

November 12, 2021: Vol.9 Issue 44

SERVING SOUTH BOSTONIANS AROUND THE GLOBE



**Mayor-Elect Michelle Wu Appoints Dr. Monica Bharel To** Lead City's **Response To** Mass & Cass

he former commissioner of the Department of Public Health, who helped steer Massachusetts through the CO-VID-19 pandemic, will now lead the city's response to the crisis in the area around known as Mass and Cass. Mayor-elect Michelle Wu named Dr. **CONTINUED ON page 6** 



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# EDITORIAL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Some Suggestions For Mayor Wu

he ballots are in, the votes are counted, and Boston will have a new mayor. Michelle Wu is set to take over the reins of the city and get to work right away. While much is made by the media about groundbreaking and history making, because the city will have its first ever woman of color elected by the people to that prestigious position, we believe it's safe to say that the overwhelming number of Boston's residents are more concerned with the job that Mayor Wu will be doing and how best she will serve her constituents rather than her gender or color. And

while many activists seem obsessed with placing people in categories, those issues matter little or not at all to the average Bostonian. What does matter is how she will run the city.

We wish mayor Wu all the best and pray for her success in making Boston a better city. We hope that she will get right to work on the concerns of so many people who call this city their home. Some examples of those concerns are these:

**Property Taxes:** They become more burdensome each year to hard working families just trying to survive and make ends meet. Many long-time families have been forced out do to never ending tax hikes and rising rents because of those increased taxes.

**Police:** Boston is fortunate to have one of the finest, best trained and professional police departments in the nation. Rather than following the advice of a few radicals who want to cut funding and even defund the department, the Boston Police Department should be given whatever recourses it needs to protect public safety. A look around the country at those cities that actually have cut funding for law enforcement will show, without a doubt, that

doing so is dangerous and always results in a huge spike in crime. A city becomes unlivable when it is no longer safe.

Another issue of concern is the importance a new administration will place on Constituent Services: Street lighting, traffic lights, road repair, water and sewer problems and the like. And of course, the over development going on in practically every part of the city is worrisome. When concerned residents spend time to give input and voice concerns and offer suggestions and solutions on this, they should be listened to and

that must include people in every neighborhood.

Also, very important is who is selected to serve in powerful positions in a Wu Administration. For this city to succeed, appointing only well qualified people for every position who have a real concern and love for Boston should be a priority. Bringing in ideologues with a political agenda is a recipe for failure and should be avoided at all costs.

As was stated above, we wish good fortune and much success to Mayor Wu as she begins what will be an allconsuming and tough job. Her success will benefit everyone.

" A man must stand up for what he believes in – especially during this culture war between good and evil" - Ted Nugent

**Fifth Anniversary • Brian R. Mahoney** June 21, 1950 – November 19, 2016 (Forever In our thoughts and prayers) MAY THE ROAD RISE UP TO MEET YOU.

May THE WIND BE ALWAYS AT YOUR BACK. May THE SUN SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE THE RAINS FALL SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

> Loved and Missed, Kellie and Brian John Family and Friends



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# Information Center

## Nothing Says Save The Planet Like 400 Private Jets

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY John Ciccone

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

limate Change. To the activists, the theory is a huge deal, or so they'd have us believe. But to most everyday Americans and people in other counties as well - not so much. Polls and surveys continue to reveal that the subject is definitely not a priority to the public's concerns and that no matter how much the media, the UN, Al Gore, John Kerry and Cher try to frighten us all with predictions of doom, which never come true, fewer and fewer people are taking it seriously. And why is that? Simple. One has only to look at the recent Climate Change/ Global Warming conference just held in Europe and how serious the international cast of characters actually took it, to question the whole concept.

If there was ever a time when the self-important participants could have and should have done it all by 'ZOOM', it was this year. These are the same people that demand obedience to the mask and social distancing rules. Yet, they all found the need to be there in person. In addition, the 400 plus, fuel guzzling, polluting private jets used to get to the European airports and the thousands of giant luxury SUV's and Limos used to travel around in when they arrived and departed and it raises suspicions, especially since it's a conference to convince the rest of us to use electric busses, bicycles and skateboards.

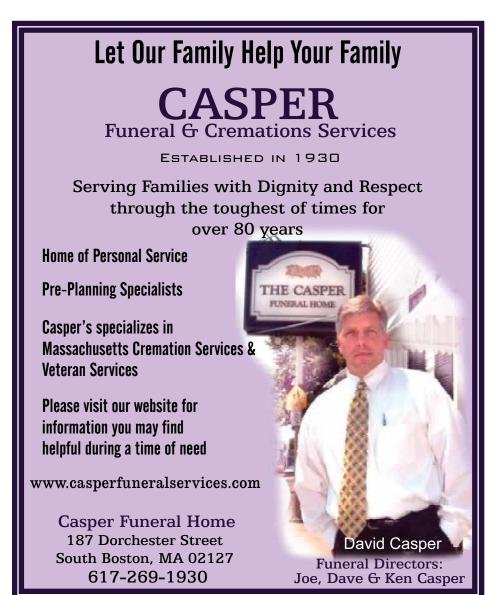
Now how important was the subject matter to the participants? Well, we've all seen the photos and videos of the less than interested participants as they sat in the giant conference rooms dozing in their chairs and in the case of Joe Biden, sound asleep. Ah yes, our tax dollars at work in the noble effort to 'Save the Planet'. Of course, the corrupt United Nations (UN), was loving it all. Their goal is to sap as much money from the pockets of American taxpayers as they can and then complain it's not enough and demand more. And with the Biden Regime in power for now, the UN is just drooling at the amount they'll be getting.

