



## What Has Gotten Into The ZBA? It Listened To The Neighborhood This Past Week!

Deferrals, Denied with Prejudice, Denied without Prejudice, Requests For Deferrals. Tuesday was a day that will live in ‘glory’ for South Boston residents, if only for a little while.

The Zoning Board of Appeal rejected a proposal by the owner of 25 Dorchester St. to add a roof deck after nearby residents and elected officials said the last thing they’d want to see at a building with frequent 911 calls about loud parties is a place for

CONTINUED ON page 8

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# EDITORIAL

## So The Last Covid Restrictions Will Finally Be Lifted

Governor Baker has announced that for all intents and purposes, Massachusetts will lift the final restrictions for the Covid-19 virus on May 29th. According to the City of Boston's 311 line, Boston will abide by the state's policies as well. Though most are relieved and happy that these restrictions will finally be gone, there are some who will still be worried and continue to wear their masks and follow most, if not all, the procedures that the public has endured for all of these many months. To continue to wear masks is an option that is certainly the right of anyone who so chooses, just as not wearing them

is a right and has been a right. Whatever an individual chooses to do should be respected. But the fact that people are still confused and, yes, distrustful of so many of the statements and guidelines that have been issued during the past 18 months is no surprise.

A recent headline in national media outlets reads as follows: "(Dr.) Fauci promotes vaccine skepticism by still wearing his mask outside, even after being vaccinated". This statement begs the question of just how confident in the vaccine is Fauci who has been the biggest cheer leader for getting the shots, if he still won't go maskless outside? From the beginning, this

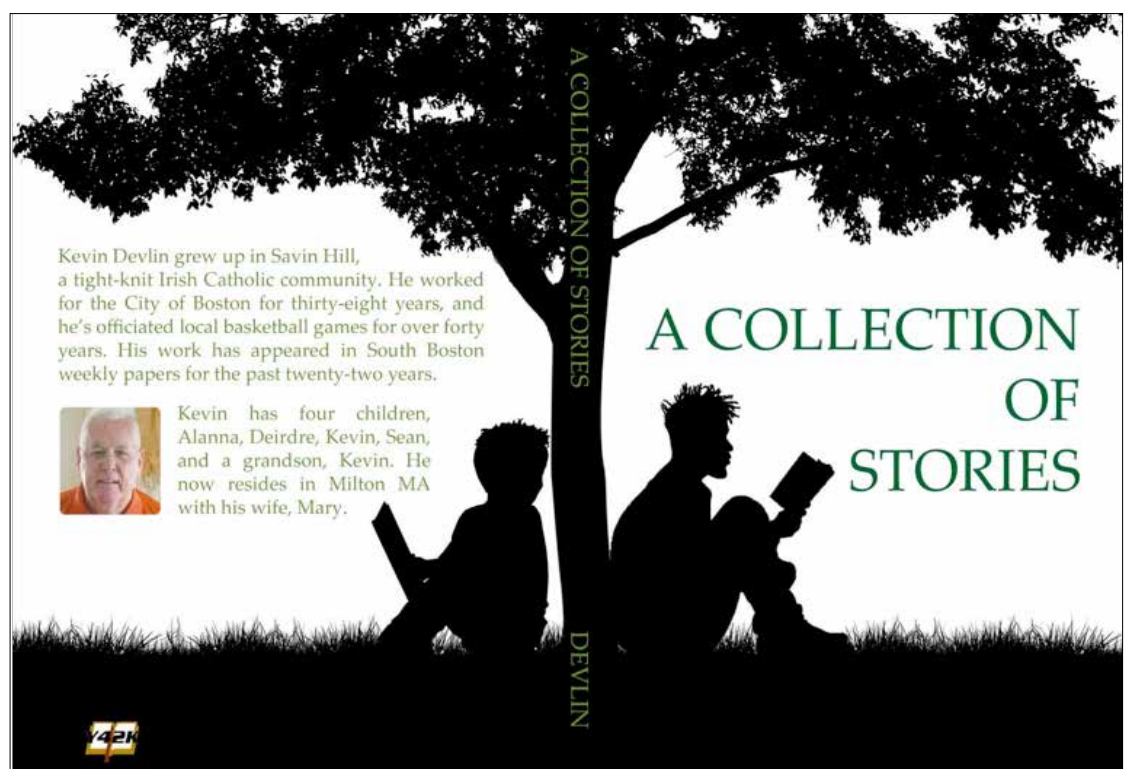
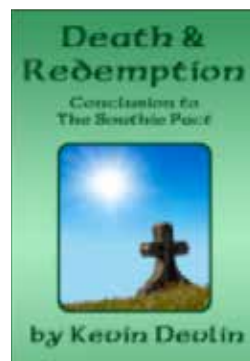
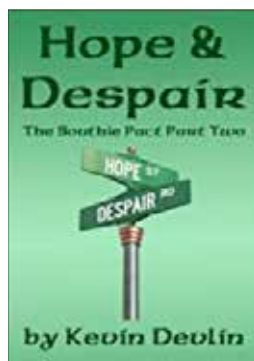
man has been sending conflicting statements to a frightened public in rapid succession. What he advises one week is often not the same as his advice and demands the following week and to be blunt, has had a nervous public being herded around like a flock of sheep. Some would say and are doing so more with each passing day, that Fauci and many of those in government, those high up in the medical field and in the pharmaceutical industry have it in their best interest to keep this going indefinitely. The money to be made, the fame and attention to wallow in and the control that is relished by those who crave it is just too difficult to give

up. They are addicted to it.

States like Florida, Texas and a growing list of others had removed their restrictions weeks and even months ago. And wouldn't you know it, those states are doing just fine. The actions of those states are putting on too much pressure for the remaining states to ignore and they are reluctantly following suit because of that pressure. Whether those in power like it or not, and there are certainly some who do not, this 'Pandemic' is pretty much over. It's time for all of America to get back to normal. Though it might be ruining what so many believe is Fauci's wish to prolong it indefinitely, he needs to let go.

"Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday" - John Wayne

## Kevin Devlin's trilogy of the "Southie Pact" & "A Collection of Stories" now available on AMAZON.COM



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# The Information Center

## Parents Beware Of What Your Children Are Being Taught

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

As the nation moves toward throwing off the shackles that the “Pandemic” has placed on Americans, most public-school children have now been given the ok to be physically back in the classroom, rather than staring into a lap-top screen from home. While many of the so-called Red States have had schools in sessions for months, some of the Blue States have continued imposing virtual learning. But now, pretty much every kid is back in the classroom and most of these kids are thrilled to be back. It’s so nice that they are all back in time to start preparing for summer vacation in a few weeks. Yet the question many Blue State parents are asking is -What on Earth are they teaching our children?

To the surprise of and even shock to many parents, they have learned that in addition to what remains of standard curriculum, something new has been infiltrating primarily public schools. It’s called ‘Critical Race Theory’ or CRT. The proponents of CRT are pushing the idea to young students that their country – The United States of America, is basically a racist country – a bad country. To be more specific, white children are being taught that they are privileged and should feel guilty, because of the color of their skin. Minority children are being taught that they are oppressed and that their white classmates are somehow to blame. Furthermore, they are being taught that American society has weaponized race to continue to oppress people of color and that a ‘racial reckoning’ needs to happen. Is this indoctrination? Yes. Nazis and Communists have used these tactics throughout the 20th Century to divide people and they too started it all in the schools teaching young children to be suspicious and distrustful of one another. CRT is being pushed totally

by leftists in this country.

While leftists/liberals/progressives/Democratic Socialist, whatever name they go by at any given time, accuse Conservative Americans of causing racial strife, it is they who are actually the ones behind it. The tactic of ‘blame your opponents of that which you are guilty’ describes what’s going on perfectly. It is the left, who by their policies and demands, work to divide everyone into racial and ethnic groups. It’s not Conservatives or people on the Right who are pushing CRT in the schools. It isn’t moderates or Republicans on college campuses who are now advocating for separate graduations for each racial and ethnic group and even financial status, it’s the liberal administrators and Socialist professors. Their goal is to cause disunity and divide our country in their ongoing effort to weaken it. And by the way, the news media is going right along with this. And just like their Marxist and Communist heroes have always espoused, starting it all early with school children will serve those goals going into the future.

Am I overstating the problem of teaching CRT in schools? Well, if I am, I’m certainly not alone. Now that parents are waking up to just what the government, supported by the radicals in the Biden Administration is up to, they are rising up against it and it’s not just White parents. Black, Asian and Hispanic parents are getting involved as well, and are demanding their state legislatures ban the teaching of CRT. So far Utah, Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Idaho and nearly a dozen other states have either banned CRT or are working on banning it. The danger is real and, thankfully, there are states that are not allowing themselves to be bullied into allowing their school systems to be taken over by the real racists on the Left. If the

parents in Massachusetts are smart, they will line up with those around the rest of the country and put their foot down. They should demand that Bay State schools remain a place for children to be educated, not indoctrinated. Don’t allow people who hate this country to convince your children to hate it as well, or to separate them into many groups in efforts to divide and weaken our nation.

In closing, for those who haven’t heard, the Cancel/Woke Culture fanatics are having yet another meltdown over the Disney movie Snow White. What about this classic children’s story

has liberals’ pants in a knot? It’s the scene where the prince wakes Snow White with a kiss. Apparently, after 70 plus years of the scene being in the story, they are just realizing that the prince didn’t ask Snow White for permission to kiss her. That dastardly prince is guilty of sexual abuse. They are demanding that the scene be taken out of the story. And watching how the Disney Company has been groveling and led around by the nose by the Left, the odds are the scene will be gone soon. Maybe the prince should have tried to wake Snow White with one of those air horns used to start boat races.

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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.

### Full reopening set for May 29, state of emergency to end June 15

File under: 'Hallelujah.' Gov. Charlie Baker yesterday pushed up the full-reopening date by two months, setting May 29 as the official date in which nearly all pandemic-era business restrictions will be lifted. The state of emergency that's been in place since March 10, 2020 will be also be lifted June 15, the governor announced. And, oh, no indoor masks for the fully vaccinated starting May 29. Take your pick: GBH's Mike Deehan, MassLive's Tanner Stening and a three-reporter team at the Globe have more on the great news. Universal Hub reports Boston will be following the state's new reopening guidelines. For their own special reasons, they're celebrating the end of restrictions in Salem (Salem News), western Massachusetts (MassLive), the Cape (Cape Cod Times) and Worcester (Telegram).

### Employers' dilemma: To require masks or not to require masks?

Employers in the transportation, health care, senior care and K-12 school sectors have no choice: They and their employ-

ees will still be required to wear protective work-place masks after May 29. But what about other employers? What do they do? The BBJs Jessica Bartlett and Grant Walker report they face a dilemma: "Maintain their mask-wearing mandates, or try to follow the fast-moving local and federal guidelines." In Concord, a somewhat surprising number of businesses say they plan to stick with mandatory masks, as Robert Fucci reports at Wicked Local.

### No timeline yet on reopening of State House

Don't rush them. SHNS's Chris Van Buskirk reports on a least one lawmaker's "comprehensive plan" to eventually reopen the State House to staff and the public. But no timeline has been set yet.

### Things to keep after the pandemic: Virtual public meetings, eviction protections, outdoor dining, utilities shutoff moratorium?

The pandemic ushered in a number of policies that turned out to be mighty popular and/or handy. And we're not just talking about cocktails to go. The Herald's Erin Tiernan and SHNS's Katie Lan-

nan have the somewhat long list of pandemic-era policies that lawmakers may or may not want to keep or extend after the state of emergency officially ends.

### And don't forget gig workers after the pandemic ...

Christian Wade at the Eagle Tribune reports that a proposal filed by state Sen. Barry Finegold would make permanent a pandemic-era policy of providing unemployment benefits to hair stylists, Uber drivers, food service workers and thousands of other "gig" workers who previously didn't qualify for jobless benefits.

