



Enrollment In The Boston Public Schools Drops Again

After the COVID-19 pandemic began nearly two years ago, there has been a rapid decline in enrollment in Massachusetts' public schools, where even after modest growth this fall, public and charter schools statewide are still serving 37,000 fewer students than they were in 2019 — a decline of nearly 4%.

Meanwhile in Boston, the steep decline has continued. For the second

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EDITORIAL

Thanksgiving in America – So Much to be Thankful For

What can we say about Thanksgiving? It seems to be considered by many Americans as that laid back, very cool, uniquely American holiday, where people kind of just kick back, relax and enjoy the official start to the holiday season. No pressure. Others feel that it's the calm before the storm as, the day after, Christmas Season begins and the mad rush to shop for those special gifts, make social

plans and frenzied decorating commences. Perhaps it's some of both. However you view it, why not make it a time to savor and cherish?

The football games. On this day, High School football is king, the gathering with family and close friends and of course the food – oh yes, the food and often so much of it/too much of it.

But it's also a time to reflect on the fact that, in America, when you compare our situation with that of so many other

places around the world, we really do have much to give thanks for. At least so far, we have our freedom and liberties that people in so many other countries can only dream about. The overall living standard is the envy of most of the world and we are not a nation that is ravaged by war. With millions all over the world clamoring to come here, we can give thanks that we ARE here.

While there are those who clamor to make Thanksgiving something to be looked



upon negatively, because of some political issue they may have, it is a relatively tiny minority. The overwhelming majority of Americans of every background look favorably on Thanksgiving and

look forward to its arrival.

So, from all of us at South Boston Today to all of our readers, we wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful for you. It truly is a time and season to savor.

“Forever on Thanksgiving Day, the heart will find the pathway home!” - Wilbur D. Nesbit

A Message From The Fitzgerald Post - Chelsea Soldiers Home

The Thomas J. Fitzgerald VFW Post 561, 715 East Fourth Street (behind Stop & Shop) will be accepting Christmas donations for the Chelsea Soldiers Home on Saturday, November 20th and Saturday, December 4th between 9:00AM and 1:00PM. Examples: gift cards, hats, socks, scarves, toiletries, etc.

As you all know, no-one has been hit harder by COVID-19 than our soldiers' homes. Please support the men and women who live in them.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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The Information Center

Kyle Rittenhouse Did What He Had To Do

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

If you need more reasons to distrust the news media, the Kyle Rittenhouse trial provided them to a record number of Americans who were still on the fence about what they think of the press. The sleazy tactics the media used to paint Rittenhouse as some sort of evil, sadistic terrorist, a white supremacist, a wanton and brutal murderer out for blood and the devil himself, was over the top even for liberal “journalists”. If you look at the kid’s past and background, it was clear that he was none of the above. A certified lifeguard, First Responder, good Samaritan who spent much of his time doing community and charitable work; he was/is someone who not only talks about the need for people to help others less fortunate, but someone who actually does it. Reporters from MSNBC were even caught following members of the jury home to find out where they lived in what was said to be an effort to intimidate them. They were barred from entering the courthouse for the remainder of the trial.

The media’s frantic and full-bore efforts to make those who were rioting, burning, looting and attacking people at random that night seem like heroes was mind numbing. A quick look at the criminal records of those Kyle Rittenhouse was forced to shoot in self defense tells the real story of the type of people the prosecutors in the trial attempted to paint as put-upon victims.

They were violent and convicted felons. One raped pre-teen boys, another was arrested for kidnapping. They had illegal possessions of firearms charges against them, served time for sexual assault and molestation, burglary and a list of other heinous crimes. One was even arrested for assaulting his own grandmother. But the media did all they could to hide or ignore their crimes. Yet public records tell the story, and the truth was

uncovered by a bit of investigation. The video footage taken where Rittenhouse was forced to defend himself was indisputable. He was chased down by people yelling ‘kill him’, pelted with rocks and bottles, bashed on the head with a skateboard and had a gun pointed at him just inches away from his face. All of it was clearly visible on film. Unfortunately for the media, the prosecution, Hollywood morons and Democrat politicians, just about everyone carries a video camera/phone and the action was caught on film, live as it happened.

Had Rittenhouse not opened fire on his attackers when he did, he would be dead. It’s as simple and as clear cut as that. To quote him after his not guilty verdict: “Self defense is not illegal”. He’s right. This is America and Americans have a right to defend their lives and if it takes deadly force to do it when your life is in danger, so be it, whether whiny liberals and leftist radicals like it or not. And if those radicals are going to continue to attack, assault, beat and attempt to murder those they disagree with while they’re burning down cities, the odds are there could be more of them suffering the same fate as Rosenbaum, Huber and Grosskruetsz. Not everyone will drop to the ground in a fetal position and allow themselves to be pummeled and take a beating like one of the trial prosecutors suggested Rittenhouse should have done.

Kyle Rittenhouse did not break Wisconsin law by crossing state lines. He had every right to be there that night. He did not break that state’s law by possessing that rifle and there was nothing ‘racial’ about what happened. These were just more news media lies that they kept pushing to make the teenager seem like the bad guy and the aggressor and to continue to divide this country.

The liberal news media has had it. They will never again be trusted

by the American public. And it’s not just because of the Rittenhouse trial. Their credibility has been in a nosedive for years. A Rasmussen poll has shown that now, nearly 60% of American voters consider the media to be the enemy of the people. Only 36% said they disagree, and this includes a growing number of Democrats who are finally starting to wake up. The majority polled said reporters are untrustworthy and that they are more concerned with trying to make Biden look good and covering for him than they are at reporting truthfully. These are numbers that the media will never recover from. Once

distrust of this magnitude sets in, it’s nearly impossible to shake.