Staying on the subject of American tax dollars and the Biden Regime, their latest scheme, as most are aware, is to pay \$450.000 dollars to what they say are illegal immigrants who were separated from their families when President Trump was in office. You know, the same illegals who flaunted America's laws and sneaked across the border. Who said crime doesn't pay? Could there be a more blatant example of the disregard for the American taxpayer by Democrat politicians than this? The fact that they know how hugely unpopular this plan is with the public and they will try to do it just the same says it all. It also shows just how little they care about the citizens they work for. Yes, they work for us.

\$450.000 for people who break our laws, nearly a half million dollars. They also get brought back into the country and can access all sorts of other benefits. In many cases, food, housing, education, healthcare and more. Americans who work all their lives and pay taxes are not priority to these Democrats, nor it seems are our veterans, many of whom are homeless and penniless and have risked their lives for this country.

The 2022 midterm elections are not all that far away and the Democrats around the country are going to get trounced because of all their insane policies and they know it. So, they are obviously racing, as fast as they can to pass every far out, Socialist economy killing scheme before the voters give them the boot. But unfortunately, they can do a lot more damage before that happens.

In closing, I'll mention the recent election held in the Town of Braintree. I figure its ok to mention our neighbors in Braintree since it seems half of that town is made up of former Southie and Dorchester residents now. Congratulations to South Boston native Larry Mackin Jr. who was just reelected in an unopposed landslide to the Braintree town/ city council. He was apparently unopposed because he has done such a great job during his first term, the voters wanted to keep him. He works hard for his constituents. Also, congratulations to Matthew Lynch, a veteran, who was just elected to the Braintree School Committee. Larry and Matthew bring a strong youthful, capable and Conservative presence to those two important positions. They are both patriots who can be counted on to always have the best interest of the people they represent at heart.





## Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

## Senate prepares for \$3 billion dollar debate

We're turning back to the American Rescue Plan Act today as the Senate prepares to gavel into session later this morning to debate its \$3.66 billion spending package that draws from federal aid dollars and fiscal 2021 surplus revenue. The branch's proposal includes a raft of investments into economic development, housing, environment and climate, and health care. Senators included \$1 billion for the state's health care system, State House News Service's Matt Murphy reported when the bill was released last week.

But today's focus will be on the more than 720 amendments lawmakers filed ranging from additional spending on larger statewide programs to local earmarks. If history tells us anything, expect a long day with a series of floor (or remote) speeches before the Senate takes a final vote on the bill. It's important to remember that the process doesn't end with today's potential vote in the Senate.

Senators will still have to work out differences with the House's \$3.82 billion spending proposal, though the two are not that far apart. After today, the bills will likely head to a six-member panel of lawmakers who will negotiate a final version before sending it off to the governor. Time is running out to get a bill to Gov. Charlie Baker before the legislators head into their mid-session recess on Nov. 17 and end formal sessions for the year. And as we reported Monday morning, Baker said he expects a bill on his desk before Thanksgiving. "I believe that both the Senate president and the House speaker have both committed to each other and to us that we'll get this bill by the time the formal session ends, which is November 17," Baker said Sunday during an interview on WCVB's "On The Record."

## Wu announces transition team ahead of swearing in next week

The names are in. Mayor-elect Michelle Wu announced her transition team about a week before she is scheduled to be sworn into office. WBUR's Laney Ruckstuhl reports that the team includes Acting Mayor Kim Janey, who will serve as the honorary chair, and former Secretary of Administration and Finance Jay Gonzalez.

#### Boston school officials shut down Jamaica Plain school as COVID cases rise

Shut it down. Boston officials closed the Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain for 10 days as a result of rising COVID-19 cases. Boston Globe's James Vaznis reports that Principal Katie Grassa informed families of "an active effort to immediately stop the spread and provide time to add staffing capacity to fully implement the test and stay and contact tracing programs."

## Senate releases new mental health bill

Round two for mental health in the Senate. Branch leaders released a new bill Tuesday that focuses on mental health care accessibility, affordability, and destigmatizing the topic. Boston Business Journal's Jessica Bartlett reports that the legislation includes a provision requiring insurance coverage for mental health wellness exams.

More from Bartlett: "The bill would also address the state's ongoing mental health crisis, in which patients with mental health diagnoses sit in emergency rooms waiting for treatment. This practice, known as 'boarding,' has grown 400 percent since the pandemic began, and the bill would create a real-time data set to search and find open behavioral health beds."

## Three from one: GE says it will divide into three public companies

Now what? The future of GE's headquarters in Boston is one of the up-in-the-air questions being asked after the conglomerate announced it would split itself into three smaller publicly traded companies. Jon Chesto of the Globe reports the multi-year plan will see GE spin off its health care and energy divisions, leavcontinued on page 6

## SENATOR COLLINS SUPPORTS VETERANS THROUGH LEGISLATION AND FUNDING



 eterans Day is an important occasion to pay tribute and honor those

who have served their country. **State Senator Nick Collins** reflects this year's recent accomplishments in the Massachusetts State Senate. Below are some highlights of the important work the Senate has done since January to support those who serve and have served:

• Passed the SPEED Act

oThe SPEED Act expedites the professional licensure process for military spouses to ensure they can continue their careers, allows for advanced and virtual enrollment for military children to resolve disruptions in education, provides for in-state tuition continuity for military-connected college students, and creates a Purple Star Campus designation to identify schools that show a major commitment to military families.