### Quote of the day: 'COVID is a little bit like, you know, Michael Myers'

Gov. Charlie Baker made clear yesterday the end of pandemic restrictions doesn't mean the end of pandemic threats, particularly new variants that may yet come back to haunt us like a certain horror-film character of yore. SHNS Colin Young has the scary comparison.

### Cuomo set to earn \$5M from book on COVID-19 crisis

Charlie Baker, contact your book agent, if you have one. The NYT

reports that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is set to receive \$5.1 million for a book on his alleged heroic deeds during the COVID-19 crisis. In a rough-justice sort of way, details of the agreement were released as "investigators examine whether the New York governor used state resources to write the leadership memoir," the Times reports.

### School districts to state: Can we at least keep one all-virtual option?

This is interesting. From Meg Woolhouse at GBH: "Some of Massachusetts largest school districts are asking the state to review plans to open their own all-virtual schools for students who want to learn remotely next fall. Boston, Worcester and Natick are just a few of the 13 districts that have requested evaluations to open their own online school next September."

### Saving the state's film tax credit, one amendment at a time

SHNS's Chris Lisinski reviews the nearly 1,000 amendments attached to the proposed Senate budget and finds that, in addition to sports-gambling amendments, there's seven different amendments dealing with the state's film tax credit.

## MCCA Prepared Return to Full Venue Operations on May 29

### MASSACHUSETTS CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Kim Janey announced the lifting of pandemic restrictions in the Commonwealth and City of Boston effective May 29. As a result, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority's ("MCCA") Boston Convention &

Exhibition Center, The Lawn On D, Powered by Citizens Bank, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, and the Mass-Mutual Center in Springfield, MA will again host events and meetings, concerts, sporting events and family events at full capacity. The Authority will continue to work collaboratively with customers to ensure the appropriate safety and cleaning protocols are in place to ensure the health and safety of ex-

hibitors, guests, attendees, employees and our contract workforce.

"I want to thank Governor Baker and Mayor Janey for their continued leadership throughout the pandemic," said David Gibbons, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. "Massachusetts has been a national leader in public health and the strategies implemented based on data have successfully led to this moment when we can safely say that it is

time to get back to business and we, and our customers, are ready to go."

The MCCA has played a key role to assist in the public health response to the pandemic. The BCEC hosted the Boston Hope Field Hospital in the Spring of 2020 during the height of the crisis. More recently, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center has been serving as a mass vaccination site administering more than 250,000 doses to the public.



# The Lawn On D Powered by Citizens is Back in 2021

## Boston's Premier Outdoor Event Venue's Ready to Launch for Season 8

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today announced that The Lawn On D Powered by Citizens will open its doors for an eighth season on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

As of Opening Day, The Lawn On D will still be operating under COVID-19 regulations as set by the State of Massachusetts and the City of Boston, but there will be several big changes compared to last year.

The Lawn's famous swings and

lawn games will be back, along with live music on weekends.

Table reservations are no longer required, and visitors will be able to order food and/or drinks directly from the bar.

Starting May 29, capacity limits will be lifted based on state and city guidance.

Opening Weekend will kick-off on Thursday, May 20 with food, drinks, and lawn games available starting at 3 pm, and will continue with live bands on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday:

• Friday, May 21: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Band: Search Party**

Fronted by two dynamic female vocalists and engaging male vocalists, each with their own distinct sound and ability to harmonize beautifully, they play a full range of all your favorite Top 40 hits from the Motown era to today. They're fun, energetic, and will keep you dancing all day/night long.

• Saturday, May 22: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Band: Closing Time Boston**

One of Boston's most acclaimed bands plays legendary sets of high energy rock, top 40, and pop and country.

• Sunday, May 23: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Band: The Wolfpack**

Pop, rock and country covers filled with plenty of flair and swagger make The Wolfpack one of New England's premier party bands! Combining the very best of yesterday with a healthy mix of the chart-topping hits of today, The Wolfpack has the right stuff for any celebration.

"The excitement is palpable with the opening of The Lawn On D as people can't wait to get out, have fun and reconnect with friends and family at Boston's iconic outdoor space," said David Gibbons. "The Lawn On D has always been an oasis to escape from the daily grind, and after grinding for the last fourteen months visitors from across the city and beyond are telling us they can't wait to cut loose."

Citizens returns as The Lawn On D's title sponsor for the 2021 season and it will again feature its "Bankers on D" brand ambassadors who will continue to provide valuable information for all who visit. Bankers On D are eager to return to The Lawn and will also



continue to host the competitive Friday Corn Hole Tournaments.

"Over the last six years we have been so excited to be part of so many exciting events and activities that have brought our community together," said Jerry Sargent, President of Citizens Massachusetts. "As the city awakens and folks begin to embark outside, this is the perfect place to safely gather with friends and family; and enjoy all the amenities The Lawn has to offer."

To stay up to date on the latest announcements, full program, and entertainment schedule go to LawnOnD.com/calendar, "like" The Lawn Powered by Citizens on Facebook, follow The Lawn On D on Twitter and Instagram at @LawnOnD, and sign up for The Lawn On D's weekly newsletter at LawnOnD.com.

# SEN. COLLINS PARTNERS WITH MUNICIPALITIES TO EXTEND SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

## Proposal Extends Outdoor Dining Options



State Senator Nick Collins has offered an amendment to the State's annual budget that would keep in place critical economic development tools for restaurants across the city and state. Under his proposal, municipalities would be empowered to continue expanded outdoor-dining authorizations for restaurants for a full year after the state of emergency is lifted.

The original authorization of

expanded outdoor dining was one of the Commonwealth's responses to COVID-19 and its impacts on restaurants, small businesses, and main streets. Since the Governor announced the state of emergency will be lifted on June 15th, the authorization granted to municipalities to allow outdoor dining is set to expire August 15th. Many restaurants and businesses say they still need support

and time to recover.