It is said that Nick Sandmann, the teen in the red MAGA hat that got into the dispute with the American Indian activist on the steps of the US capital in 2020 got nearly 250 million dollars when he sued CNN and other media outlets for unfairly defaming him. The thinking is that Kyle Rittenhouse could get even more. When Rittenhouse was asked this week if he is considering suing the media outlets who defamed him, he said “There are some very good lawyers working on that now”. I hope he does and is awarded billions. Go for it Kyle.

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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.

Boston pays \$4.2 million to resolve lawsuits this year

Boston is paying a decent amount of money to settle lawsuits. Boston Herald's Sean Philip Cotter reports that the city shelled out over \$4 million to resolve 42 lawsuits this year and ran up a \$14 million bill to resolve suits over the past five years.

More from Cotter: "Since the start of 2016, the city will have paid out at least \$18.4 million in more than 300 settlements and judgments to close out suits, according to data obtained by a Herald records request."

Parental playbook: Diehl hopes to repeat winning GOP strategy from Virginia

It worked in one commonwealth, why not this one? Amy Sokolow of the Herald reports that GOP gubernatorial hopeful Geoff Diehl is hoping to borrow directly from the

successful playbook of Virginia governor-elect Glenn Youngkin by promising to take up the cause of parents who feel left out of the decision-making process in their kids' schools.

Logan getting ready for holiday travelers

Passengers are set to return to Logan International Airport in droves this holiday season, something that officials haven't seen for a while because of the pandemic. And as the airport gets ready for them, Boston Globe's Gal Tziperman Lotan reports that Massport leaders are making a few changes to help improve their experience.

Special court session at Suffolk County jail ends

A special court session held at the Suffolk County jail to hear cases from people with criminal warrants who frequented nearby

tent encampments has closed. WBUR's Deborah Becker reports that the "Boston Municipal Court Community Response Session" drew quite a bit of criticism as it operated for a total of nine days.

Bonus blowback: Some in Everett question question 'longevity' payments to mayor

Too much? The Everett City Council could soon vote to end a \$40,000 "longevity bonus" that has helped make Mayor Carlos DeMaria the highest-paid mayor in the state, an arrangement that one city councilor calls 'asinine,' and prompted a city hall employee to drop a dime to the FBI questioning its legality, the Globe's Andrea Estes and Jeremiah Manino report.

Boston Globe union approves new contract

After three years of negotiations, the union representing journalists

and business-side employees at the Boston Globe ratified a new contract. Boston Business Journal's Don Seiffert reports that the Boston Newspaper Guild announced Friday that members voted to approve the contract which includes a 3 percent raise and \$1,000 contract-signing bonus for union members.

Cape cash clash: Assembly, Commission duke it out over APRA spending

They've got \$41 million to spend and two conflicting legal opinions. The two branches of government that operate Barnstable County could be headed to court to sort out clashing legal opinions about whether the Board of Regional Commissions or the County Assembly has the right to determine how \$41 million worth of ARPA cash will be spent. Jeannette Hinkle of the Cape Cod Times has the details.

Public Hearing on Improving Beach Access for People With Disabilities on November 30

On Tuesday, November 30, at 10:00 AM, the **Metro-politan Beaches Commission and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay** will convene a **Virtual Public Hearing** focused on improving access for people with disabilities on the Commonwealth's public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

The public is welcome to join us to share their thoughts on what is working and what we can do better. You can register for the hearing by following this link https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUftuqgrj0sG9TqjeIa1rCNfH-Cx69GR_mF

At the hearing we expect to hear from members of the dis-

ability community as well as a panel of experts including; **Ellen Attaliades**, President and CEO of the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP), **Kristen McCosh**, Commissioner of the Boston Disabilities Commission, **Coleman Nee**, Chief Executive Officer of Triangle, Inc., **Kathy Lafferty**, Executive Director of the South Boston Neighborhood House and **Laila Soleimani**, Outreach Specialist at DCR's Universal Access Program. Acting DCR Commissioner **Stephanie Cooper** is also expected to attend.

For more information about the MBC or the hearing, please contact Save the Harbor's Executive Director Chris Mancini by email to mancini@savetheharbor.org or

on his cell at (617) 909-6667, or their Director of Strategy & Communications Bruce Berman by email to bruce@bostonharbor.com or on his cell at 617-293-6243.

MBC on Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's website, and download copies of our previous reports at <https://www.savetheharbor.org/mbc-archives>.



Chairman Lynch Examines Strategies to Prevent Suicide Among U.S. Service members and Veterans

U.S. Representative Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, held a hearing to examine how the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and community organizations are working to strengthen mental health and curb the alarming rate of suicides among our nation's military servicemembers and veterans.

"The suicide epidemic among our military and veteran communities is an enduring public health crisis that also carries profound implications for U.S. national security," Rep. Lynch said in his opening statement.

The Subcommittee heard testimony from Alyssa Hundrup, Director of Health Care at the Government Accountability Office; Brigadier General (ret.) Jack Hammond, Executive Director of Home Base; Dr. Carla Stumpf-Patton, Senior Director for Postvention Programs at Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; and Staff Sergeant (ret.) Johnny Jones, member of the Board of Directors for Boot Campaign.

The hearing was personal for Members and witnesses, who shared their own experiences

of losing a loved one to suicide and why that has driven them to help military servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

- Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman of the Oversight and Reform Committee, shared that after her brother returned from military service during the Vietnam War, he struggled for years and later took his own life. She explained, "That was years ago, but the pain of my brother's passing is still with me today."

- Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, who lost his father, a Marine veteran, to suicide, discussed the importance of removing perceived stigmas for family members who have lost someone to suicide, stating "the way we avoid it is not to try and repress it as a culture, but to accept it—not that it has to happen, but we can address it."

- Dr. Stumpf-Patton testified about the loss of her husband to suicide, stating that after his death, she felt "completely alone, with no direction on surviving my devastating loss." She added, "So many times, I just stopped looking for help. Rather than asking for support, after being turned away time and time again, I just had to find ways to manage on my own."

