020 and to date, the City has received more than 370 applications of which more than 150 have been approved. For the 2020 temporary outdoor dining season, the Licensing Board approved more than 550 requests for outdoor dining licenses with over 415 on public property. Of the total approved outdoor spaces, applications from every single neighborhood in the City of Boston were represented.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has continued to work with restaurants to ensure they can safely operate. **continued on page 6**

Walsh continued from page 5

demic, the City of Boston has been steadfast in its commitment to supporting the small business community. To date, the Office of Economic Development has issued \$15.1 million to more than 3,700 businesses, of which \$5 mil-

lion has been directly allocated to nearly 1,000 restaurant owners. More than \$6.7 million in debt-free grants have been distributed to over 1,850 small businesses in every neighborhood across the City of Boston through the Office of Economic Development's Small

Business Relief Fund.

In November 2020, the City launched three new funds totaling \$6.3 million that support small businesses in Boston that have been affected by COVID-19, focusing on commercial rent relief, supporting certified women-, minority-, and veteran-owned small busi-

nesses, and restaurant relief. To further assist the City's small businesses, the City of Boston has created a list of suppliers to help businesses source the personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies required to ensure the safety of employees and customers as industries reopen.

continued from front page

ority category in their vaccination programs. "I'm using the full authority of the federal government and directing every state to do the same," Biden said. "My challenge to all states, territories and the District of Columbia is this: We want every educator, school staff member, child-care worker to receive at least one shot by the end of the month of March."

The status of K-12 education varies widely across the country, with some children able to attend in-person classes five days a week since the fall and others learning at home for nearly a year. Overall, the recent trend is toward more in-person options, with several large districts beginning to open buildings this week.

Teachers unions are now urging Gov. Charlie Baker to "get with the program" after the President made his announcement. As a result, the CVS website now lists teachers as being eligible to get the

vaccine, even though the state has not said the group is eligible. CVS and Walgreens get their doses from the federal government but have been complying with the guidance from the state.

"We're ready," Jessica Tang, with the Boston Teachers Union, said. "We just need the vaccinations, so this was very welcomed news." Merrie Najimy, the Massachusetts Teachers Association president said, "We're calling on Gov. Baker to get with the program, accept our Last Mile vaccine distribution plan and get it going right away."

Massachusetts Teachers Unions partnered with firefighters to create a program called the Last Mile Vaccination Program. They say it could vaccinate teachers in time for a return to class but add that the plan has yet to be approved by the state.

A spokesman for Baker said the governor continues to believe learning in a classroom poses a "very low risk" for COVID-19

transmission when proper safety protocols are followed and noted that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said vaccines should not be considered a condition for reopening schools. "The state's supply of vaccines from the federal government remains constrained, with the demand from providers exceeding four times the available supply that Massachusetts is allocated on a weekly basis," said spokesman Terry MacCormack.

It has been a little more than two weeks since people 65 and older became eligible for the vaccine, and teachers are slated to be a part of the next group, which also includes other essential workers. On Feb. 24, Baker said it would take about a month, barring an increase in vaccine supply, to work through the groups of people currently eligible to receive vaccines.

While competition for appointments has been fierce, Pfizer and Moderna are both expecting to

ramp up production in March and the Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved a third vaccine - the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine - for use. "A top priority for everyone in government, whether at the local, state or federal level, should be getting our students and teachers and staff back into the classroom safely. Getting students back into the classroom, where they learn best, should be a local decision which will depend upon a variety of factors," Senate President Karen Spilka said. House Speaker Ron Mariano, a former teacher, had already said teachers should be prioritized for vaccination, but at the time did not provide any details for how that should be accomplished.

While most districts have already incorporated some in-person classroom learning for students — whether fully or by adopting a hybrid model — about 20% of districts are still fully remote, according to Baker.

Window continued from page 4

a general election — and "a hard-core political watcher couldn't ask for anything more." That assumes, of course, Baker doesn't run again.

#### As unemployment filers wait and wait for benefits ...

The Globe's Katie Johnston has an update on the long waits people endure to get unemployment-insurance benefits in Massachusetts, not to be confused with the long waits people endure to sign-up for coronavirus vaccine appointments in Massachusetts.

#### ... family and medical leave recipients wait and wait for payments

Vaccine waits. Unemployment-insurance waits. And now fam-

ily-and-medical-leave payment waits under the state's new paid-leave law, as Gabrielle Emanuel reports at GBH. Are you starting to notice a pattern here? Everyone seems to be waiting in state lines these days.

#### 'Tough, tough weekend': Romney slips, cracks head, gets lots of stitches and black eye while visiting Boston

Mitt Romney's trip back to the Boston to see his grandkids didn't go so well the other day, according to reports at Universal Hub and the Globe. "I had kind of a tough, tough weekend," the former Massachusetts governor and current Utah senator told reporters in D.C. yesterday. He looks fine in post-fall photos, fortunately.

#### Warren: It's time for the 'ultra-millionaires' tax'

She meant it — and means it. From Jackson Cote at MassLive: "In line with a promise she made as a former candidate on the 2020 presidential campaign trail, Sen. Elizabeth Warren on Monday proposed a wealth tax on "ultra-millionaires," noting how the coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated the financial gap between the rich and the rest of the country."

#### Galvin: Federal law needed to protect mail-in voting

File under: Be careful of what you wish for. SHNS's Katie Lannan reports that Secretary of State William Galvin thinks Congress should pass a law guaranteeing that every voter can cast

a mail-in ballot in federal elections, saying the federal government needs some "universal standards" on voting. But isn't this also opening the door for mail-in opponents to one day tinker with states' voting standards? Congress won't always be controlled by Dems, after all.