• Allocated \$500K for the expansion of the Women Veterans' Outreach Center in the FY'22 Budget

• Passed a \$400M bond bill for the reconstruction of a new Holyoke Soldiers' Home

oIn order for the Soldiers' Home to provide the care that our Veterans deserve, the facility must be rebuilt. This funding will ensure the project becomes a reality.

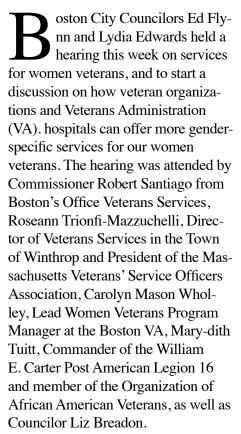
• Appropriated \$200M in general obligation bonds for Veteran housing across the State

oVeterans across the Commonwealth deserve housing that suits their individual needs, regardless of what zip code they reside in.

"I am proud of these efforts to support our Veterans and service members," said Senator Nick Collins. "Thank you to all of our Veterans, those currently serving, and their families for their service and sacrifice."

## Councilors Flynn and Edwards Hold Hearing to Discuss Services for Women Veterans





Women comprise nearly 20% of serving military personnel and 10% of the veteran population, making up an important part of our military. However, despite their contributions, women veterans often don't receive enough support. This was reflected in the testimony and statements from panelists in the hearing, who spoke about their experiences in the military or with women veterans, and how discrimination and prejudice still follows women veterans and women veterans of color whether they are in or out of the military. Panelists also spoke about the high incidence of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) especially among women veterans, and the need for services to address this. Panelists also spoke about



the need to change the perception that veterans are only men, and raise awareness that women are also an integral part of our military who proudly serve their country with honor and bravery.

Currently, women veterans can be connected to services specifically for them by calling or texting 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636) or through an online chat at https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/, and they will be connected to the service providers closest to them. There is also a resource guide available for women veterans at Boston Veterans Services: https://www. boston.gov/departments/veteransservices/resources-women-veterans. Women Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) are also the fastest growing group in the state, and it is required that there is at least one designated women service provider at each VA location that can provide a comprehensive exam for women veterans.

"It is critical that we recognize the service of women veterans, all of whom served voluntarily for our country, and are an indispensable part of our military," said Councilor Flynn. "That recognition means that there must be more gender specific services for our women veterans, and that women veterans can access the care and resources they need to thrive. I want to thank Councilor Edwards for her partnership on this issue, as well as to the panelists present at this hearing. Let's continue to work together on ensuring that our women veterans are treated with respect and dignity, and that they receive the services and benefits that they deserve."

## Veterans Day has a Special Meaning to South Bostonians

eterans Day, an official federal holiday; it is celebrated all across America with memorials, parades, religious services and family gatherings. Its purpose is of course to remember and honor all of our nation's military personnel. In 2021 as it does every year, Veterans Day has a deep and emotional meaning for most South Bostonians.

A brief history of the day shows us that Veterans Day, once called Armistice Day was first celebrated in 1919. This followed the previous year, 1918 when the Armistice Treaty to end World War I was signed. Initially, it was only to honor and remember veterans who fought in that war but later was expanded to honor all of America's veterans from the founding of our country, up to the present day and into the future.

Here in South Boston, it has always been and still is a strong

tradition to pay tribute to all of this community's many veterans. It can be said that nowhere are veterans and military personnel held in higher esteem than in this town. We have active and thriving veteran's organizations, posts and monuments that neighborhood people worked diligently to create and maintain. All of them are a source of great pride to residents here. Many locals will visit cemeteries where family members who served are buried and lay wreaths and flowers. Often families will gather for dinner with the many veterans of all ages who are with

Since Veterans Day is one of this nation's most cherished holidays, government buildings, schools and banks are closed. Restaurants, stores and other business will remain open; depending on the owners. This is also considered a good day to shop as Veterans Day sales and discounts are usually pretty tempting.

But here in South Boston the shopping, sales, discounts and all the other entertainment that might come with this special day is fine but as always, takes a back seat to the real priority for South Bostonians which of course is honoring our veterans and showing them they are appreciated because they make us all proud as they put their lives on the line to preserve America's freedom and way of life.



Wu, Mass & Cass continued from front page Monica Bharel as the new cabinetlevel senior advisor to address the intersecting crises of substance use disorder, mental health, public safety and homelessness.

"The humanitarian crisis at Mass and Cass demands urgent, bold solutions that create genuine pathways to recovery and stability for our most vulnerable residents -and we need the right team to get it done," Wu said. Bharel, who served the Department of Public Health for the six years, stepped down in June after overseeing the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including data analysis, guidance development, mitigation strategies and the vaccine equity initiative. Bharel is one of three cabinet appointments being made.

Wu also elevated Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission, to her cabinet, expanding her role in leading the city's broader public health efforts, including response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheila A. Dillon, the city's chief of housing and director of the Department of Neighborhood Development, was also reappointed. Dillon will work with Bharel to secure the necessary low-threshold and permanent supportive housing for those in need.