- Staff Sergeant Jones shared that his best friend in high school, a fellow Marine, died by suicide in 2012 after not receiving sufficient help from the VA

and deciding that "taking his own life was the only way to ensure he no longer hurt or let down those he loved."

Members and witnesses discussed the need for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to work collaboratively with private-sector organizations to address the many complex risk factors that can contribute to suicide.

- Brigadier General Hammond testified the Biden Administration's new Military and Veterans' Suicide Prevention Strategy is "spot on" but must be followed quickly by "actionable plans and funding strategies" to expand access to mental health care.

- In response to a question from Chairman Lynch, Dr. Stumpf-Patton testified that "Suicide is a very complex, widespread problem that cannot be ... answered or responded to with any one single agency or organization. Ms. Hundrup added that there is "not one single entity that's going to solve this" and that further examination of how the VA and DOD engage with community-based partners "would certainly be warranted."

Witnesses testified that military family members who lose a loved one to suicide experience significant grief, trauma, and require greater support and care.

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Boston Health Officials Issue Recommendations to Residents During the 2021 Holiday Season

The Boston Public Health Commission today released guidance regarding the increase in community COVID-19 positive cases urging residents to take extra precautions to keep themselves and others safe.

The city of Boston, like many other cities across the country, is currently experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases. As the weather becomes colder, emergency department visits are trending upward, and hospitalizations are also on the rise. With increased travel and gatherings of family and friends, the fast-approaching holiday season will likely increase

exposures to COVID-19. BPHC and the Mayor's Office are strongly recommending that residents take the following precautions to minimize their risk:

- Get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccination has been authorized for ages 5 and up. Start the series now in preparation for the December holidays. It takes 2 weeks after your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccination or after the single-dose J&J/Janssen, to become fully vaccinated. BPHC and the City of Boston are hosting family vaccination clinics throughout the city where all family members ages 5 and up can

receive their first or second dose. Boosters are also available. For a list of vaccine sites and family clinics near you visit boston.gov or call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050.


- Get boosted. Everyone 18+ is now eligible for a booster vaccine. Protection conferred by COVID-19 vaccines wanes over time. If it has been more than six months since your second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or more than 2 months since your J&J/Janssen vaccine, we encourage you to obtain a booster shot. For a list of vaccine sites and family clinics near you visit our COVID-19 vaccination



website or call the Mayor's Health Line at 617-534-5050.

- Get tested. We strongly encourage people with COVID-19 symptoms, especially upper respiratory symptoms, to get tested, regardless of their vaccination status. More information

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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



Virtual Public Meeting

354 E Street

Tuesday, December 14
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/32qUu3q
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 663 2166

Project Description:

The Proponent proposes to renovate a former and now deconsecrated church previously known as Saint Vincent DePaul Church. The Proposed Project site consists of 16,653 square feet of land. The proposed renovations and additions is approximately 49,873 gross square feet of floor area, with approximately thirty-five (35) residential units including, as currently planned, two (2) one-bedroom units, thirty (30) two-bedroom units, and three (3) two-bedroom townhouse-style units, within a six (6) -story building of approximately seventy (70) feet in height. The Proposed Project will include thirty-five (35) off-street garage parking spaces, twenty-five (25) of which will within an automated lift parking system, as well as thirty-five (35) interior resident bike spaces and sixteen (16) exterior visitor bike spaces.


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Close of Comment Period:
12/20/2021

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Virtual Public Meeting

202 W. 1st Street

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

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.

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Close of Comment Period:
12/10/2021

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary



Virtual Public Meeting

Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment

Thursday, December 9
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3oK2e85
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 554 9423

Project Proponent:

Transform Mary Ellen McCormack LLC c/o WinnDevelopment

Project Description:

The Proposed Project Mary Ellen McCormack Redevelopment will provide 100% replacement of the existing 1,016 deeply affordable homes for current residents while adding additional market rate and middle-income residential units. The Project is comprised of 1,365 units of new mixed-income housing (572 of which will be affordable replacement units), 69,000 square feet of community and retail space, 2.3 acres of open space, and approximately 520 new parking spaces.

Los documentos mencionados tienen información crucial para usted como residente y parte interesada de la ciudad de Boston. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles para comunicar el contenido de estos documentos para usted sin costo adicional. Si necesita servicios de traducción, contáctese con: (Lance. Campbell@Boston.gov) (617-918-4311)

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Close of Comment Period:
1/14/2022

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Councilor Flynn Calls for Portion of Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill Funding for Pedestrian Safety Improvements



Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn is advocating for a portion of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funding for the city to be dedicated to address long-standing pedestrian safety needs with improved traffic-calming infrastructure, through the use of speed bumps, raised crosswalks, and rapid flash beacons on high traffic roads and corridors throughout Boston. With reports that the state is expected to receive over \$9 billion in municipal aid from the infrastructure bill, and potentially billions more in available grant funding, Boston has a unique opportunity to also scale up our built environment and physically change our high traffic roads and corridors to help slow down cars and keep our pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers safe.

Councilor Flynn has long advocated that pedestrian safety is one of the most critical issues we face in Boston, as our infrastructure must catch up to the pace of development and population growth over recent decades to ensure the safety of neighbors, children, our seniors and

persons with disabilities. Over the last several years, Councilor Flynn recommended multiple 12 Point Street Safety plans to the city, called for hearings on infrastructure and reducing the speed limit to 20 mph, and advocated for speeding cars to be declared a Public Health Emergency due to a number of serious and fatal crashes in District 2 and across the city.

This significant investment from the federal government will undoubtedly help Boston's recovery and set the stage for a brighter future to address our infrastructure needs; fixing our roads and bridges, improving public transportation, addressing climate change, resiliency measures and sea level rise. But we would be remiss if we do not also focus on recovering as a safer and more accessible city for all moving forward, with traffic calming infrastructure that actually forces cars to slow down on commuter heavy roads across the City of Boston.