#### AG: Dentist kept kids in braces longer than needed to collect more from MassHealth

This is pretty low. Attorney General Maura Healey's office is suing a Dorchester dentist for deliberately "keeping children in braces for longer than medically necessary and deceptively billing (the state) for mouth guards," according to a report at the Dorchester Reporter.



## SEN. COLLINS, REP. BIELE SUPPORT \$ 16 BILLION INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

*Authorizes over \$13 million for South Boston roadways and planning efforts*

**R**ecently, State Senator Nick Collins and State Representative David Biele joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature in passing a transportation bond bill that authorizes \$16 billion for maintaining and improving the Commonwealth's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems.

The legislation, *An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment*, ensures that Massachusetts invests in large-scale transportation capital and improvement projects, municipal road and bridge projects, regional transportation, as well as programs aimed at reducing congestion and improving air quality.

Regarding South Boston and Dorchester, the legislation specifically authorizes:

- \$10 million for design and improvements to intersections, roadways, sidewalks, and bridges along East Broadway, West Broadway, Dorchester Avenue, Old Colony Avenue, L Street, Farragut Road, Day



Boulevard, Northern Avenue, and Haul Road;

- \$1.5 million for improvements at JFK Station, Andrew Station, and Broadway Station;
- \$1 million to study bottlenecks and transportation along the corridor between JFK Station, Andrew Station, and Broadway Station, including Kosciuszko Circle, Old Colony Avenue, Dorchester Avenue, and Mount Vernon Street;
- \$1 million for the study and



implementation additional/alternative bus route between South Station and South Boston, bypassing Summer Street; and

- \$100,000 on a study to reconfigure Kosciuszko Circle.

"We hear daily about the importance of improving our roads, public transit, and transportation system as a whole," said Senator Collins. "Safe streets, reliable transit, and rapid mobility is essential to the residents throughout my district, and I am

proud to have delivered this long-term bill that will make a real difference in people's commutes."

"This bill authorizes funding for crucial infrastructure improvements in our transit system and allocates funding for our local streets and roadways, while supporting future transportation planning efforts," said Rep. Biele. "I was proud to join my colleagues in passing this bond authorization to help build a better transportation system for residents and businesses in South Boston, Dorchester, and across Massachusetts."

Additionally, the bill also authorizes:

- \$4.4 billion for federal aid projects;
- \$3 billion dedicated to system modernization investments and rail improvements for the MBTA;
- \$595 million for Green Line extension improvements; and
- \$50 million to support Complete Streets program;
- \$50 million in municipal grants for rapid transit bus lanes and bus shelters; and
- \$30 million for water transportation grant programs.

The legislation was signed into law by Governor Baker following its passage by the Legislature.

## Councilors Flynn and Breadon Refile Hearing Order on Safety of Construction Sites

**B**oston City Councilors Ed Flynn and Liz Breadon filed a 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. This hearing aims to discuss how the city can ensure that construction workers and construction sites are safe, that the vetting process for construction companies are thorough, and 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.

Last week, there was a tragic accident on High Street in Downtown where two workers were unfortunately killed on a construction site. In recent years, the City of Boston has been experiencing an unprecedented building boom, with large scale construction sites in various

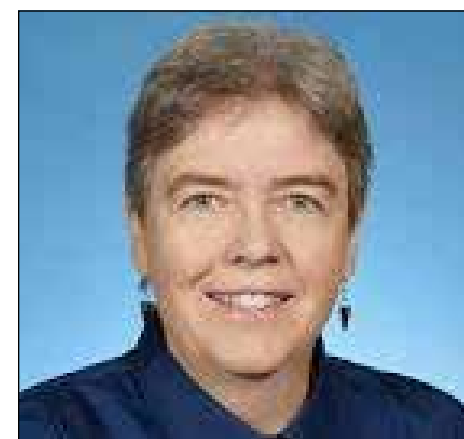
neighborhoods. These sites have heavy machinery, tall cranes, and the equipment that is in close proximity to their workers, as well as our residents, our workforce, pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists. Construction workers are often at high risk of suffering occupational injuries and fatalities, and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

Aside from the tragic incident on High Street, we have unfortunately witnessed several accidents in recent years of injured or even killed construction workers. It is critical that we ensure the safety of our construction workers, as well as our residents and workforce. We need to make sure that safety procedures and precautions are adhered to at these worksites, and that there is a thorough vetting process for construction companies.



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.

"Construction workers are a critical part of our workforce in the city, and it is imperative that these sites have the appropriate measures in place to ensure their health and safety," said



Councilor Flynn. "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 workers, pedestrians, neighbors and motorists. I look forward to working with city officials and safety advocates on this issue."

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

# The Wine Guy

## Will It Ever Be Warmer?

**Y**ou're outside, sitting on a sun-drenched patio, feeling that strong Spring sun on your face with a glass of ice-cold chardonnay in your hand. But, except for the ice-cold part, you're not anywhere in South Boston, let alone the Boston Metro area! This weather's the pits! On the off chance that we'll be able sit out anywhere warm sometime before the Fourth of July, here are some whites that should be right.

*Sequoia Grove, 2018 Chardonnay, Caneros, Napa Valley, California, (\$21.99)*, is a great starter. The first aromas are of green apple and pear, followed by fresh toast, lemon custard, and toasted walnuts. Background notes of nutmeg and lemon zest fill out the nose. On the palate, this wine is elegant, with notes of caramel and fresh citrus, matched with a lemon curd mid-palate. This Chardonnay is bright, vibrant and really well-balanced.