Meanwhile, a hearing on ACLU Lawsuit to Stop Mass. & Cass Evictions was scheduled following the recent tent evictions as part of the

city's plan to address the worsening situation near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. A judge will hear from the ACLU of Massachusetts on Tuesday and consider whether Boston should stop evicting people who are living in tents along the area. ACLU stated that it filed the lawsuit against the City of Boston to protect "the legal rights and safety" of people being evicted from the homeless encampment. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of three unhoused people, follows the recent evictions as part of the city's plan to address the worsening situation there.

"We can't sweep or arrest our way out of the intersecting crises at Mass. and Cass," said Carol Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts, in a statement. "This plan is harmful and unconstitutional because it forces people to disperse with no safe place to sleep, while disconnecting them from the medical care they are able to receive at Mass. and Cass. Indeed, it's inconsistent with City assurances, public safety, and the law."

Asked about the lawsuit Friday, Boston Mayor Kim Janey said she couldn't comment on litigation but said the city will comply with courts and has approached the issue with a focus on public health. Janey also argued that, because of the extensive efforts to provide housing and services for people being asked to leave, the current effort is different from "sweeps conducted in years past."

More than 60 unsheltered people have been referred to "in-patient treatment, city shelters, transitional housing and assistance back to stable homes," Janey said. Others have moved as well, and more than 24 tents have been put into storage or removed.

Officials have estimated that about 150 tents need to come down. Sixteen tents were stored or removed from the encampment Monday, the city said. Additionally, 17 people were connected "with pathways to transitional housing," nine of whom toured new apartments, and several other people sought treatment, entered a shelter or returned to a permanent home. Street by street, people are being offered storage for their belongings and space in shelters or housing.

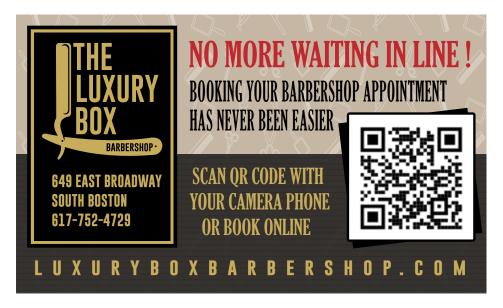
While all of this is going on, Suffolk County Sheriff Steve Tompkins is pressing ahead despite growing pushback against his plan to open a treatment facility on his South Bay correctional campus where people in the area of Mass. and Cass with open warrants could be directed by the special court sessions operating at the jail. Tompkins told Boston.com in a recent interview that his hope is the facility will be up and running around Thanksgiving. The special court sessions held inside the Suffolk County jail began operating last week and resumed Monday. Officials have said the goal of the "Community Response Session" is to bring in serious criminal offenders spending time in and around the encampment at Mass. and Cass, which has become the epicenter of the city's opioid, homelessness, and mental health crises.

But the individuals processed in the first three sessions of the court had open warrants for low-level, non-violent offenses. Four of the nine people processed during the first week were ordered to remain in custody to deal with warrants from other communities by Boston Municipal Court Judge Paul Treseler, rather than being directed to treatment facilities. Lawyers and advocates have roundly criticized the court sessions being held in the jail as being more harmful than adjudicating cases in a typical court.

Tompkins told Boston.com that while some issues arose in the first days of the court the sessions are going as he anticipated. He expects that as they continue, more individuals will be sent to treatment. The sheriff said he plans to start with one person per room, potentially going up to three people in each space. He said he has space for up to 100 people in the facility, which will only house men, since the state currently prohibits women from being committed for treatment in facilities housed in a correctional facility.

#### Window continued from page 4

ing its core aviation business. One thing seems certain: The big promises GE made when it announced it would move its HQ to Boston from Connecticut more than five years ago won't materialize. The spinoff plans



also don't get GE off the book for the \$576 million cleanup of the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, Larry Parnass of the Berkshire Eagle reports.

### Sticker shock: Flood insurance rates spike in low-income cities

Simon Rios of WBUR reports that some property owners in far-inland cities such as Lawrence and Lowell are seeing skyrocketing costs for flood insurance after a change in the risk-rating system used by federal regulators. While rates are increasing across-the-board, the hikes in Lawrence and elsewhere are among the largest as the feds rethink how likely the Merrimack River is to overflow its banks.

#### Leaning on local know-how

Sometimes all it takes to move on an important issue is some local know-how. Boston Globe's Sabrina Shankman reports that as national efforts to combat climate change face complications, it increasingly falls to officials at the local and state level to make changes. More from Shankman: "In panels and meetings, they're pointing to the law mandating the state get to net-zero emissions by 2050 and a recently passed rule to decarbonize the biggest buildings in Boston, and exchanging notes with officials doing similar work at the state and provincial levels."

## **Thanksgiving Means Community**

or decades, the South Boston Community has come together providing holiday meals for residents who might otherwise go without. For more than 30 years the tradition was under the watchful eye of Frank Kelley at the St Augustine's hall and later St. Monica's. The tradition lives on in Mr. Kelley and Monsignor Thomas J. McDonnell's honor. In their names, scores of volunteers fill the hall at Saint Monica's to prepare and deliver meals every year. While the South Boston physical and social landscape continues to change, some things refuse to change; the close knit community and the tradition of giving.