There is a glaring need to invest in infrastructure such as speed bumps,

raised crosswalks, rapid flash beacons with pedestrian islands, road diets, and curb extensions for shorter crosswalks. This presents a chance to scale up our Slow Streets program across the city, so that all neighborhoods can move forward together in our shared goal of no serious or fatal crashes in Boston.

"As we discuss how we should utilize federal funding to fix our roads, bridges and public transportation, I also believe we must focus on making Boston a safer and more accessible city for all with the help of infrastructure that forces speeding cars to slow down," said Councilor Flynn. "To make the serious crashes in our city a thing of the past, we need to physically change our roads with speed humps, raised crosswalks, and rapid flash beacons with pedestrian islands. I will continue to work with my neighbors, colleagues, and the city to make our streets safer for all."

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

Councilors Flynn and O'Malley To Hold Hearing On Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure & Electrifying the City's Vehicle Fleet

Boston City Councilors Ed Flynn and Matt O'Malley are holding a hearing on Friday, December 10th at 11am to discuss Boston's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and plans to transition our municipal vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. A significant driver of climate change, sea level rise, and pollution is transportation. One of the most important ways to cut carbon emissions is to encourage the adoption of personal EVs, and replacing the municipal fleet with EVs. This hearing aims to discuss measures to further invest in EV infrastructure, as well as increasing the number of EV charging stations in Boston at new construction developments, municipal locations, commercial areas and street parking. It will be held virtually via Zoom in combination with a hearing on the installation of solar panels on municipal parking lots and buildings. The hearing will be chaired by Councilor

O'Malley in the Committee on Environment, Resiliency, and Parks.

With passage of the most recent bipartisan infrastructure bill by the Biden Administration, there is \$7.5 billion in funding to build EV charging stations across the country, presenting an unprecedented opportunity for Boston to expand its EV infrastructure. In addition, the proposed Budget Reconciliation legislation would also increase tax credits for purchasing EVs to \$12,500. It is therefore timely and important that we discuss how we can leverage this potential funding to expand our EV charging infrastructure, and our plan to electrify the city's municipal fleet.

Transportation accounts for nearly a third of Boston's total greenhouse gas emissions, 65% of which comes from personal vehicles. To reach carbon neutrality and address climate change, the City sets a goal for 23% of new car purchases in the City are



electric vehicles by 2025, and that every household is within a 10-minute walk of an EV car share facility or a publicly accessible charging station by 2030. Moreover, under the City's Electric Vehicle Readiness Policy, all vehicles purchased for the Central Fleet must be EVs or zero emission vehicles (ZEV), or best in class if an appropriate ZEV is not available, with the goal of having a fully emissions free fleet by 2060. However, the available charging



infrastructure does not meet current demand, and is insufficient to further encourage a transition to EVs.

"With federal legislation now signed this week on infrastructure and investments in electric vehicle charging stations, proposed legislation on increasing tax credits for purchasing EVs, and our automakers shifting their focus to electric vehicles in the coming decade - it is critical for us to ensure that the

Continued on page 10

Thanksgiving 2021 - The Tradition Remains

SBT Staff

It's safe to say that nearly every American knows the story of how the Thanksgiving holiday came to be. It's a story of hardship being overcome by success that finally led to the first Thanksgiving feast where the Pilgrims gave thanks to the local natives and of course to God for the bountiful food that was finally available which enabled them to survive.

The Pilgrims were seeking freedom from the religious persecution they had suffered in England and courageously set sail for the new world. Packing all the belongings they could carry onto what would now be considered a tiny, unsafe and very fragile ship; they made the perilous journey and landed on the east coast of what is now America. This is history; most of us know this from our lessons at school. But what many may have forgotten was that this was not the beginning of what is today a uniquely American holiday. The first Thanksgiving, celebrated in the autumn of 1620 was not observed in the years following. It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it to be so, and

it has been an American tradition ever since.

Today, Americans often sit down to sumptuous turkey dinners with all the 'fixins' and still give thanks to God for all that we have in our country. This is often followed by watching football games and taking part in other holiday activities; one of which for some could simply be an after-dinner nap while waiting for dessert and coffee. Historians still aren't positive that turkey was part of the first Thanksgiving feast. However, they do seem pretty sure that sumptuous main courses like wild duck, goose, venison and even clams and lobster were high at the top of the menu followed by fruits such as plums and boiled pumpkin. No pumpkin pies. But happily, turkeys today are plentiful and if cooked just right, delicious and now cooked by several different methods.

Though tradition still reigns on Thanksgiving Day, much has changed since that first feast in 1621. The 46 surviving Pilgrims were joined and helped by 91 American Indians and together they worked hard and in cooperation at making sure that from then on, food and shelter; two things that were



certainly a must for survival in those days in such a harsh environment, would follow and endure well into the future. Today, what often follows a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday spent with friends and family is frenzied shopping sprees and a head long rush into the Christmas Season and all the hustle and bustle that comes with it. And this is something that millions of Americans also look forward to. Times change for sure, but the good thing about this very special holiday is that even though in this

modern age; nearly four centuries since the first Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed, where things are so much different with new customs and habits, most Americans still hold on to part of that tradition. It's what caused this Thanksgiving holiday of 2021, to begin the same way back when the Mayflower first landed at Plymouth Rock. And that is an appreciation of family, good friends and neighbors helping neighbors and slowing down, even if it's just for a day to give thanks for all that we have in America.



Please Join Us

December 16, 2021

Holiday Pops at Boston Symphony Hall

6:00 Reception Higginson Hall
Huntington Avenue Entrance

8:00 p.m. Holiday Pops Concert



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President and CEO
The New England Council*



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STATE SENATOR
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David Biele
State Representative



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DISTRICT TWO BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR
ED FLYNN AND FAMILY



Happy Thanksgiving From Our Home To Yours

(paid for by the Friends of Ed Flynn Committee)

Enrollment continued from front page

year in a row, the state's largest school district is 4% smaller than it was a year earlier. BPS enrollment is down by 4,311 students, or 8.5% since October 2019 and is now below 50,000. Over the past decade, the school system has shrunk by about 8,000 students, more than half of which occurred over the past two years.