*2019 Justin Sauvignon Blanc, Central Coast, California, (\$15.99)*, reflects the diversity of the climates and soils in the Central Coast that range from the cool, limestone-laden Templeton Gap area to the warmer, sandy, river-influenced eastern regions. Justin's combined Sauvignon Blanc from vineyards in these unique areas to give this beauty a full array of bright citrus fruit and herbal notes, balanced by a crisp, refreshing mineral structure. This is a perfect food pairing wine for an amazing range of cheeses, seafood or light dining options, like appetizers or tapas.



I haven't mentioned Chilean wines lately, though it's certainly not because there's a shortage of wines worth mentioning. *Casas Del Bosques, 2017 Late Harvest Riesling, Casablanca Valley, Chile, (\$19.99)*, is an example of the newer segments of wines being produced in the fog-shrouded, western end of the valley. Intense flavors of apricots, honey and clementine, great balance and a super-long finish. Think of a slightly lighter version of Eiswein, less syrup and more balance. Great value at this price!

*Sancerre* is a small wine district in central France, famous for its crisp, aromatic white wines made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes. It is also known for its high-quality

goat cheeses, which are an excellent match for the local wine. The vineyards here surround the eponymous town, which sits atop a bean-shaped hill overlooking the river Loire. The classic Sancerre wine is white, bracingly acidic, and has pungent aromas of gooseberries, grass, nettles, and a hint of stony minerality.

*Daniel Chotard 2017 Sancerre, Loire Valley, France, (\$28.99)*, is a classic. He and his family have been making wine for eleven generations; Daniel recently passed the reins of the cellar over to his son, Simon, who makes wines of impressive balance, finesse, and maturity for his young age. This 2017 is no exception. An intense exotic nose lures you in before the minerality channels the lightning energy of this pure sauvignon blanc, jostling you wide awake. Shellfish, salads and grilled chicken dishes all benefit with this one.

You've got the list; all you need now is another 35 degrees and you're all set!

**Talk To The Wine Guy at**  
[jdris8888@gmail.com](mailto:jdris8888@gmail.com)

## Baby Shower Covid Style!



**O**n Sunday, February 28th - Covid-19

was not going to stop Paige, Chloe or Mary from giving their friend the baby shower she deserved. These great friends organized a drive by baby shower with a baby elephant theme under a beautifully decorated tent. It was certainly an eye catcher and a well thought out idea created with ingenuity for their friend.

**Tori Hicks and Jordan Trimble** will welcome their son Gabrielle around March 23rd. Best wishes on the upcoming birth of your son!

## Gate of Heaven & St Brigid of Kildare Parishes

### UPDATE



Religious Education (Grade K - 6) Classes will begin Sunday March 14, 2021

Classes will take place in the lower hall of St. Brigid Church

Class time: 9:15AM - 10:15AM followed by the 10:30AM Mass

Registration ONLINE or IN PERSON - Please come by St. Brigid Church to

Register on Sunday, March 14th from 8:30AM - 9:10AM.

Class will begin at 9:15AM. Or Visit our Website for

Online Registration <https://www.gateofheavenstbrigid.org/>

Tentative Class Schedule (March-June 2021)

Our Sacramental Program is a two-year program in accordance with Archdiocese of Boston Guidelines.

For those students enrolling in our 1st or 2nd grade for the first time who were not Baptized in either St. Brigid or Gate of Heaven Church, please provide a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

Please note that First Grade Parents should enroll their child in the First Grade Program in order for their child to receive their Sacrament of First Holy Communion in the 2nd Grade in 2022.


The children/families will be required to wear a mask at all times.

Your child's teacher will be in touch with you with further information about Pandemic Safety Protocols.



Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
420 West Broadway UNIT 407 Condo	\$699,000	11/18/20220	3	1	718
278 K St UNIT 3 Condo	\$849,000	12/29/20	5	2	1,425
2 G St UNIT 3 Condo	\$849,000	12/29/20	5	2	1,183
545 East Third St UNIT14 Condo	\$825,000	12/8/20	4	1.5	1,159
232 Old Colony Ave UNIT 34 Condo	\$825,000	11/10/20	5	2	1,386
62 Gates St UNIT 1 Condo	\$825,000	12/11/20	7	2.5	2,057
135 Seaport Blvd UNIT 618 Condo	\$825,000	12/23/20	2	1	506
141 Dorchester Ave UNIT 414 Condo	\$820,000	11/10/20	3	1	1,032
135 Seaport Blvd UNIT 818 Condo	\$813,900	12/30/20	2	1	506
545 East Third St UNIT4 Condo	\$800,000	12/30/20	5	2.5	1,382
404 West Second St UNIT 3 Condo	\$770,000	11/19/20	4	1.5	920
22 Liberty Drive UNIT 5L Condo	\$760,000	12/11/20	1	1	508
366 Dorchester St UNIT 7 Condo	\$755,000	12/17/20	4	1	1,183
381 West Broadway UNIT 3 Condo	\$749,900	12/14/20	5	2	1,165
491 East Broadway UNIT 4 Condo	\$745,000	12/14/20	3	1	1,403
420 West Broadway UNIT 508 Condo	\$737,900	12/8/20	3	1	720
496 East Thhird St UNIT 1 Condo	\$730,000	12/1/20	5	2.5	1,411
681 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$730,000	12/31/20	5	2	996
366 West Second St UNIT 4 Condo	\$715,000	11/17/20	4	1.5	866
57 Telegraph St UNIT 1 Condo	\$710,000	11/20/20	5	1.5	1,180
420 West Broadway UNIT 501 Condo	\$693,650	11/18/20	2	1	606
120 West Seventh St UNIT 203 Condo	\$691,000	12/2/20	4	2	1,131

Virtual Public Meeting

# Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront

Wednesday, March 10  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/2NZgDyH](https://bit.ly/2NZgDyH)  
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864  
Meeting ID: 160 829 2496

**Project Description:**

Please join Boston Planning & Development planning for a virtual meeting to develop Design and Use Guidelines for the Downtown Waterfront. The Guidelines will inform new development and establish uniform requirements for Harborwalk, the public realm, open space resources and public use facilities. We are looking to hear your thoughts on how to better activate the Downtown Waterfront, ensure the area is welcoming and accessible to all residents and visitors, and create an improved sense of place and clarity.