The 2020 Holiday season was like nothing any of us have ever seen before. We were all living in a world of social distancing and our most vulnerable neighbors were, in many cases, left alone. In order to ensure those in need received a Thanksgiving Dinner, we were forced to take a completely different approach in the name of safety and to accommodate preparation for a significantly higher number of meals than the norm.

The organizing committee and volunteers were joined by members of the Boston Inspectional Services Department and Boston Police Department staff, students from BC High & CM, as well as members of the business community, and elected officials to prepare and deliver upwards of 1000 meals to our neighbors. In order to accomplish this mammoth task, while maintaining safe social distancing, we worked out of the dormant Boston Convention Center, thanks to the MCCA and Levy Restaurants. While the sense of community was certainly lacking, the priority was to provide meals to those in need and the goal was met.

Fortunately, it seems those days are behind us and the organizing committee, with the blessing of Father Peter DeFazio, will be returning the operation to its home at St Monica's Church and our delivery day will return to Thanksgiving Day!



While we are returning to the church for our delivery operation, we will not be serving a sit down meal this year. We hope to bring back the sit down dinner next year.

Both the organizing committee and Father Peter and his staff recognize that this event is not only important to the people in need, but it is also an important tradition for the South Boston community. So many families have introduced the concept of service to their children at this event and continue to come back year after year. Many are third and fourth generation volunteers. These families recognize that the world may be changing around us but the need never goes away nor should the dedication to service.

We look forward to seeing everyone we missed last year and to welcoming new members of our volunteer family coming together to continue this great tradition!

Dan Manning on behalf of The Organizing Committee

## Msgr. Thomas J McDonnell and Frank Kelley Thanksgiving Dinner



## Please call 617-586-5824 if you

would like a meal delivered to your home. Meals will be delivered on November 25th between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (City of Boston Covid-19 protocols in place). We will not be able to gather at the hall to enjoy a meal together. Volunteers and delivery drivers should meet at St. Monica's @ 9 a.m. on November 25th. Any questions email: manning.danielr@gmail.com

Checks can be made payable to: South Boston Seaport Collaborative (memo: Holiday Dinner) Please mail or deliver checks to: Deja Brew • 704 East Broadway • South Boston, MA 02127



t's hard to believe that it's already late autumn, but it won't be long until the Turkey's in the oven and Christmas presents will be wrapped. Here are some wines that are enjoyable for this time of year...

2019 Sea Sun Pinot Noir, (\$19.99) celebrates the ongoing exploration of California and its great diversity of land. This Pinot Noir is sourced from premier coastal regions, with cooling breezes off the Pacific Ocean that balance the bright warmth of the sun. These ideal conditions allow for an extended growing season, enabling the Wagner family, (who also own Caymus Vineyards) to create a layered wine that holds broad appeal. Strikingly soft, with scents of baked cherries, vanilla, and brown spice, all with a long, lingering finish.

**Domaine Des Preauds Pouilly Fuissé, (\$29.99)** opens with aromas of apples and grilled almonds and this unoaked Chardonnay expresses its character right from the start. Lime, hazelnut and spice flavors emerge on the palate and provide a layered mouthfeel with a pleasant, zesty finish. While it really complements white meats, it's also very good with all types of seafood, especially shellfish.

Langlois Chateau Crémant de Loire Brut(\$25.99) Langlois-Chateau first established its reputation with its rich and elegant sparkling wines. Owned today by renowned Champagne house Bollinger, their Crémant de Loire is an affordable alternative to French Champagne. Made in the "méthod Champenoise"



tradition and according to strict rules governing harvesting and production similar to Champagne, this fresh wine with fine bubbles will leave a lasting impression. Pale yellow color, with a complex nose of quince, peach, and grapefruit. A fresh, delicate taste with an elegant roundness. It pairs perfectly as an aperitif with Smoked Salmon or Poached Halibut.

From Spain's Jumilla region, the 2018 Juan Gil Silver Label Monastrell is one of its most expressive wines. Vinuous describes it as having "fresh black and blue fruit aromas sharpened by a smoky mineral nuance and a flourish of pungent flowers. Sappy and seamless in texture, offering juicy, spice-laced cherry and boysenberry flavors supported by a smoky mineral undertone. Finishes silky, precise and very long, with lingering florality and well-knit tannins. This one is big enough for any red meat, but it can also be enjoyed with Duck, Quail and Cornish Hen.

Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@gmail.com

## **High School Football at Fenway Presented by Cross Insurance Returns on November 23-24**

Tickets to a pair of doubleheaders featuring eight high schools in their traditional Thanksgiving rivalry games now on sale

enway Sports Management is pleased to announce the return of High School Football at Fenway presented by Cross Insurance, with matchups scheduled for November 23 and 24. Following the excitement of hosting Thanksgiving rivalry games in 2015, 2017 and 2018, eight local high schools will face off in a pair of Thanksgiving week doubleheaders. Friends, family and fans are encouraged to attend and enjoy the continuation of a long history of high school football at America's most beloved ballpark ahead of the inaugural Wasabi Fenway Bowl, an annual college football bowl game at Fenway Park on December 29.