State funding for BPS has shrunk over the years from making up nearly 30% of the district's budget in the 1990s to less than 10% now. Although the Legislature passed the Student Opportunity Act in 2019, committing to increasing state spending on education by \$1.5 billion over a seven-year period, lawmakers last year underfunded the commitment, citing concerns over what many thought would be declining state revenue due to pandemic shutdowns of businesses and layoffs. It remains unclear how much state funding for schools Boston can expect.

Transportation takes up nearly 10% of the school district's budget,

far more than in other major cities. Boston offers yellow bus service to students in kindergarten through sixth grade, as well as to students of all grades whose commutes involve more than 1 transfer between buses or trains. The district also provides bus service to students in charter, parochial and private schools.

The data come on the heels of the School Committee asking Superintendent Brenda Cassellius to develop a new 10-year master facilities plan, and as the board considers a request from Cassellius to shut two middle schools and an elementary school. However, a portion of Cassellius' request seeks to add modular classrooms to several elementary schools so they can absorb the sixth grades from the closed schools.

As stated some 37,000 fewer students enrolled in public schools statewide last year as some families frustrated with school closures fled to private schools or other education options. It appears those families have not come back.

Advocates hope that over \$400

million in federal relief — and a new mayor focused on housing and affordability — can at least begin to reverse the trend in Boston. "Enrollment declines raise serious issues," said Will Austin, who leads the Boston Schools Fund, a nonprofit that supports public, charter and parochial schools across the city.

As an example, many families opted to leave the Timilty and Irving Middle Schools before this year, likely to close in the summer as part of the district's broader reconfiguration. But there were also declines in enrollment at BPS schools with no such plans, including the Jeremiah Burke High School in Dorchester, the Higginson-Lewis K-8 in Roxbury and the McKinley schools, which serve students with behavioral issues.

The drops were also distributed more or less evenly across the racial and ethnic backgrounds DESE tracks. Each group shrank by at least 6% since fall 2019, with the steepest drops among Black and Asian students (by 11.6% and 9.6%, respec-

tively). Statewide, too, the declines were spread out: Boston's was the 11th largest one-year enrollment decline among school districts, with towns like Bourne, Orleans, Swampscott and Randolph experiencing similar contractions.

In a report by WBUR, BPS officials stressed that there's little evidence that BPS is "losing" students to private and charter schools or to neighboring districts. Instead, they attributed the declines mostly to long-term trends — like climbing housing costs, declining immigration and lower birth rates — that the pandemic may have served to accelerate. While Austin expressed hope that relief funds could serve as a "bridge" across the worst financial problems caused by these declines, he noted also the generational work to be done: "An open house isn't going to solve this problem. It is going to take years of investment — in housing, school facilities, school quality and a variety of other things — to grow and retain enrollment."

Lynch continued from page 5

• Brigadier General (ret.) Hammond testified that "it is clear that we have millions of military family members deeply affected by the physical and invisible wounds of war." In response to a question from Rep. DeSaulnier, he added that military families are "some of the most injured people we deal with—far more than any Navy SEAL or Green Beret."

• Dr. Stumpf-Patton testified that "the emotional crisis" experienced by servicemembers and veterans who die by suicide does "not simply disappear with their suicide, but rather is often transferred and absorbed by those coping with the death."

SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES

There are specially trained responders ready to help servicemembers and veterans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Servicemembers and veterans can:

- Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone;
- Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder;
- Start a confidential online chat session at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is also available 24/7 for anyone at 800-273-8255.

COVID continued from page 5

on testing can be found on our COVID-19 testing website.

• Get your flu shot. This flu season may be particularly severe. You can get both your COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot at the same time during the same visit to your doctor or a vaccine clinic.

• Continue to wear a mask indoors. Wearing a mask reduces your risk of infection especially if you or any of your family and friends are unvaccinated. Wearing a mask around elderly family members is especially important to protect them from the virus.

• Wear a mask while traveling on public transportation. Always wear a mask when on public transportation, including the MBTA, ride shares and taxis. We strongly encourage you to adhere to masking guidance at airports, train stations and bus terminals.

• Wash your hands often. Use soap and clean running water for 20 seconds or use hand

sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

• Limit the size of gatherings with family and friends. Whenever possible use virtual platforms and reduce the number of people gathered indoors over the holidays.

• Call the Mayor's Health Line. If you need help finding a clinic, a place to get your booster or more information about COVID-19, call the Mayor's Health Line at BPHC 617-534-5050. More information is also available online at boston.gov and by calling the Mayor's Help Line 311.

"We encourage everyone to enjoy the holiday season and spend time with loved ones," says Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. "But please be safe. Vaccination is highly effective in reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. It is the most important step that you can take to protect yourself and your family and friends during the holidays."

Flynn/O'Malley continued from page 7

City of Boston has the infrastructure in place to meet future demand and further incentivize neighbors to transition to EVs in the coming years," said Councilor Flynn. "We should also discuss accelerating the transition of our city's municipal fleet, to ensure that we reach our carbon neutrality goals and do our part to combat pollution, climate change and sea level rise. I want to thank Councilor O'Malley for his partnership on this issue, and I look forward to this important conversation."

"The City of Boston must maintain its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. Investing in Electric Vehicle infrastructure is essential in order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions," said Councilor O'Malley. "As we continue to push for the adoption of electric vehicles and other zero-emission transportation, we must ensure that the infrastructure is accessible and affordable for residents."