Translation and interpretation services can be made available upon request by reaching out to [chris.busch@boston.gov](mailto:chris.busch@boston.gov)

mail to:

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


phone:

617.918.4451



email:

[chris.busch@boston.gov](mailto:chris.busch@boston.gov)

BostonPlans.org

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



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


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# NOTICE OF PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION

**Former CONE Terminal**  
**900 East First Street, South Boston, MA**  
**MassDEP RTN 3-00257**

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan [MCP; 310 CMR 40.1083(3)], a Partial Termination of Notice of Activity and Use Limitation has been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for this site.

The Partial Termination of Notice of Activity and Use Limitation, as well as the disposal site file, can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-00257 at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites2/Search.aspx> or at the MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01887.

To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Mr. Chester Myers at Massport's Environmental Management Unit Office, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, MA 02128 or by e-mail at [chmyers@massport.com](mailto:chmyers@massport.com).



# Happy 70th Opening Season To Sullivan's at Castle Island!

Sullivan's opening weekend, February 27, 2021 was windy, rainy and cold and it by no means stopped the loyal crowds, babies or fur babies from completing the annual ritual of being present on opening weekend to enjoy half price hot dogs, Sully clams, cheeseburgers, fries, onion rings, etc... Local residents were joined by families and friends from Braintree, Dedham, Walpole, Waltham, Newton, Wrentham, Milton and so on. Look at the smiles and as we locals say, "see ya down the Island."





# St. Peter Academy

## Grade 2 Happenings by Ms. Katie Karalexis, 2nd Grade Teacher

The second graders are working so hard to strengthen and grow their skills in each subject area. Their number sense and abilities to add and subtract numbers within 1,000, using numbers and pictures, is growing each day! The use of math pictures and manipulatives in Eureka Math has them really understanding why our standard algorithms in math actually work.

They are becoming awesome writers— applying phonics skills, proper letter formation and tons of details in every piece they write. We recently adopted Wilson Foundations as our phonics program and it has made such a difference in students' decoding, encoding and word-attack skills!

The second graders are also becoming critical thinkers, particularly

in social studies and in discussions around equality, where I am constantly blown away by the complexity of their thoughts and opinions and the depth of their compassion for others.

My very favorite part about teaching second grade is seeing the immense growth each child makes throughout the course of the school year. It is amazing to see who they are when they arrive in September, academically and socially, and who they become by June. Comparing work from the first and last weeks of school and seeing their reactions to their own growth is a feeling you cannot put

a price on. It's so clear to me and to them that they are growing into awesome, brilliant little people right before my eyes!

*St. Peter Academy is an independent, community-based private school and serves students from ages 15 months through grade 6. SPA is currently accepting applications for the limited spaces available in the year-round toddler program (beginning at age 15 months) and for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and grades 1-6. Appointments for individual virtual tours can be made by contacting Maria Blasi, at 617-268-0750 or by emailing m.blasi@StPeterAcademy.com.*



## Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament Starts April 20

Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2021 Mayor's Cup Street Hockey Tournament in partnership with the Boston Bruins Foundation during the April public school vacation week. "We're looking forward to getting our young hockey stars back outdoors to compete for the title of 'Boston's Best' in the Mayor's Cup Tournament," said Mayor Walsh. "We thank the Boston Bruins for their continued partnership and support and wish this year's players all the best of luck."

The Tournament will begin April 20 and continue through the school vacation week. All games will be played at Joseph Moakley Park at 1005 Columbia Road in South Boston. Additional support is provided by P&G Gillette. Teams will compete in two regions in Mite (ages 6 to 8), Squirt (ages 9 to 10), and Pee Wee (ages 11 and 12) divisions. Please note that pre-registration for teams is required with a limit of eight teams per regional division.

All Massachusetts hockey standard procedures will be followed with added Mayor's Cup COVID-19 policies: masks are mandatory at all times; teams are limited to one game per day; no sharing of equipment; players will arrive 10 minutes before their games; benches will be sanitized between games; teams will be asked each day to provide names and phone numbers for contact tracing; and Mayor's Cup staff will be on site to ensure sure all protocols are followed.

To register or for more information, please contact Damien Margardo at [damien.margardo@boston.gov](mailto:damien.margardo@boston.gov) or call (617) 961-3083.





# South Boston Catholic Academy News

## Celebrating Black History Month and Other February 2021 Highlights!

Students in Ms. Smith's 5B grade class celebrated Black History Month by researching African American heroes, whose legacy still impacts the world today. The 5B historian's researched hero's like Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Maya Angelou and created banners in their honor. We ended this unit with each student presenting his or her hero. We had fun and learned a lot. God Bless America!!!!

During Black History Month students in Ms. Szmurlo's Art Class, have been studying artists such as Alma Woodsey Thomas, Faith Ringgold and even Jean-Michel Basquiat. They have learned about their impact on Art history as well as African American history. In third grade, students learned about Alma Thomas and how she used abstract painting techniques to create concentric circles. Fifth

and Sixth grade learned about Faith Ringgold and how she uses paint and sewing techniques to create memory quilts about her life and ancestry. Students created based on those artists, while still creating their own meaningful work of art.