"This vital sector of our economy employs many residents across the Commonwealth," said Senator Collins, Chair of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business. "As we continue our economic recovery, this is a critical tool for municipalities to be able to support their local restaurants. That's what this measure aims to do"

The amendment will be debated next week during the State Senate's annual budget debate.

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# I Was Just Thinking...



by Kevin Devlin

**T**hank God the madness around defunding the police has lost momentum. The argument was that we don't need the police. They are all evil, expend-

able, and need to go. But this was so untrue, so unfair, and so wrong.

Of course, there are police officers who shouldn't be wearing a uniform, who have tarnished their badges with misdeeds, unforgivable acts. But they are the few among the many who protect us every single day.

In a March 8 poll by USA TODAY, they found that fewer than one in five Americans support the 'defund the police' movement. Only 18% of those polled supported this ill-conceived movement, while 58% opposed it. When Americans were asked if the police should be abolished or eliminated, 67% overall declared they were opposed, including many Black Americans and Democrats. White Americans (67%) and Republicans

(84%) were much more likely to oppose the movement. Only 28% of Black Americans and 34% of Democrats were in favor of it.

Society needs law and order and without these safeguards, disorder and anarchy rears its ugly head. Violence erupts daily as seen in the news every day. Last January, in Chicago, 51 homicides were recorded, the highest for the month in four years. On March 15, it was reported that 40 people were shot and five killed. On April 12, 28 people were shot, and 3 people killed. On April 19, 24 people were wounded, 3 of them killed, including a seven-year-old girl. On May 3, it was reported that 46 people were shot and 7 were killed. This is happening every weekend, and this is only Chicago.

Last year, the United States had more than 20,000 murders. It was

the highest since 1995 and 4,000 more than occurred in 2019. Why did this happen? Mistrust in law enforcement, forcing police to be less proactive lest they suffer the consequences of unfair accusations, and the defunding of police departments opened the door for those to take advantage of the situation and behave in murderous fashion. And they did just that.

More policing and not less policing is what is needed. Thorough pre-employment background checks and subsequent ongoing training is needed. Community input and partnerships are needed.

Mutual trust must be restored.

The police are there to protect and serve.

And we need them to do just that and keep everyone safe and secure from those who embrace disorder and violence.

## The Polish Club Presidency Project seeks community involvement

**A**s part of ongoing efforts to record and archive the history of their club, the Polish American Citizens Club is embarking on a project to compile the dates of service for all those who have served as club president.

"This project came about after we started doing more research in preparation for our 80th anniversary gala in September 2019," says club secretary Erica Manczuk Stocks. "As we started to delve deeper and deeper into the history of our club, we realized that we didn't have a very comprehensive list of people who served as president. As an organization, we felt it was important to preserve and honor our history, our leaders, and our place in the Polish-American community of Massachusetts."

Through newspaper articles, obituaries, and conversations with former members, the club was able to put together a preliminary list, but there is still lots of missing information. The club is hoping that members of the Polish diaspora of New England can help fill in the missing pieces.

"The officers and directors

have been working very hard to ensure the future of the club so that it can continue to serve the community for decades to come. We acknowledge how important our past is, and want to make sure it is properly reflected moving forward," says Peter Dziedzic, club treasurer.

If you or someone you know has any information about the men listed below or know of any one who served as a president of the Polish Club in Boston, please email [polishclubboston@gmail.com](mailto:polishclubboston@gmail.com).

Roman Kalnicki; J. Zaporwicz; John Antoniewicz; Benedict Kizelewicz; Stanley Zdonek; Stanley Kowalewski; Zygmunt Zaborowicz; Joseph Szy; Franciszek Daszewski

The Polish American Citizens Club is a civic organization and social club in the heart of Boston's Polish Triangle. Founded over 90 years ago, the club provides a gathering place for Polish-Americans and their families and strives to foster engagement, community involvement, and philanthropy. All Polish-Americans, particularly 2nd and



3rd generation Polish-Americans, are invited to connect with their roots and become club members.

To learn more about the club, please go to [polishclubboston.com](http://polishclubboston.com) or follow them on social me-

dia at @PolishClubBos on twitter and instagram and on facebook at [facebook.com/PolishClubBoston](https://facebook.com/PolishClubBoston)

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## Councilors Flynn & Flaherty to Hold Hearing to Discuss Fines for Large House Parties on Friday, May 28th

**B**oston City Councilor Ed Flynn & Councilor At-Large Michael Flaherty will be holding a hearing next Friday, May 28th, at 11am to discuss increasing fines for large house parties. The hearing aims to discuss ways to provide stricter enforcement rules regarding large house parties and the city's noise ordinance. To watch the hearing, you can go to [boston.gov/city-council-tv](http://boston.gov/city-council-tv). To submit written testimony or request to testify at the hearing, please reach out to Juan Lopez at [Juan.Lopez@Boston.gov](mailto:Juan.Lopez@Boston.gov).

Neighbors have reported an overwhelming number of large house parties, oftentimes between 30-40 people and hosted by renters with absentee landlords - with 600 911 calls in one weekend alone in South Boston. These parties often disturb neighbors with loud noises at all hours, and leave behind trash and litter on the street which attracts rodents and pests. Last fall, Councilor Flynn and Councilor Flaherty held a



hearing with the administration and city officials on this issue.

Residents are to report large house parties to the Boston Police Department at 911, which can trigger potential placement on the city's Problem Properties List. Councilor Flynn and Councilor Flaherty are urging the City of Boston to look at issuing increased fines for this out-of-control behavior, perhaps starting at \$1,000 for a first offense, and exploring \$2,000 for a second offense, and \$3,000 for a third



offense for those that repeatedly violate the city's noise ordinance.

"I've heard from literally hundreds of neighbors that are outraged over these huge house parties in South Boston. Time and again we're seeing renters, from absentee landlords, who want to extend their college frat days every Thursday to Sunday at all hours while showing blatant disrespect for their neighbors next door; young families, our seniors and persons with disabilities. The neighbors that helped to build this city, that live here and contribute to their

community, that are paying increased property taxes while dealing with more quality of life issues - they've had enough," said Councilor Flynn. "This was a significant issue prior to COVID-19, and though restrictions will be lifted due to the success of vaccination efforts, large house parties will undoubtedly continue to present these quality of life issues beyond the pandemic. It's critical that we look to increase fines for those who violate city regulations, so that we help keep our neighborhoods peaceful, healthy and clean."

"Enough is enough. These out of control parties have been a burden on South Boston and communities across the city for too long," said Councilor Flaherty. "We have tried to control them with the tools currently available to us, but these landlords and their tenants are not getting the message. It is time to hit absentee landlords and their tenants in the pocketbooks with increased penalties. We have no other choice if we stand any chance of improving the quality of life for our residents."

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

## Councilor Flynn Supported Raising COLA Base for City Retirees

**T**he Boston Retirement Board recently recommended a raise in cost of living adjustments (COLA) for Boston city retirees, a move that Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn has supported and strongly advocated for. Councilor Flynn submitted a letter in support of raising the COLA base this year as well as the last several years, and has been outspoken about the need for city employees to retire in dignity.

Prior to this 2021, the city has only raised the COLA base twice since the passage of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2010, which means that retirees only received a \$60/year COLA. The COLA base increase would affect all city departments and agencies, including the School Department, the Boston Housing Authority, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and others. At

last month's meeting, the Retirement Board Administration and Finance recommended a raise in the COLA base to \$15,000 and the 3% applied to that base, and a formal vote will take place this week. Although this increase was not to the level that retirees hoped for, it still represented a big step forward for many retirees, who are dependent on retirement income.

"Our city retirees dedicated their professional lives to making Boston a better place to live and serving their neighbors, and they deserve a retirement package that treats them fairly with dignity, respect, and a decent standard of living," said Councilor Flynn. "As a City Councilor that represents a large population of city retirees, I believe that they deserve a raise in their COLA base, given the work that they did for the people of Boston. I was glad to learn that the Retirement Board is

planning to increase the COLA, but there is still work to be done. I will continue to work closely with our retirees and advocates to ensure that

all city retirees can live in dignity."

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




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# The Wine Guy Ol' Man (Russian) River

I was recently in the Back Bay for a wine event and, looking out on the Charles River, was reminded how important rivers are to some of the world's best wine regions, especially the Russian River.

The Russian River Valley AVA, in California's Sonoma County, is a growing area to some of the best Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines in the world. Like the neighboring Napa Valley, it's "bathed" each evening by the "Pacific mist", which coats the

grapes with cool Pacific fog that burns off late each morning. This allows a slow, full growth and a long hang time, which creates full, rich flavors in the grapes.

One of the best-known vineyards in this area is Picket Fence. Their **2019 Pinot Noir, Russian River Valley, (\$19.99)**, is a classic Sonoma Pinot; Winemaker Alison Crowe describes it as: "a wine with rich aromas of raspberry jam and brandy- macerated cherries. Its luxurious density and beautiful structure are hallmarks of this Russian River Pinot Noir. Round flavors and balanced tannins finish with nuances of vanilla and star anise." Pinot Noir is one of the more versatile red wines as far as food goes, so you might want to try this one with game meats, sweetbreads or a lamb dish.

For more than 40 years, the Merry Edwards vineyards have been producing not only some of the best Pinot Noir from Northern California, but some of the best in the world. Their **Merry Edwards Pinot Noir, Olivet Lane, Russian River, 2018, (\$65.00)**, is savory and sublime; layers of rich fruit reveal themselves quickly. Over the course of an hour, each sip will have different notes and each note is delicious and memorable. A very special wine for special occasions. This wine

would pair extremely well with Beef Wellington or Filet Mignon with a Bordelaise reduction.

DeLoach Vineyards, one of Sonoma's oldest, produces one of the best Zinfandels in the entire valley. Their **2018 Riebli Valley Zinfandel, Sonoma County, (\$34.99)**, has very concentrated flavors of blackberry, espresso and licorice, with a strawberry currant finish. This wine drinks really well right now but can lay down for further aging. It's a natural with a grilled veal chop or New York Strip steak.

Seafood lovers, we haven't forgotten you! The one white that's great all year round is Sauvignon Blanc and the Russian River has a long list of them. One that really typifies the region would be Selby Winery's **2019 Russian River Sauvignon Blanc, (\$21.99)**. Stainless steel-fermentation, as well as a touch of semillon and muscat, 3% and 2%, respectively, give this wine a crispness that shows concentrated melon, key lime and citrus notes, with a pleasant finish that will work well with any seafood dish.

One more Sauv Blanc whose brand isn't widely-known (but should be!), is Cep Sauvignon Blanc, Russian River, Sonoma County, 2019, (\$19.99). Winester Reviews says, "This is the kind



of wine everyone needs within an arm's reach. Sitting somewhere between the zesty grassiness of New Zealand and the lean and mean profile of Sancerre, this Russian River Sauvignon Blanc displays bright acidity, a tinge of minerality on the finish, and bright citrus fruits that keep your mouth watering and coming back for another sip."

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

## Zoning Board...continued from front page

outdoor partying. The owner, who lives on the top floor of the three-family building at the Dorchester Street triple decker at the corner with West 2nd Street, and who may not be the source of the alleged disturbances, had applied for permission to add a 20x25-foot deck for his use only. The mayor's office and the offices of City Councilors Ed Flynn, Michael Flaherty and Annissa Es-saibi George and state Sen. Nick Collins all voiced opposition. "It's a problem property to the neighbors" because of frequent loud parties, Flynn aide Ana Calderon said. Officials said they have gotten frequent complaints from residents about the near weekly need to call 911 about parties.