To provide public testimony, please contact Shane.Pac@Boston.gov. For more information, please contact Councilor Flynn's office at 617-635-3203 or Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

BOSTON COMMON TREE LIGHTING

The City of Boston and guests from the Province of Nova Scotia will celebrate the 80th Annual Tree Lighting on Boston Common on Thursday, December 2.

The City of Boston's signature holiday celebration returns on Thursday, December 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. as the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and title sponsor Province of Nova Scotia host the 80th Annual Boston Common Tree Lighting adjacent to the Visitor's Information Center at 139 Tremont Street.

This is the 50th year that Nova Scotia has given a tree to the people of Boston as thanks for relief efforts following the December 6, 1917, explosion of a munitions ship in Halifax Harbor. Within 24 hours of the disaster a train loaded with supplies and emergency personnel was making its way from Boston to Nova Scotia.

"After last year's virtual celebration it is an honor to welcome residents and visitors of all ages back to Boston Common in person to light the Nova Scotia Christmas tree and holiday lights through the park," said Mayor Michelle

Wu. "Our bonds of friendship and perseverance have turned the memories of a tragic day in 1917 into the tradition of this wonderful gift enjoyed by Bostonians for half a century."

WCVB Channel 5's CHRONICLE Co-Anchors Anthony Everett and Shayna Seymour will once again host Channel 5's live broadcast of the event beginning at 7 p.m. featuring appearances by Santa Claus, Rudolph, and Frosty along with musical performances by Kim Cherry, OrigiNation Dance Troupe, and a full roster of talent to be announced.

The official holiday season kick-off in Boston includes the lighting of the City of Boston's official Christmas tree and trees throughout Boston Common and the Public Garden. Boston's official 2021 Christmas tree is a 60-year-old, 48-foot white spruce tree from Orangedale, Municipality of the County of Inverness, Cape Breton. The

tree has been donated by the landowner L'Arche Cape Breton Community, a non-profit organization that creates safe, supportive homes and meaningful work for people with disabilities.

The holiday lights throughout both parks will light up in sequence shortly before 8 p.m. when Mayor Wu is joined onstage by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Santa Claus, Rudolph, and Frosty. The show will close with a pyrotechnic display by Atlas PyroVision.

The event is supported by presenting sponsor Amazon, key sponsors Exelon Generation and Bank of America, and media sponsors WCVB Channel 5 and The Boston Globe. A sampling village will feature giveaways from Xfinity, Dunkin' seasonal drinks and snacks, cookies from Levain Bakery, eggnog provided by H.P. Hood, LLC, and Drake's Cakes famous pastries.

Sponsors of the "Make the Com-



mon Glow for the Holidays" appeal that makes lighting of the Common and Public Garden possible include The Lynch Family Foundation and The Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau.

For more information please call (617) 635-4505 or go to the tree lighting page. Check out Boston Common parking information.

First Annual Martin's Park Ship Lighting November 27



A special children's celebration will be held on Saturday, November 27, at the Smith Family Waterfront in the Seaport District when the Friends of Martin's Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department host the first annual holiday lighting of the signature wooden play ship in Martin's Park beginning at 4 p.m.

Located at 64 Sleeper Street on the South Boston waterfront and visible from the Northern Avenue Bridge, Martin's Park at the Smith Family Waterfront is a climate-resilient park built in memory of eight-year-old Martin W. Richard, a victim of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. The accessible park provides play opportunities for children, families, and visitors of all abilities. The wooden

play ship is the centerpiece of the space that will be lit for the holidays.

Martin's Park will be transformed into a beautiful holiday display when the ship, surrounding beach fencing, and pedestrian bridge are illuminated with over 1,500 feet of blue and white tube lights. Visitors are encouraged to head inside the park for the celebration sponsored by the Friends of Martin's Park and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

Santa will arrive by boat at the Harborwalk and enter the Park to switch on the lights. Entertainment will be provided by acappella group Ball In The House performing a selection of holiday classics, along with special guest, the Seaport's own Betty the Yeti. Hot cocoa will be provided by Tuscan Kitchen and Flour Bakery, and attendees will have the opportunity to take home a special souvenir of this first annual event while supplies last.

Other 2021 holiday celebrations

hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department include the lighting of the tree in Copley Square on November 29 and the Boston Common Tree Lighting, followed by

the lighting of the trees on Commonwealth Avenue Mall, both on December 2.

Visit bit.ly/LightsOnBos or call (617) 635-4505 for more information.



South Boston Catholic Academy News

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

In this season of thanksgiving, we wanted to congratulate our new Student Council Members and thank them for their help during this school year. South Boston Catholic Academy students elected their student council representatives in Grades 2-6. The students campaigned for two weeks and presented their speeches to the student body. We are so proud of all the students who ran for Student Council and look forward to working with our student leaders who will be guided by Ms. Erin Brogan, our Physical Education Teacher.

Our new Student Council members have been very busy working on the Candy Drive. The SBCA Students were asked to bring in any extra candy that they got for Halloween. The students brought in a bunch of candy and the Student Council helped organize the candy to be sent to the Military and First Responders. We can't wait to see what the Student Council has planned for us this Christmas!

For Thanksgiving, our students and families brought in nonperishable items for the Annual Food Drive we had at school to help families in our community have a Happy Thanksgiving.

The K2 students have been busy getting ready for Thanksgiving and sharing what they are most thankful for and some students said... their family, mom and dad, Jesus, their teachers and brother, playing with friends, angels, their dog, their house and the earth and they are learning ways to show ten in math so each turkey feather shows a way to make ten.

"The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us."...By James E. Faust. On behalf of our Principal, Dr. Helenann Civian, and all of us at South Boston Catholic Academy, we wish everyone a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving! New families are welcome to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@sbccatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.



The Wine Guy

Thanksgiving Sparkle

Celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner with family by starting off with a choice of champagne and perhaps seafood-based appetizers. So, here are a few options worth considering...