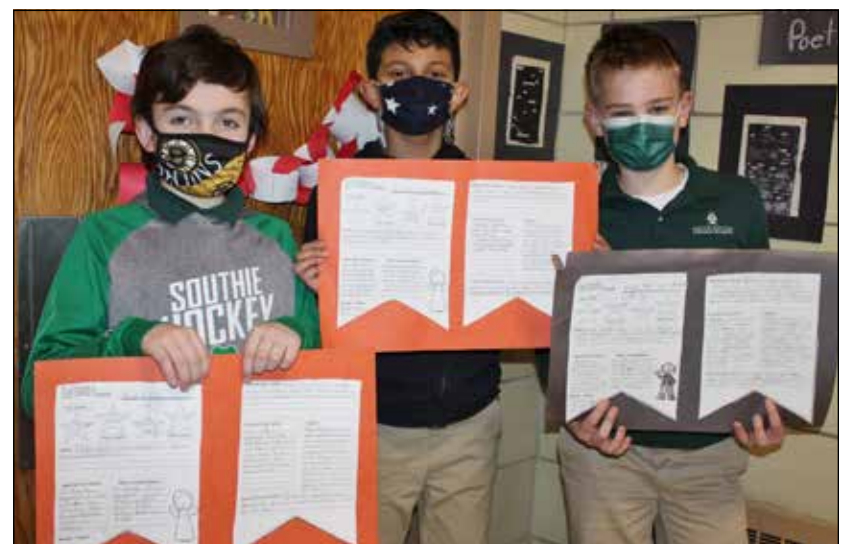
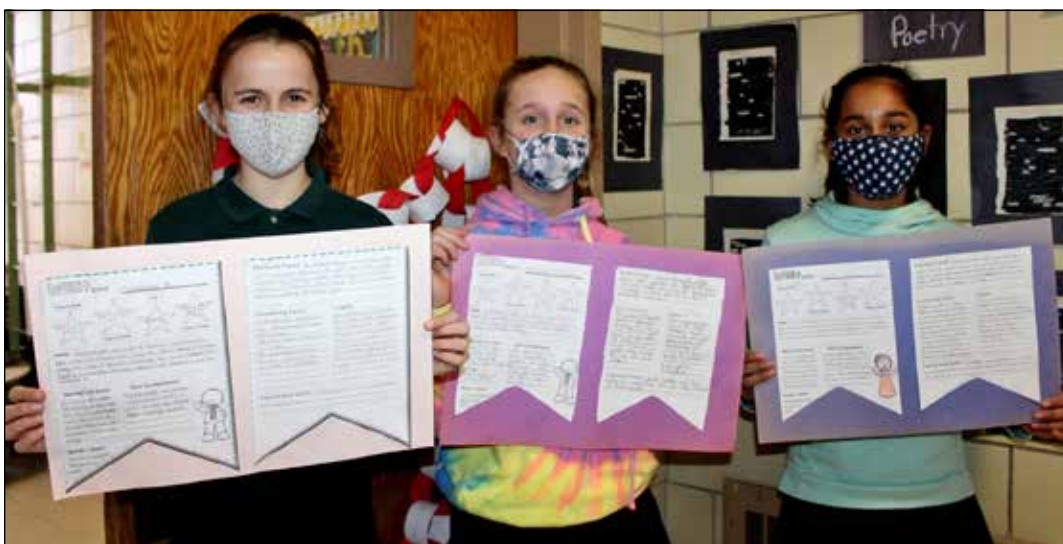
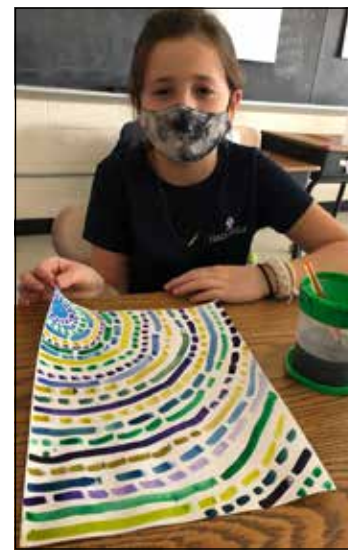
This year South Boston Catholic Academy students in Ms. Tynan's Music class are proudly honoring the lives of Black musicians of present and past. Starting with our youngest friends in Kindergarten through 6th grade, we are exploring the lives of black musicians and their contribution to musical history. Where would jazz be without Louis Armstrong? Or opera be without the early voice of Marion Anderson? In Kindergarten students have learned biographical songs, set to American folk tunes, like a song about Louis Armstrong set to the tune of When the Saints Come Marching

In (one of his biggest hits).

We also are exploring the lives of less famous artists such as Melba Liston, a contemporary of Armstrong, who was the first female trombone player to be allowed to play on the bandstand. In sixth grade we read "When Marion Sang", describing the amazing life of Marion Anderson. Anderson was a famous opera singer who fought to be heard in the United States, and eventually convinced Eleanor Roosevelt to help her overcome the racial bias in the opera world. With Roosevelt's help she was invited to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to a crowd of thousands. Sixth grade has also discussed the lives of various black composers and modern artists. The gift of music is one of the many wonderful gifts God has given to us all!

Some of our other February highlights include...Celebrat-

ing our 100th Day of school and February Vacation Camp... The students that attended camp during our February vacation had a terrific time making Musical Rain Sticks, making crafts, playing fun games in the gym and much more. Ms. Reh's 2B students have been working so hard on their biographies for Black History Month that she wanted to celebrate their hard work. On February 25, Ms. Reh took her students on a field trip to M Street Beach. As you can see from their photo, a good time was had by all! On February 26, the 3rd grades students in Mr. Stautberg's class, the student's in 5A in Ms. Worthen's class and Ms. Hosil's grade 6 students also got a nice treat by going out to M Street Park to enjoy the great weather after a week of hard work. What a great way to end the month of February and welcome the month of March! New applicants are welcomed to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at [j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org](mailto:j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org) to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.