Game matchups are as follows (all times ET): Tuesday, November 23, 2021

- East Boston vs. South Boston, 5:00 PM
- North Andover vs. Andover, 7:30 PM\*
- Wednesday, November 24, 2021Blackstone Valley Tech vs. Nipmuc
- Regional, 4:00 PM • Winchester vs. Woburn, 6:30 PM\*
- \*Approximate time Game 2 will kick off 40 minutes after the conclu-

sion of Game 1 Fenway began hosting high school football shortly after its opening in 1912, when city rivals Boston Latin and English played their annual Thanksgiving Day game at the ballpark. Two days later, Fenway hosted the 1912 high school football national championship game when Everett was defeated by Oak Park, IL. The last high school football game at Fenway was held in 1935, followed by an 80-year absence until its return to the ballpark in 2015.

"We are delighted to welcome high school student-athletes from these eight local schools to participate in the unique experience of playing football at Fenway, just one month prior to the first-ever Wasabi Fenway Bowl," said Fenway Sports Management President Mark Lev. "High school football at the ballpark dates back more than a century, so we are thrilled to link the past while helping to create lifelong memories for student-athletes, their families, and their communities."

General admission tickets are available for purchase at https:// www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/events/ high-school-football, starting at \$20/ ticket for each individual game, with 25 percent of every ticket sold given



back to the school each patron is supporting. Additionally, Dell Technologies Suites will be available for high school football games and can be purchased by contacting bmorse@ redsox.com.

For more information about this year's high school football games at Fenway, including how to purchase tickets, and any additional schedule updates, please visit https://www. mlb.com/redsox/tickets/events/highschool-football.



## Virtual Public Meeting

## 202 W. 1st Street

**Monday, November 29** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

bpda

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3bQel8j Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 161 700 8649

#### **Project Description:**

The Proponent seeks to transform the Project Site by constructing a new five (5) story mixed-use commercial office building of approximately 49,706 gross square feet, for life sciences, research and development uses, with active ground floor space, garaged parking for 24 vehicles and bicycle storage.

#### mail to: Stephen Harvey

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617.918.4418 email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov Close of Comment Period: 12/10/2021

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#### **Virtual IAG & Public Meeting**

## 323-365 Dorchester Ave.

**Tuesday, November 30** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Zoom Link: bit.ly/3qmEnO8 Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864 Meeting ID: 160 001 0010

#### **Project Description:**

The proposed project consists of the redevelopment of approximately 5 acres of land into a mixed-use development that will include 4 buildings totaling 1,147,000 square feet. The proposal is anticipated to include approximately 674,500 square feet of commercial space in two buildings, approximately 345 residential units in the other two buildings, approximately 55,150 square feet of retail space, off-street vehicle parking, and approximately 36,500 square feet of open space.

#### mail to: Stephen Harvey

Boston Planning & Development Agency One City Hall Square, 9th Floor Boston, MA 02201 phone: 617.918.4418 email: stephen.j.harvey@boston.gov

BostonPlans.org ( ) @BostonPlans Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

## Flag Retirement Ceremony at Castle Island

SBT Staff

eterans Day 2021, the weather was sunny and warm on the parade grounds at Fort Independence on Castle Island, the scene of the semiannual Flag Retirement Ceremony. This year the ceremony was dedicated to the Veterans of Afghanistan. This is an impressive event that demonstrates the proper way to dispose of a worn, torn, faded or tattered American Flag. It gives Old Glory the proper respect it deserves. These ceremonies have become a tradition and are held on Veterans Day and Flag Day each year.

The ceremony was a joint effort by the Scottish American Military Society, the Castle Island Association, South Boston's veteran's organization and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The crowd arrived early, and spectators were in place as the ceremonial sound of bagpipes filled the air. The National Anthem and a prayer started off the program. As is always the case in South Boston, everyone in attendance stands silently for the National Anthem and the prayer. It is tradition and expected. The preparation of the flags to be retired was made with care. The retirement of the flags themselves consisted of the banners gently laid in a special multi-angled structure. They are then lit and consumed by flames. As the flames burned, Taps was played and everyone in attendance stood; hats off and hands over hearts.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony at Castle Island is always open to the public and residents are invited and encouraged to bring flags from their homes that are ready to be retired to the event for proper disposal. It's an event that highlights patriotism and love of country and salutes the veterans who have served and continue to serve our nation in defense of freedom. The ceremony itself is a solemn experience and not one that is soon forgotten, if ever, because of its uniqueness and symbolism.



























## Veterans Honored By Fitzy Post Followed by The Traditional March To St. Brigid Church

he Thomas J. Fitzgerald Post, No. 561 - VFW (Fitzy Post) celebrated their 70th Veterans Day in true South Boston fashion. Veterans, elected officials, South Boston High School JROTC were present, as well as Commissioner Santiago and John Allison from the City of Boston Veteran Affairs Office.

Newly elected City Councilor At Large Erin Murphy participated in the Memorial event as well as Mayor-Elect Michelle Wu. Mayor Elect Wu has been supporting the Veterans of the Fitzgerald Post for a few years and was welcomed by the Post and the elected officials.

The event started with assembly at Post Quarters with coffee and refreshments. New and old friends, brothers and sisters in arms had the opportunity to socialize for the first time since Covid. Photos were taken, speeches were made and at 9:40AM, the procession began the traditional march to St. Brigid Church for the Memorial Mass in the upper church.

The South Boston Brownie Troop, Daisies, as well as neighborhood children marched the route with the Veterans, while carrying Thank you signs and waving flags high and proud. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the annual luncheon was not able to be held at Cushing Hall this year. This event is a true testament to the Fitzgerald Post, Post Commander Thomas McCarthy and the men and women who give us the celebration of Veterans Day each year.