Piper Heidsieck Brut, NV, Aye, Champagne, France, (\$37.99), is one of the oldest labels from the region and relatively small by French standards; however, the great balance and acidity of this wine consistently makes it a real value. It's fantastic with shellfish, lighter cheeses and chocolate-dipped strawberries.

If you want to move it up a few notches, try a Vintage Champagne; most years are non-vintage years, designated by the "NV" on most labels. Every once in a while, however, a "Vintage Year" is declared, when all the elements for making exceptional wine are at hand. A great example of this, at a relative value, is Veuve Clicquot Brut Rose, Vintage 2016, Champagne, France, (\$84.99). The Wine Spectator describes it as, "Rich and smokey

on first impression, yet harmonious and elegant overall, with sleek acidity and minerality, delivering flavors of strawberry pate de fruit, toast, mandarin orange peel and crystallized honey." This is a great sparkling wine for seafood, especially shellfish; oysters on the half shell really bring out the wine's best qualities.

If a domestic label is more to your (and your budget's) liking, you should consider Roederer Estate Multi Vintage Brut, Mendocino County, California, (\$25.99), a blend of 60% Chardonnay and 40% Pinot Noir. It's aged for two years on lees and that gives it a great acidity, coupled with delicious notes of green apples and lemon zest. Have this one with some oysters on the half shell or scallops wrapped in

bacon and you won't be sorry.

J Cuvee 20, Russian River Valley, Napa, California, (\$31.99), is ripe, refreshing and buttery, made from 54% Chardonnay, 43% Pinot Noir and 3% Pinot Meunier, all of which combine to give delicious flavors of light green apples, melon and caramel, with a long finish.

Not forgetting our Italian brethren, Cinzano Prosecco, (17.99), is a sparkling wine that can stack up to many of its French and California cousins. The Cinzano family has over 260 years of expertise in the wine biz. I think it's safe to say they've perfected their craft. This historic bottle is lively in a flute but works well in an Aperol spritz if you want to cut it down a bit.

Talk To The Wine Guy at
jdris8888@gmail.com

South Boston Chamber of Commerce Holiday Stroll

Save the Dates: Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, and 16

The South Boston Chamber of Commerce and the South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation are excited to once again make the Broadway business district and surrounding areas a festive place for the community to shop and dine locally during

the holiday season.

Our Shop, Dine, and Splurge events run Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, and 16. **Splurge at more than 50 participating businesses** – they will each be displaying a Big Red Bow -- and enjoy incredible savings.

The festivities kick off on



Thursday, Dec. 2, with the South Boston Christmas Stroll from 4:00-6:00 p.m., followed by shopping and dining at your favorite establishments.

Santa will arrive on an antique fire truck, followed by a 1964 convertible and a singer provided by MusicBall Entertainment.

Santa will make at least four stops along East and West Broadway on Thursday, Dec. 2:

- 4:00 p.m. - Medal of Honor Park
- 4:30 p.m. - Library on East Broadway
- 5:00 p.m. - West Broadway Municipal Parking Lot
- 5:30 p.m. - Corner of C Street and West Broadway

The Original Dickens Carolers will be strolling along East and West Broadway from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Free pedicabs will be available from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to whisk customers to their favorite establishments.

Bonus: A special holiday gift card

ticket raffle promotion.

Spend \$25 at any participating business and you will be eligible to enter to win \$1,000 worth of local South Boston business gift cards.

Visit SouthBostonChamber.org/shop-local for a list of participating businesses.

Follow the Chamber on social media to stay up to date!

• **Facebook - SouthBostonChamberofCommerce**

• **Instagram - SouthBosChamber**
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I had a horrible Week 11, finishing 1-4 against the spread, which brings my record to 27-28 on the season. There's really not much else to say, other than, let's try to put it in the past and move on to Week 12.

Only two teams have a bye in Week 12: Kansas City and Arizona.

There are three games on Thanksgiving Day. My personal rule is to stay away from any game on Thursday, and I don't see a spread in any of those three games on Thanksgiving that makes me want to change my mind.

So it's all about the Thanksgiving leftovers on the weekend slate. Here are my picks for Week 12:

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (-3) over Indianapolis Colts

-The 7-3 Buccaneers will be on a short week, coming off a win over the Giants on Monday night. They travel to Indianapolis to take on the 6-5 Colts on Sunday at 1 p.m. The Colts are on a roll, having won three straight and coming off a huge 41-15 win over the Bills in Buffalo in Week 11. Though, I think that game makes me question

the Bills more than I pump up the Colts. Indy will face a different type of challenge against Tom Brady and the Bucs this Sunday, for sure. This spread is a little too low. So I'm jumping all over it. Give me Tampa Bay to win by a touchdown.

CAROLINA PANTHERS (-2) over Miami Dolphins

-Cam Newton is back, and even though his return as a starter last week ended in a loss to Washington, I think the 5-6 Panthers should be able to go into Miami and beat the 4-7 Dolphins this Sunday at 1. Miami has won three straight, but two of those three wins came against the lowly Texans and Jets. I think this game will be close, but if Carolina wins by a field goal, they cover. So that's what I'm going with. I'll take the Panthers in a tight one.

GREEN BAY PACKERS (pk) over Los Angeles Rams

-The 8-3 Packers got knocked out of the No. 1 seed in the NFC after losing to the Vikings in Minnesota on Sunday. Aaron Rodgers was great in that game, and I expect him to be good enough at home against

the 7-3 Rams on Sunday at 4:25. This should be the Sunday Night Football Game of the Week. With the Rams coming off the bye, I'll be honest, I'm not really sure what to expect from them at Lambeau. Before their bye, LA lost two straight to the Titans and 49ers. This isn't necessarily the situation they want to step into to try and snap that losing skid, against a hungry Packers team at home that's coming off a loss of their own last weekend. I'm surprised Green Bay isn't a 3-point favorite here. Instead, it's a pick-em. And I'm taking the Packers to win.