# March is National Pet Poison Prevention Month

## Keep Your Pets Safe with Tips from Best Friends Animal Society



Watching your dog or cat get sick from toxic items or poison is a nightmare for any pet owner. Symptoms of poisoning can be especially traumatic, ranging from seizures and vomiting to nosebleeds and diarrhea.

"Nobody wants to see their pets suffer in such a painful way or, worst-case scenario, have a fatal incident. That's why it's important to make sure your home environment keeps dogs and cats as safe as possible," said Dr. Erin Katribe, veterinarian and medical director for Best Friends Animal Society.

As March is Pet Poison Prevention Month, Best Friends encourages pet

owners to protect their pets from potential ingestion of any of the following:

- Antifreeze
- Bait for rodents
- Batteries (which can contain corrosive fluid)
- Car care products, such as cleaners or oils
- Fertilizer
- Gorilla Glue (or similar products)
- Household cleaners
- Ice-melting products
- Medications – prescribed and over-the-counter
- Nicotine products
- Pesticides for insects
- Pool or pond products

"Pets can be very inquisitive, so it's always best to keep these items in a sealed cabinet area that your pets cannot have access to, whether that's in the home, in a shed, or in a garage," Katribe said. "If you use any of these products, always make sure to clean up any spillage immediately and thoroughly so ingestion can't happen that way, either."

Food can be toxic to pets, so it's always important to remember to never give or allow your pets to have

access to any of the following:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Substances containing caffeine, such as coffee
- Chocolate
- Fatty foods, especially drippings and grease from cooking
- Chicken and turkey bones
- Grapes and raisins
- Onions and garlic
- Macadamia nuts
- Salt and sugar
- Yeast or bread dough

"Plants can also be toxic and poisonous to pets," Katribe said. "These plants include English ivy or holly, lilies, Chinaberry, iris, poinsettia, pokeweed and daphne. For cats, even contact with the pollen of some lilies can be severely toxic."

Should your pet show any signs of poisoning, which include vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, blood in stool, paralysis, loss of appetite, bruising, nosebleeds, irregular heartbeat or inability to urinate, a veterinary consult is in immediate order.

Courtesy Best Friends Animal Society  
"Call your veterinary office or an emer-

gency clinic as soon as possible to let them know of your pet's symptoms and what they could have possibly ingested. The veterinary staff may be able to provide instructions on how to help decrease the severity of the situation prior to coming in or they may advise that you come in immediately," Katribe said. "Time is of the essence when it comes to minimizing the dangerous effects of any poison, so every second counts."

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters by 2025. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters from an estimated 17 million per year to around 625,000. Best Friends runs lifesaving programs all across the country, as well as the nation's largest no-kill animal sanctuary. Working collaboratively with a network of more than 3,200 animal welfare and shelter partners, and community members nationwide, Best Friends is working to Save Them All®. For more information, visit [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org).

## Evacuation Day Poster And Essay Contest Deadline March 12



South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath announced today that because of the tremendous success of the past several years' contest, the Association will once again sponsor the 2021 Annual Essay and Poster Contests.

After last year's outstanding effort put forth by past President Bernie O'Donnell and his committee, they

expressed an interest in taking on the challenge of chairing The Essay and Poster Contests. "Bernie always taught me that these contests are a great way to educate and strengthen the interest of the children of the community, I was more than pleased when Bernie offered to head up this Event for the children of South Boston. This year we will open up the High School competition to all students residing in Suffolk County or attends a school in Suffolk County", Remarkd McGrath. Bernie further expressed "One of the missions of the SBCA is to reach out to the young children of this historically rich community, joining the SBCA in promoting, organizing, and judging the Evacuation Day Poster and Essay Competitions is a most fitting way to improve on that mission."

The current plan with respect to

our annual Evacuation Day activities is to continue to host all the events as we have done in years past, but with additional precautions, including social distancing and face coverings. We will continue to work with Governor Baker, the City of Boston Health Commission, and the National Park Service for the planning of our activities, as we do every year, and will strictly follow their requirements and guidance on all aspects of our hosted events.

We look forward to working with the community again this year, which commemorates the 245th anniversary of Evacuation Day in Boston. Celebrating Evacuation Day events in the community is a huge undertaking, especially under current circumstances. But thanks to Volunteers and Community Business partners in past years, such as Comcast, Mass

Bay Credit Union and City of Boston Credit Union, we at the SBCA are confident we will be able to complete the task and make it possible for the entire community to safely enjoy this year's commemorative events.

Subject matter has been specifically chosen as follows.

Poster competition Grades 3-5

Subject matter has been specifically chosen as follows. The poster competition is open to all students that attend schools in South Boston. This year's theme is the significance of Colonel Henry Knox and the Noble Train of Artillery. Poster should be original compositions, in any medium at least 8 1/2 x 11" but preferably larger.

Prizes are as follows:

First prize \$100

Second prize \$75

continued on page 14

# The WFH Vs. Return-To-Office Debate: What Employees, Bosses Should Consider

**M**any Americans have been working from home full-time for a year now since COVID-19 hit the U.S. And many prefer that arrangement to a traditional office. In a survey, 65% said they want to work remotely full-time after the pandemic. That could pose a problem for them and their employers.

Given the availability of vaccines, many companies are planning to ask their employees to return to the office. But a sizable number of workers might balk – or even walk. In a survey by LiveCareer, 29% of working professionals said they would quit if they couldn't continue working remotely.

"The reality is that some jobs just don't work remotely and some people don't work well remotely," says Cynthia Spraggs (www.virtira.com), a veteran of working remotely, author of *How To Work From Home And Actually Get SH\*T Done*, and CEO of Virtira, a completely virtual company that helps other businesses work virtually. "Companies have time to plan for both – and so do employees.

"Many employees now expect to be able to work flexibly. Some companies will use a hybrid approach, and others will go back to full-time in the office. But if employees are not given the choice to work from home, some

will look for other employers that do offer that. Companies need to assess which jobs are best done remotely and assess their employees to understand which ones benefit the company most by either working from home or returning to the office."

Spraggs offers these thoughts for workers, business owners and managers to consider in the WFH vs. return-to-office debate:

• **The WFH type.** "At this point, it should be relatively easy to assess who is thriving and who is miserable in a WFH setting," Spraggs says. "What we've found is, regardless if you're an introvert or an extrovert, the perfect WFH employee is someone who embraces life and who has passions and interests outside of work. They work efficiently and are strong performers because they see work as a means to fund their life."

• **The traditional office type.** Spraggs draws a stark contrast between people who thrive working from home and those who are much happier commuting to a traditional brick-and-mortar office environment. "These individuals have strong social relationships through work and require the camaraderie that an in-office environment provides," she says. "For many, especially those focused on the corner

office, work is their life. These are the ones who pull down 80-hour weeks to move up the ladder. They stay glued to their boss, and likely are the ones who just won't function well at home. Sadly, they are also likely your VP."

• **Weigh how your company thinks of you.** "Although we all like to think that companies care about employees," Spraggs says, "the harsh reality is that employees are a unit of production and companies will migrate to the setup that senior executives mandate. Do you really want to work for a company that isn't prepared to accommodate what makes you most productive and happy? Better sharpen that CV and get ready. Plan now and work your networks."

• **Management realities.** For many companies, even with the environmental, health and productivity advantages that remote work brings, Spraggs thinks some simply aren't going to embrace WFH as an opportunity to streamline operations. "They are going to want to return to the 'old normal,'" she says. "A good number of senior management people didn't do well with the WFH environment because they view WFH through a lens of slacking-off employees, lower productivity and lower ROI. So it's likely these companies are not going



to make the investments in training, home-based bandwidth, VPNs and tools to make it work."

"There's coming tension in many companies between what will work best for management and what will work best for the employees," Spraggs says. "We may see a big migration in workers going to fully virtual companies."

## About Cynthia Spraggs:

Cynthia Spraggs (www.virtira.com) is the author of *How To Work From Home And Actually Get SH\*T Done: 50 Tips for Leaders and Professionals to Work Remotely and Outperform the Office*. She is CEO of Virtira, a completely virtual company that focuses on remote team performance. Before taking leadership of the company in 2011, Spraggs worked with large consulting and tech companies while completing her MBA and research into telecommuting.

## Poster & Essay continued from page 13

Third prize \$25

Essay competition Grades 6-8

What is the significance of Dorchester Heights? Please focus on the history and importance to the South Boston community. Essays should be at least 500 words.

Prizes are as follows:

First place \$100

Second prize \$75

Third prize \$25

This Essay competition is open to all students that attend ALL schools in the City Boston.

Grade 9-12

What role did the smallpox epidemic play in the Evacuation of Boston in March 1776 and the

War of Independence till surrender at

Yorktown. How did the epidemic effect General Washington and British Troops. Essays should be at least 1000 words.

Prizes are as follows:

First prize \$150

Second prize \$100

Third prize \$50

**All entries should bear, in an attached envelope, the contestant's name, school and a means of contacting the entrant, and should be submitted no later than Friday, March 12th, 2021 At 5 PM. All entries may be mailed to South Boston Citizens' Association, P.O. Box 74, South Boston, MA 02127, or can be picked up at schools by a representative of the Citizens' Association. Entries can also be dropped off at 170 M Street.**

# MCM

## Properties

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## This week, Danny shared his thoughts on the NBA's decision to have an All-Star Game this season:

It's crazy to think that a year ago at this time every sport was beginning to shut down because of the novel Coronavirus. Now, here we are, in 2021, with games being played in empty arenas. Though, that's about to change here in Boston, as both Fenway Park and the TD Garden will allow 12 percent capacity later this month as the state of Massachusetts enters Phase 4 of its COVID reopening plans.

Speaking of fans, there will be no fans in attendance when the NBA holds its annual All Star Weekend, this weekend, in Atlanta. Instead of an all-weekend affair, this year will see all four All-Star events take place on the same night, on Sunday.

But the real question is: Why is the NBA even hosting All Star Weekend in the first place?

Look, I'll be the first one to tell you that it's time — as a country — to get creative and open everything up 100 percent while also taking the proper steps to protect those vulnerable of COVID-19 infection. We're a full year in, we now have three vaccines, and at this point, society's mental fatigue is becoming worse than the virus

itself. We can still get back to normal while also taking preventative measures. So let's do it.

That said, right now, if you're the NBA, you've successfully managed to get through the first half of your already-shortened 72-game regular season. Do you really need to bring players from every different team and city together for one large event? Seems a little odd to me, and like I said, I'm one of those "OPEN IT UP" people.

Sure, there won't be any fans in attendance at this weekend's All-Star Game. And the NBA has put "strict" protocols in place, telling players that they won't be able to leave their hotel unless it's for All-Star events at the arena.

Oh ok. Sounds good.

Even if the players obey those rules, it's still strange to see the NBA wanting to bring these players together right now, knowing that there's still a lot of basketball left to be played. We've already seen plenty of postponements around the league because of positive COVID tests. We've even seen star players needing to sit out because of simple contact tracing.

I'm not saying there will be any

positive COVID tests as a result of having the All-Star Game this Sunday in Atlanta. I'm just saying that it seems pretty foolish to risk it.

Is the All-Star Game that important? They can still name the All-Stars and pick the teams. Heck, in 2021, it might even be more exciting if each All-Star participated in an NBA 2K online tournament, in which each player could stream from the comfort of their own home.

I mean, does the league really need to have a Dunk Contest and Three-Point Competition? Six players will take part in the Three-point Competition, including two Celtics, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown. That will take place before the All-Star Game tips off at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Then the Dunk Contest will take place at Halftime. But there will only be three players involved: Anfernee Simons, Cassius Stanley, and Obi Toppin. Casual basketball fans are probably asking themselves, "Who?"

Again, I'm willing to bet everyone will be fine and they'll get out of this COVID-free. But just looking at the three Dunk Contest participants alone, you're bringing

three players — non-All Stars, by the way — from New York, Portland, and Indiana into Atlanta to mingle with All Stars from other teams in the league, all while making sure that nobody leaves their hotels and that every player sits six feet apart and wears a mask while they're on the sideline?

It just seems a little odd to me to have so many precautions in place, and yet, decide to host an exhibition event in the middle of a shortened season that you're trying to finish on time.

The only good news is that the NBA will provide more than \$3 million in support of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as part of the All Star festivities. But can't that money still be raised without an actual All-Star Weekend? Of course it can. It's the NBA. They can do whatever they want, and they'll be able to make it work.

Bottom line, I think everyone wants to see this NBA season continue without any major COVID setbacks. Let's just hope that this year's All-Star Game doesn't ruin the second half of the year.

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# SPORTS TODAY

## TATUM, BROWN NAMED NBA ALL STARS

SBT Staff

**N**BA All-Star weekend will look a little different this year, as it will be the first time that the Skills Competitions and All-Star Game will take place on the same night.

This Sunday in Atlanta, Celtics guards Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown will be joining the festivities. Both Celtics were named All-Star Game reserves, selected by the NBA's head coaches. Both Tatum

## Tweet of the Week



#NBAAIStar @NBAAIStar  
The #MtnDew3PT field at #NBAAIStar ★!



and Brown will also be participating in the Three-Point Contest, which takes place before the All-Star Game, along with the Skills Challenge. The Slam Dunk Contest will be part of the halftime show.

For Tatum, this will be his second consecutive All-Star ap-

pearance. He was a member of the winning Team LeBron squad in last year's All-Star Game, scoring 6 points in 14 minutes on 3-for-8 shooting from the field.

This will be Brown's first All-Star appearance. He is one of four NBA All-Star reserves making his first

All-Star appearance. The other three first-timers are Zach Lavine, Julius Randle, and Zion Williamson.

Tatum and Brown become the second pair of Celtics teammates under the age of 25 to receive All-Star honors in the same year. The first was Bob Cousy and Ed Macauley in 1953.

## WHAT TO WATCH

**NHL FRIDAY, MARCH 5**  
Washington at Boston  
7 P.M. NESN

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**  
New Jersey at Boston  
5 P.M. NESN

**NBA SUNDAY, MARCH 7**  
All-Star Game  
Team LeBron vs Team Durant  
8 P.M. TNT

**MLB SATURDAY, MARCH 6**  
Spring Training  
Minnesota vs Boston  
1:05 P.M. NESN

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**  
Spring Training  
Boston vs Atlanta  
1:05 P.M. NESN

## MASSACHUSETTS SET TO REOPEN STADIUMS TO FANS

SBT Staff

**G**overnor Charlie Baker has announced that fans will be allowed to return to stadiums and arenas later this month.

The move will be allowed when Massachusetts moves into Phase 4, which is planned for March 22. Under Phase 4, Baker announced that the state's stadiums and arenas will be allowed to host crowds with a limited capacity of 12 percent.

Those stadiums and arenas include both Fenway Park and the TD Garden.

The Red Sox open their 2021 regular season at Fenway on Thursday, April 1 against the Baltimore Orioles. For the first time since the 2019 MLB season, there will be fans in attendance.

"Today's announcement by Gover-

nor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito outlining the Commonwealth's timetable for entering Phase 4 in late March is a major step forward and a testament to the leadership of the state and our many health care partners working together," said Red Sox President & CEO Sam Kennedy in a press release. "We thank the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary Sudders, Secretary Kennealy, and all of the public officials whose hard work has helped get us to this important stage. We are eager to welcome our fans back to Fenway Park this season."

Over at the TD Garden, the Bruins' first game with fans in attendance will be on Tuesday, March 23 against the New York Islanders, while the Celtics' first game with fans at the Garden will be on Monday, March

29 against the New Orleans Pelicans.

"We have been working diligently with public health officials and experts for nearly a year to create the highest standards of guidelines and protocols to keep everyone as safe as possible at TD Garden," said TD Garden President Amy Latimer in a press release. "Using these new Play It Safe protocols, following updated guidelines from the CDC, and implementing the GBAC Star arena cleaning standards, we take the reopening of TD Garden very seriously and are committed to the health and safety of our fans while providing a great guest experience."

The Bruins and Celtics also issued statements on the return of fans inside the Garden.

"An incredible amount of work and

collaboration has taken place over the past year in preparation for the return of fans to TD Garden," said Bruins President Cam Neely. "The processes and protocols that have been put in place are structured to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and enjoyment of our fans. We are beyond excited to welcome back the best fans in hockey to TD Garden as their energy and enthusiasm have been greatly missed."

"We're grateful for the hard work of our colleagues at TD Garden, the Bruins, and the NBA, and for the guidance we've received from the Governor's office and city officials," said Celtics President Rich Gotham. "We have great confidence that everyone's diligence will provide a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable experience."



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