The Post is now asking for and accepting Christmas donations for the Chelsea Soldiers' Home. A few suggestions are gift cards, hats, socks, scarves, toiletries, etc. With the supply chains being held up and the rising cost of inflation, let's dig a little deeper this year for our Veterans and show them South Boston has their SIX!











VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Thomas J. Fitzgerald Post 561 South Boston, Massachusetts













## South Boston Catholic Academy News 6th Grade News

Grade Six at South Boston Catholic Academy cel-

ebrated Halloween Harry Potter style. Students entered Hogwarts (class 6B) and were sorted into their houses. The sorting tradition was followed by a visit to Ollivandars where they made wands. Refreshments of butterbeer and polyjuice potion were served. The sixth grade had a fantastic time in both sixth grade home rooms. Great things lie ahead for SBCA's sixth graders. How do we know? The prophecy balls they made say so!!!!!! New families are welcome to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@ sbcatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.



## Gate of Heaven, St. Brigid Parishes and St. Augustine Chapel

Interested in Joining the Catholic Church? Or for those baptized Catholics who have not received First Communion.

"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." These words, spoken by St. Peter, are the words of a person who has received an incredible gift – the gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

If you are seeking full initiation into the life of the Catholic Church, or have a family member or friend who has expressed interest in being welcomed into the Church, now is the time to consider the *Rite of Christian* 

#### Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA Program for our parishes will begin in November. This program will run through Easter, and

prepare those who wish to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Eligible adults include

those who have not been baptized;

or those who have been baptized in other Christian traditions; or those who were baptized Catholic, but never received Confirmation and Eucharist. If you or someone you know has questions or is interested, please email our coordinator Chance Hebert at SB-GHParishesRelEd@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 617-268-3344.



o last week was brutal. I went 1-4 with my picks against the spread in Week 9. That brings my record to 24-21 on the season.

Any season in which you're putting money on five teams a week, you have to expect a couple unpredictable losing weeks. Week 9 was that for me.

Week 10 will see four teams with a bye: Chicago, Cincinnati, the New York Giants, and Houston. The week begins with Miami hosting Baltimore on Thursday Night Football, and it ends with San Francisco hosting the Los Angeles Rams on Monday Night Football.

The Sunday Night Football game of the week is Las Vegas hosting Kansas City, though, the game that should probably be in that primetime slot is Green Bay hosting Seattle, as Aaron Rodgers is returning from COVID-19, and Russell Wilson is returning from a broken finger.

That one is really the game of the week. Instead, it will be at 4:25 p.m. on CBS.

Here in New England, we'll see the Patriots hosting Cleveland at 1 p.m. on CBS, while Tom Brady and the Buccaneers return from their bye to play at Washington at 1 p.m. on FOX. Will I pick any of these games? Only one way to find out. Here are my picks for Week 10:

**CLEVELAND BROWNS (+1.5)** over New England Patriots

-I'm making this pick with my head, not my heart, obviously. Even though the 5-4 Browns have been hit with COVID-19, and they just released Odell Beckham Jr., I still think they're equipped to come into Gillette Stadium on Sunday at 1 p.m. to beat the 5-4 Patriots. New England has won three straight, and many talking heads are starting to believe this Patriots team might be able to do something special this season with rookie Mac Jones under center. I'm not quite there yet. If the playoffs began today, the Patriots would be in as the No. 7 seed, and the Browns would be just barely on the outside looking in. So, with the head-to-head tiebreaker being the most important tiebreaker for a Wild Card playoff spot, this game is the closest thing you'll get to a playoff game in mid-November. Unfortunately, I think Cleveland wins it.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (-9.5) over Washington

-The 6-2 Buccaneers are coming off the bye, and before that, they

lost to the Saints in New Orleans. Tom Brady has had some extra time to be pissed off about that loss, which should be a scary thing for a Washington defense that allows the most passing yards per game at 287. Washington has lost four straight and is in last place in the NFC East with a 2-6 record. If the playoffs began today, Tampa Bay would be the No. 3 seed in the NFC. The only question here is if the Bucs will cover on Sunday at 1 in D.C. I'm here to tell you they will.

**TENNESSEE TITANS (-3)** over New Orleans Saints

-Give it up for the 7-2 Titans, who are coming off an impressive win over the Rams on Sunday night, even without star running back Derrick Henry, who's out for the season with a foot injury. Tennessee has now won five straight and is the No. 1 seed in the AFC. The 5-3 Saints have quarterback issues and are coming off a loss to the Falcons in Week 9. If this game was in New Orleans, maybe I'd stay away. But it's in Tennessee on Sunday at 1, and a 3-point spread is just way too low for me. Give me the Titans to win by a touchdown.

GREEN BAY PACKERS (-3.5) over Seattle Seahawks

-If Aaron Rodgers ever wanted to flip the bird to the sports media that's been crushing him for missing last week's game because of CO-VID-19, then the best way to do that would be to smash the 3-5 Seahawks on Sunday at 4:25 in Green Bay. The 7-2 Packers lost on Sunday in Kansas City without Rodgers. Before that though, the Packers were rolling, having won seven straight. Even though Russell Wilson is expected to return from a broken finger and play in this game, I think Rodgers goes off against a Seahawks pass defense that allows 274 pass yards per game, which ranks fifth-worst in the NFL. I'll take Green Bay to win big at Lambeau in Rodgers' return.