BALTIMORE RAVENS (-4) over Cleveland Browns

-NBC is praying that Lamar Jackson can recover from his mystery "illness" in time to return for this game on Sunday Night Football in Baltimore. And so am I. I'm banking on Jackson to return after missing Week 11, in which the Ravens just barely beat the Chicago Bears. Baltimore didn't cover for me, so it felt like a loss. If Jackson returns against the Browns on Sunday night, I think

the 7-3 Ravens could be a 6-or-7-point favorite. So I'll jump on Baltimore early while Jackson's status is still in limbo and while it's a 4-point spread. Cleveland is 6-5, but they just barely beat Detroit last week. Give me the Ravens to win by a touchdown at home in prime time.

LOCK OF THE WEEK: SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (-3) over Minnesota Vikings

-Don't look now, but here come the 49ers. San Francisco is 5-5 and has won two straight. They're hosting the 5-5 Vikings on Sunday at 4:25. And this is going to be your typical letdown game from Kirk Cousins and the Vikings. Minnesota has won two straight and is coming off a huge win over the Packers, but don't expect them to turn that into a three-game win streak. They probably should, but they won't. That's just the way it works for Cousins. The Vikings will lose this game. But will they lose by more than three points? In San Francisco, I'm willing to bet they do. I'll take the 49ers to win by 10.

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SPORTS TODAY

PATRIOTS MOVE INTO FIRST PLACE AFTER FIFTH STRAIGHT WIN

SBT Staff

The New England Patriots took to prime time and shut out the Falcons, 25-0, in Atlanta last Thursday night, winning their fifth consecutive game in the process.

Thanks to the Buffalo Bills' 41-15 loss to the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday, the Patriots moved into first place in the AFC East. If the playoffs began after Week 11, the 7-4 Pats would be the No. 3 seed in the AFC, and would be hosting the No. 6 seed Los Angeles Chargers in the Wild Card round.

But there's still plenty of football to be played, and now, New England returns home to host the 8-3 Tennessee Titans at Gillette Stadium this Sunday at 1 p.m.

The Titans are in first place in the AFC South and enter Week 12 as the No. 1 seed in the AFC playoff picture. However, Tennessee is coming off a horrible loss to the now 2-8 Houston Texans in Week 11. The Titans are also without their star running back, Derrick Henry, for at least the rest of the regular season.

New England is a 6.5-point favorite in this game on Sunday.

Tweet of the Week

Julian Edelman @Edelman11
Falcons game 2017 vs 2021 #TBT



RED SOX EXERCISE CLUB OPTIONS ON CORA

SBT Staff

Alex Cora is staying in Boston through the 2024 season. The Boston Red Sox announced, this week, that they've exercised the club options on Cora's contract for both the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Cora was under contract for the upcoming 2022 season. So, the Red Sox could've waited until next winter to pick up the options, but they decided not to play games.

"Alex's leadership of our staff and our players was critical to all that we accomplished in 2021," said Red Sox Chief Baseball Officer Chaim Bloom in a statement released by the team. "Along with the entire Red Sox front office, I am excited for many years of continued partnership as we work together to bring another World Series trophy to Fenway Park."

In his three seasons as Red Sox manager, Cora's record is 284-202. Among the 19 people who managed at least 400 games with the Red Sox, Cora's .584 winning percentage is the highest.

Cora won a World Series with Boston in 2018 during his first season as manager. After not making the playoffs in 2019, the Red Sox fired Cora for his alleged involvement in the Houston Astros sign-stealing scheme while Cora was the

Astros' bench coach in 2017.

Ron Roenicke managed the Red Sox during the COVID-shortened 2020 season. And when the smoke cleared on the Astros sign-stealing drama, the Red Sox re-hired Cora as their manager for the 2021 season, in which the Red Sox lost to the Astros in the ALCS.

Now, Cora knows he'll be managing the Red Sox for at least three more seasons.

"I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to manage the Red Sox," said Cora in the team's statement. "We experienced so many special moments as a team and as a city in 2021, but we still have unfinished business to take care of. I am excited about the current state of our organization and eager to continue my work with our front office, coaches, players, and everyone who makes this such a special place."

WHAT TO WATCH

NFL THURSDAY, NOV. 25
Chicago (-3) at Detroit
12:30 P.M. FOX

Las Vegas at Dallas (-7.5)
4:30 P.M. CBS

Buffalo (-5.5) at New Orleans
8:20 P.M. NBC

SUNDAY, NOV. 28
Tennessee at New England (-6.5)
1 P.M. CBS

LA Rams at Green Bay (pk)
4:25 P.M. FOX

Cleveland at Baltimore (-4)
8:20 P.M. NBC

MONDAY, NOV. 29
Seattle at Washington (pk)
8:15 P.M. ESPN

NBA FRIDAY, NOV. 26
Boston at San Antonio
8:30 P.M. NBCSB

NHL FRIDAY, NOV. 26
NY Rangers at Boston
1 P.M. ABC

ORTIZ DEBUTS ON HALL OF FAME BALLOT

Red Sox legend David Ortiz is making his first appearance on baseball's Hall of Fame ballot this winter.

Ortiz joins 12 other players who'll be making their first appearance on the ballot. Those 12 other players are: Alex Rodriguez, Ryan Howard, Tim Lincecum, Jake Peavy, Jimmy Rollins, Prince Fielder, Jonathan Papelbon, Mark Teixeira, Carl Crawford, Justin Morneau, Joe Nathan, and A.J. Pierzynski.

There are four players who'll be making their 10th and final appearance on the ballot: Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, and Curt Schilling.

A player must receive 75 percent of the vote in order to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Last year, the Baseball Writers' Association of America didn't vote anyone in.

This year, you would think Ortiz and Rodriguez would be obvious first-ballot Hall of Famers, but because both players have been linked to performance-enhancing drugs, things might not work out in their favor their first time around.

Ballots must be in by Dec. 31, with the results being officially announced on Jan. 25.