Separately, the board rejected proposed three, three-bedroom units in a triple decker that some described its design as a 'monstrosity' at 1778 Columbia Rd. after nearby residents and elected officials objected because it would look nothing like the surrounding triple-deckers. The board rejected

the proposal after hearing complaints from the City Point Neighborhood Association and elected officials that the modern style of the proposed structure could set a precedent that would lead to the gradual erosion of the three-deckers that now line the street, across from the yacht club. The building would not have violated any Boston zoning regulations related to buildings in general, but needed board approval because of its location in a "greenbelt" district. The board voted 6-1 to reject the proposal without prejudice, which means that Andrew Enright can come back with revised plans. Board member Eric Robinson was the project's sole supporter. Noting that aside from the greenbelt issue, the building could go up without board approval, he said design issues could be handled through review by BPDA designers, as is standard with many projects approved by the board. "Aesthetics are subjective. Things are built of their time. We don't build like that anymore."

Many participants in the well-attended Zoom hearing were pleasantly shocked by the

turn of events, although some sensed that other tactics may be used to effectuate the proposals as time goes by during the summer. However diligent neighborhood groups pledged to pay attention and some called out attorneys, developers and architects for their lack of forthright interaction with abutters and the surrounding neighborhood that their projects would affect. Residents are not opposed wholesale but want the courtesy of the developers and owners in being transparent.

On a separate proposal to house a marijuana/cannabis shop on East First Street, that proposal was denied outright without prejudice. A rumor was circulating in the days leading up to the vote that the facility had ties within the acting administration. Prior to the vote being taken the zoning board chair called for a statement from the Mayor's office and the neighborhood liaison who had been in attendance up to that point was conspicuously absent. The Mayor's office therefore had no official comment.



# St. Peter Academy

## Tourist Tuesday St. Peter Academy Spirit Week Fun

This week St. Peter Academy is celebrating Spirit Week. Tuesday was “Tourist Tuesday” and it was a perfect day for it. All the classes went on adventures discovering all the cool places of

South Boston. In Art Class Mr. Christian assisted the students with making their very own passports. The students loved sharing where they were born and their nationalities. Then they were ready to hit the

streets of Boston. Some classes visited the historic Dorchester Heights Monument, others walked to Carson Beach and Marine Park and also participated in a good old fashioned Scavenger Hunt. Everyone enjoyed this glorious weather! Lots of learning and joyful fun was had by all! There is currently limited seating in our School Year and Full Year PreKindergarten Programs and only one seat available in our (4 year old) Kindergarten I Program. St. Peter Academy in 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 (School Year and Full Year Programs), 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.





# Sanity Rules – BPD Deals With Reckless Dirt Bike and ATV Riders


With naïve calls for the understanding of the needs of the Bikers and others type riders to exercise their right to enjoy off-road pleasures at the expense of tax-paying citizens at one extreme,

and angry calls for criminalizing what they do at the other extreme, sanity prevailed when the Boston Police seized 11 dirt bikes, mopeds and ATVs over the weekend in a crack-down to curb “reckless” off-roading

until the solution could be addressed and agreed upon by City of Boston officials. Bottom Line- “Serving and Protecting prevailed”.  
The vehicles were confiscated “as part of our ongoing efforts to address public

safety complaints and quality-of-life concerns relative to large groups of recreational vehicles including dirt bikes, ATV’s, mopeds and motor scooters being driven around the city in a reckless and irresponsible manner,” police said.





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ASIAN FUSION TAPAS



# BPD Officers Recover Eleven Illegal Recreational Vehicles While Attempting to Curb Reckless Operation Across the City

(by BPD News)

As part of our ongoing efforts to address public safety complaints and quality of life concerns relative to large groups of recreational vehicles including dirt bikes, ATV's, mopeds and motor scooters being driven around the city in a reckless and irresponsible manner, members of the **BPD's Auto Theft Unit** seized eleven off road vehicles over this past weekend.

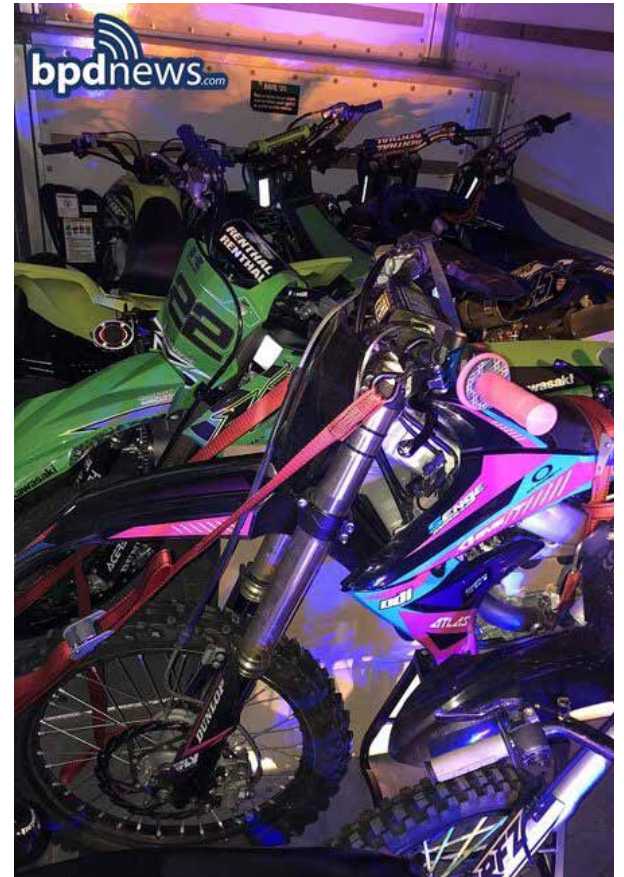
At about 7:46 PM on Sunday May 16, 2021, officers observed two dirt bikes and an ATV in the area of Norfolk Street and Morton Street operating in an unsafe manner while in clear violation of the ordinance relating to the operation of recreational vehicles within the City of Boston. The officers later located the offending vehicles as they were being loaded into an awaiting rental

box truck behind Saint Matthew's Parish Church in the area of 33 Stanton Street in Dorchester. The two dirt bikes and ATV were seized and towed away from the scene. The lone suspect remaining on scene, an adult male from Haverhill, will be cited and summonsed for his violations of the Auto Laws and associated City Ordinances.

At about 9:06 PM on Sunday May, 16, 2021, officers seized eight recreational and off-road vehicles following a traffic stop which was conducted as part of an investigation by the **BPD Auto Theft Unit** in the area of 27 Gallivan Boulevard in Dorchester. The officers were in the area in response to the overwhelming number of community complaints regarding the operation of off road and recreational vehicles within our neighborhoods when they stopped a rental box

truck in connection to their efforts. As a result, officers seized and towed the rental truck along with eight dirt bikes and mopeds which were being stored in the back at the time of the stop. Officers will summons two adult male suspects from Lawrence as part of this ongoing investigation on charges relating to the MA Auto Laws, related offenses and City Ordinances.

Community members with information relative to the storage or reckless operation of these recreational vehicles who wish to assist in these investigations anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner.



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# South Boston Catholic Academy News

## *SBCA Celebrated Poetry Month*

**“In Poetry there is beauty, truth and goodness.”**  
by Jane Greer, Poet and Author

From Mrs. Evans, the Intermediate Literacy Coach...

From Haikus to Poetry Cafes SBCA celebrated Poetry Month. In a cross-curricula effort, many students incorporated number sense and math into their writing. SBCA writers across grade levels K2 – 6 wrote a variety of poetry -- Haikus, Number Shape poems, odes to their favorite numbers, narrative poems, and rhyming word problems. Classes 1A and 4B shared their writing in classroom Poetry Cafes -- celebrating student poets and giving them an opportunity to read their poems with classmates and family (via video).

Poetry not only adds creativity and voice to student writing but also strengthens reading, listening, and writing skills, builds vocabulary, and through expression and sharing, helps build community. Thank you to Mrs. Evans for organizing this creative poetry project for the students at South Boston Catholic Academy! Thank you to the students at South Boston Catholic Academy for sharing their inspiring poems with their classmates, teachers, families and friends.

From Ms. McCarthy, the Grade 1A teacher... With April being National Poetry month, the first graders spent a lot of time reading poems by

different poets and then writing our own. They are amazing! We have everything from shape poems, alliteration poems, Ode to a ... poems, and general poems. We then had a Poetry Cafe on May 5, 2021 and recited our poems for Dr. Civian, our Principal, and a few members of our faculty. Fr. Casey was able to pop in, too. What a wonderful time we had! Fantastic job with your poems grade 1A!

From Mrs. Dawson, the Grade 4B teacher... The Poetry Cafe on May 6, 2021, was a celebration of all of the poetry that was read, responded to, written, and enjoyed by 4B throughout the month of April. Students chose their favorite poems to perform and recite. Some poems were modeled after famous poetry, such as “This is Just to Say”, by William Carlos Williams, while many poems were original works written by the students. The performance was viewed by Dr. Civian, our Principal, and a few of our faculty members and was videotaped and sent home to the parents, who had also helped their children with the poetry unit. Fantastic job with your poems grade 4B! New families are welcome to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at [j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org](mailto:j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org) to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.







## This week, Danny shared some thoughts on the Celtics' upcoming playoff series against Brooklyn:

**T**he Celtics are in the tournament. And right now, to many here in Boston, that's good enough.

With Jaylen Brown having season-ending wrist surgery last week, and the fact that they've seemingly underachieved their way into the NBA Playoffs as the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference, these C's are a long shot in Vegas to even sniff the Conference Finals.

Entering Game 1 of their first-round series against the No. 2 seed Brooklyn Nets, the Celtics have the same odds to win the East as the No. 4 seed New York Knicks, both at +3500. Five teams have better odds than they do, with the East favorite being the Nets at -110.

The Nets are also the favorite to win the NBA Championship, at +225, while the Celtics are down near the bottom of the barrel at +8000.

Vegas odds aside, drawing the powerhouse Nets in the first round is a tough blow for a C's team that's without one of its best players in Brown. Because Boston beat the Washington Wizards in Tuesday night's play-in game, it's

led us to this series, and a matchup against former Celtic Kyrie Irving.

Last week, I told you that these Celtics can make some noise if Kemba Walker steps up his game and plays up to his massive contract. We all know that Jayson Tatum is going to be a beast — and he showed that again with his third 50-point game of the season in the play-in game. But we don't always know what Walker is going to bring.

Walker is certainly capable of playing at an All-Star level. And he scored 29 points in the play-in game. But can he do that consistently in the playoffs? We're about to find out.

If he does, then perhaps the Celtics have a chance to take Brooklyn to the limit. But if he doesn't, this series will be over in five games, if not a complete sweep.

It's too bad, really. Because this series will be a reminder as to how good Irving is on the other side, and how special things could've been had he wanted to commit to the Celtics.

Imagine this: Walker was the point guard for the Nets, and Irving was the point guard for the Celtics. Even without Brown, a one-two

punch of Irving and Tatum in 2021 would arguably be the best duo in the NBA. In fact, the Celtics probably wouldn't even be playing the Nets in the first round, because the Celtics might even be the No. 1 seed in the East had Irving wanted to stop being a weirdo and try to win a championship in Boston.

Oh, what could've been.

Instead, Irving chose to leave for Brooklyn as a free agent after a season full of mind-blowing comments to the media. He was setting the stage for a departure, and everybody here in Boston saw it. We didn't like it, because we wanted him to stay. But if you don't want to be here, and you keep acting like a clown about it — like Irving did — then maybe it's time for you to go. We can only take that for so long before saying, "Don't let the door hit you on the way out."

Well, now, Irving is where he wants to be. And he'll be taking on his former team in the first round. He has a stacked squad, alongside Kevin Durant and James Harden, just to name a few.

I don't know anybody who would put their money on the Celtics in this series, even if Brown was healthy and available to play.

But what I do know is, for every moment in which you're considered an underdog, there's an opportunity to prove people wrong.

Tatum is one of the game's best players. And he's only 23 years old. Still, I'm not quite sure he gets the respect he truly deserves. I mean, LeBron James did call him the "Young King" not too long ago. But it never really stuck. And it never will stick until Tatum has his true playoff moment.

Me, personally, I thought Tatum leading the Celtics in playoff scoring his rookie season with 18.5 points per game while getting to Game 7 of the East Finals vs LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers — all without an injured Irving and Gordon Hayward — was a pretty legitimate feat. But it seems many forget about that playoff run, which saw Tatum also lead the Celtics past the Bucks and 76ers in the first two rounds.

All of that's in the past though. Now, it's time for Tatum to do the impossible and knock off the Nets.

I wish I could tell you that will happen. But I'm afraid it won't. Brooklyn wins in six.

**Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.**

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# SPORTS TODAY

## FENWAY RETURNS TO FULL CAPACITY UNDER ACCELERATED REOPENING PLAN

SBT Staff

In a somewhat unexpected, yet completely logical move by the state, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced this week that all COVID-19 restrictions on businesses and gatherings will be lifted two months earlier than previously planned.

Gov. Baker's new reopening plan now calls for a full-capacity reopen in the state on Saturday, May 29. That full reopen was initially scheduled for Aug. 1.

## Tweet of the Week



Basketball HOF @HoopHall

Kevin Garnett is now officially an enshrined member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. #20HoopClass



As a result of the accelerated reopen, the Boston Red Sox wasted no time releasing a statement this week, announcing that Fenway Park will be operating at full capacity beginning on Saturday, May 29, as the Red Sox host the Miami Marlins at 4:10 p.m.

"Today's update to the reopening plan will allow Fenway Park to begin operating at full capacity beginning on May 29 for games and concerts throughout the summer," said Red Sox President and

CEO Sam Kennedy in the statement. "We thank Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, Mayor Janey and the numerous public health officials who have been extraordinary partners guiding us every step of the way.

"A year ago, the Governor and his team set forth a roadmap for the safe reopening of the Commonwealth," added Kennedy. "It is because of the administration's steadfast leadership and intentional planning that we are

now able to lift restrictions and limits put into place over 15 months ago to keep our community safe.

"In the City of Boston, Mayor Janey's leadership has made this day possible. Less than two months into her tenure, she has overseen the safe return to normal operations in our city. We are excited see Boston's vibrancy restored and get back to the full energy of our ballpark and the Fenway neighborhood in the weeks ahead."

## WHAT TO WATCH

**NHL FRIDAY, MAY 21**  
East Division First Round  
Gm 4: Washington at Boston  
6:30 P.M. NBCSN

**SUNDAY, MAY 23**  
Gm 5: Boston at Washington  
7 P.M. USA

**NBA SUNDAY, MAY 23**  
Eastern Conference Quarterfinals  
Gm 1: Boston at TBD  
TBD

**MLB FRIDAY, MAY 21**  
Boston at Philadelphia  
7:05 P.M. NESN+

**SATURDAY, MAY 22**  
Boston at Philadelphia  
7:15 P.M. FOX

**SUNDAY, MAY 23**  
Boston at Philadelphia  
1:05 P.M. NESN

## GARNETT INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME, PIERCE ANNOUNCED FOR CLASS OF 2021

SBT Staff

The Basketball Hall of Fame officially enshrined its Class of 2020 last weekend, a year later than expected, thanks to COVID-19. And former Boston Celtics All Star Kevin Garnett was part of that class, along with San Antonio Spurs legend Tim Duncan, and the late, great Kobe Bryant.

Garnett spent six seasons with the Celtics, after finally agreeing to a blockbuster trade in the summer of 2007 that sent him from Minnesota to Boston in exchange for Al Jefferson, Gerald Green, Sebastian Telfair, Ryan Gomes, Theo Ratliff, and two first-round draft picks.

Prior to that trade, Garnett had refused to play in Boston by mak-

ing it clear, via his agent, that he would opt out of his contract in the summer of 2008 to become a free agent if the Timberwolves sent him to the Celtics. But a month after the C's sent the No. 5 overall pick to Seattle in exchange for All-Star Ray Allen during the 2007 NBA Draft that June, Garnett agreed to a three-year extension with Boston as part of the trade.

Garnett helped lead the Celtics to an NBA Championship in 2008, averaging 20.4 points per game and 10.5 rebounds per game in 26 playoff games during that championship run, which ended with a Game 6, 131-92 blowout win over Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers to clinch the Celtics' 17th World Championship on the

TD Garden parquet. Garnett had 26 points and 14 rebounds in that game.

Prior to being traded to the Celtics, Garnett spent his first 14 NBA seasons with the Timberwolves. Minnesota drafted Garnett out of high school with the fifth overall pick in the 1995 NBA Draft.

In the summer of 2013, Garnett, Paul Pierce, and Jason Terry were traded from the Celtics to the Brooklyn Nets. Boston received a haul in return, which included five players and four first-round picks. Two of those first-round picks turned out to be Jaylen Brown at No. 3 overall in 2016, and Jayson Tatum at No. 3 overall in 2017.

Garnett will have his No. 5 retired and raised to the TD Gar-

den rafters in Boston next season, where he will officially join Pierce as a Celtics legend.

Before that, Pierce will join Garnett as a Basketball Hall of Famer this September, as he was announced to be part of the Hall of Fame Class of 2021 over the weekend. The 2021 enshrinement ceremony will take place on Saturday, Sept. 11.

Pierce won't be the only Celtic being honored in Springfield that weekend. He'll also be joined by Bill Russell — who'll be inducted into the Hall of Fame for the second time; this time as a coach — and Celtics play-by-play commentator Mike Gorman — who'll be receiving the Curt Gowdy media award for 2021.