LOCK OF THE WEEK: KAN-SAS CITY CHIEFS (-2.5) over Las Vegas Raiders

-I'll keep this one short and sweet. The 5-4 Chiefs are due to breakout and have a huge offensive game. If it's going to happen, then it's going to happen against this 5-3 Raiders team that just lost to the Giants and is falling apart at the seams. Give me Kansas City to go into Vegas on Sunday Night Football and win by double digits.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.







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# SPORTS TODAY

## PATRIOTS WIN THIRD STRAIGHT, **SLIDE INTO** PLAYOFF PICTURE

SBT Staff



f the NFL playoffs began after Week 9, the New England Patriots would be in, thanks to Sunday's 24-6 win over the Panthers in Carolina.

New England's defense intercepted Sam Darnold three times and scored 17 unanswered points to close finish the game.

It marked the third consecutive win for the 5-4 Patriots, who are now in the final Wild Card spot as the No. 7 seed in the AFC playoff picture. If the playoffs began today, the Pats would be going to Baltimore to take on the No. 2 seed Ravens in the Wild Card round.

The Buffalo Bills are still in first place in the AFC East at 5-3 after losing to the Jacksonville Jaguars in Week 9. Buffalo is currently the No. 4 seed in the AFC playoff picture, and would host the No. 5 seed Las Vegas Raiders if the playoffs began today.

New England now prepares to host the 5-4 Cleveland Browns at Gillette Stadium on Sunday at 1 p.m. The Patriots are a 1.5-point favorite.

#### NHL.com 🔮 @NHLdotcom

Tweet Tuukka Rask has been skating at the @NHLBruins practice facility but there is no indication when the free agent goalie will return from offseason hip surgery



## **MEDIA HAS MELTDOWN OVER AARON RODGERS VACCINE STATUS**

#### SBT Staff

reen Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers was forced to miss last Sunday's Week 9 game against the Kansas City Chiefs because he tested positive for COVID-19 and is a player who is not vaccinated.

The sports media — and really just all of the media in general isn't concerned with the NFL's irrational COVID-19 protocols. Instead, their focus is on Rodgers' vaccine status, and the fact that he wasn't entirely truthful with them at the beginning of the season when asked if he had been vaccinated.

At the time, Rodgers answered the question at a press conference by saying he had been "immunized." That phrase led many to believe that he was vaccinated, when in fact and as we now know — he is not.

Under the NFL's irrational protocol, a non-vaccinated player who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for a minimum of 10

days. For vaccinated players who test positive, all they need to do is provide two negative tests 24 hours apart in order to return.

Rodgers went on "The Pat McAfee Show" last week — via video stream - to explain his "immunized" comment from earlier in the season. But he also used the long-form conversation to point out just how ridiculous the NFL's COVID-19 protocols are, considering that both vaccinated players and non-vaccinated players can test positive for COVID-19 and spread COVID-19 just the same.

COVID-19 transmission by vaccinated people is not a new fact, either. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky was on CNN over the summer and explained it to Wolf Blitzer.

"What [the vaccines] can't do anymore is prevent transmission," said Walensky. "So if you're going home to somebody who has not been vaccinated or somebody who can't get vaccinated - somebody who might be immunosuppressed or a little bit frail, somebody who has comorbidities that put them at high risk — I would suggest you wear a mask at public indoor settings."

Rodgers used his appearance on McAfee's show to crush the NFL's protocols that irrationally punish non-vaccinated players, when in reality, the odds are that Rodgers caught COVID-19 from a player

## WHATTOWATC

**NFL** THURSDAY, NOV. 11 Baltimore (-7.5) at Miami 8:20 P.M. FOX/NFLN

SUNDAY, NOV. 14 Cleveland at New England (-1.5) 1 P.M. CBS

Kansas City (-2.5) at Las Vegas 8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, NOV. 15 LA Rams (-4) at San Francisco 8:15 P.M. ESPN

> NBA FRIDAY, NOV. 12 Milwaukee at Boston 7:30 P.M. ESPN

NHL SATURDAY, NOV. 13 Boston at New Jersey 1 P.M. NESN/NHLN

SUNDAY, NOV. 14 Montreal at Boston 7 P.M. NESN/ESPN+

who was vaccinated.

In a rational world, the sports media would no longer focus on Rodgers' vaccine status, but rather, they would begin to publicly question the NFL about the fairness of its wacky protocols, and even begin to press the vaccine companies and medical bureaucrats as to why the COVID-19 vaccines seemingly do not work as well as most originally thought they would.

But this isn't a rational world, and a majority of the sports media would rather remain in their safe-space echo chambers, than move out of their comfort zone and adjust to the updated facts that derail their own personal narratives.

The latest, and most ridiculous meltdown came from Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw during FOX's NFL coverage over the weekend.

"We are a divided nation, politically, we are a divided nation on CO-VID-19, whether or not to take the vaccine, and unfortunately, we've got players that pretty much think only about themselves," said Bradshaw. "And I'm extremely disappointed in the actions of Aaron Rodgers."

Rodgers — like most healthy pro athletes who've had COVID-19, vaccinated or not — is fine, and is expected to return to the Packers for their Week 10 game on Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks.