## South Boston TODAY

December 9, 2021: Vol.9 Issue 48

**SERVING SOUTH BOSTONIANS AROUND THE GLOBE** 

Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door



# Who Will Be The Next Suffolk County District Attorney?

he US Senate has confirmed Rachael Rollins as U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts with a 50-50 vote split along political party lines requiring Vice President Kamala Harris to break the tie. It is the first

**CONTINUED ON page 6** 



## Msgr. Thomas J McDonnell & Frank Kelley Christmas Dinner

Please call 617-586-5824

if you would like a meal delivered to your home. Meals will be delivered on December 24th 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 greatly needed and should meet at St. Monica's @ 9:30 a.m. on December 24th.

Any questions email: manning.danielr@gmail.com



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



The Tradition Continues

#### **EDITORIAL ≡**

#### It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas In The Neighborhood

t's that time of year again and the Christmas spirit is once again showing up in our community of South Boston in its usual big way. The decorations are going up everywhere you look. Incredibly beautiful and some very creative light displays adorn many a home, making a walk through the neighborhood at night almost magical. All that's missing so far is a few inches of snow to coat the streets. But let's hold off on that one until Christmas Eve. The City of Boston, The South Boston Chamber of Commerce

and other organizations are doing a good job of providing activities that are adding to the overall festive atmosphere with events like the Christmas Stroll and the Christmas tree lightings. And yes, we said 'CHRIST-MAS' tree, not the ridiculous and ever so politically correct and generic 'Tree' lighting so as not to offend. That nonsense and the ship it came in on have sailed.

Santa Claus has been making appearances all over town to the delight of excited children and even the angelic voices of Christmas Carolers have been heard for the first time in a couple of years. They have been missed but it's so nice to hear them once again.

The spirit of giving is always strong this time of year in our neighborhood and this season is no exception. The United States Marine Corps. 'Toys for Tots' drive traditionally does quite well in South Boston as do gift donations to those less fortunate, run by other groups. Magnificent Nativity Scenes at our local churches, both inside and outside are being put up as a reminder about the true reason for the season and the church bells



will soon be playing Christmas favorites.

So, If you're not yet in the Christmas spirit and want to be, a tour of South Boston might be all you need to bring it on. With so many people and organizations working hard to make our neighborhood festive and alive with that Yuletide feel, why not join in and enjoy this special time of year and help make this Christmastime in South Boston one of the best ever.

"Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard or too sad, when you have a Christmas tree in the living room" - Nora Roberts

#### It's Official: Girl Scout Cookie Season Has Arrived!

Girl Scouts in eastern Massachusetts are now selling the new brownie-inspired Adventurefuls™ cookie alongside other favorites, and each purchase powers amazing adventures for them.

irl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEMA) kicks off the 2022 Girl Scout Cookie Season, when consumers can support local Girl Scout entrepreneurs by purchasing their favorite cookies. The annual cookie sale will run through March 11, 2022.

Girl Scouts are now selling the new Adventure-fuls<sup>TM</sup>, an indulgent brown-ie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt, and an incredible taste of adventure in every bite. Adventurefuls<sup>TM</sup> joins the whole portfolio of iconic Girl Scout Cookies including

favorites like Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Lemonades™, Shortbread, Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookie (gluten-free and peanutfree) and Toast-Yay!™.

"The Girl Scout Cookie sale isn't just about cookies, it is about championing girl ambition," said Barbara Fortier, CEO, Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. "As the oldest and largest entrepreneurship program for girls, the Girl Scout Cookie program empowers girls through the development of five essential skills: goal setting, money management, people skills, decision making, and business ethics. When you support the Girl Scout Cookie program, you are supporting a future business leader."

Girl Scout Cookies are \$5 per package. There are many ways to support the Girl Scout CONTINUED ON page 13

Publisher John Ciccone info@southbostontoday.com PO Box 491 South Boston, MA 02127

Advertising Office 617.268.4032 Mobile 617.840.1355 email ads@southbostontoday.com

Press Copy - Monday at 6:00pm • Advertisements Space Reservations - Friday at 6:00pm • Ad Material - Monday at 4:00pm • Camera Ready Ads - Tuesday at 6:00pm

South Boston Today is not liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. All South Boston Today produced artwork, design, and layout remain the sole property of South Boston Today. Reproduction in whole or part is strictly forbidden. South Boston Today reserves the right to cut, edit or reject any copy without notice.

South Boston Today is a Series of the Today Publications Series LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company

917 East Broadway • 617.268.4032 • Office hours: Mon-Fri 10:00am - 2:00pm



## Information Center

#### Is Discrimination Making A Come Back?

**SOUTH BOSTON TODAY** 

John Ciccone

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

ne would think that at this point in our history, all discrimination would have been removed from the culture. Discrimination from the public sector, or where government makes the laws, should be a thing of the past right? But if we take a good look at what's been going on in recent years, it seems to be not so slowly creeping back in. Striving to make it the norm that in America, all people are created equal is something that is certainly what God wants and it is prominently written into the US Constitution. Yet, as far as our elected leaders; backed up by the civil rights activist's industry, not so much.

If you've been watching TV for the last several months, there has been a constant bombardment on just about every channel with ads for Medicare enrollment. The message to senior citizens is clear: 'Hurry, sign up for more benefits to your existing plan and you could even get more cash added to your SS checks IF and only IF, you live in certain zip codes. It seems that If you live in non selected zip codes or communities well, you're just plain out of luck. Why? Are the people who live in the non favored locations just not as important?

Here in the City of Boston, the city has made a commitment to making the using of public transportation free. But here again, only people in selected parts of the city get that benefit. Taxpayers who live in neighborhoods that don't come under the umbrella of deserving special treatment - South Boston being one of them, no real surprise - will just have to suck it up and continue to pay the MBTA fares. And if you don't want to be accused of being a racist, you had better not complain.

In some states, Massachusetts included, certain racial and/or ethnic

backgrounds will give a person a leg up when applying to a school, for a job or for housing. The neverending saga of the Covid virus has shown us that while American citizens can be berated, harassed and even fired from their jobs and banned from entering certain areas, illegal immigrants can casually strut around the country and go anywhere they please, often benefitting from free government transportation to the destinations of their choosing. Public schools that still defiantly use Critical Race Theory in their curriculum are separating young students by skin color and liberal colleges are actually allowing and encouraging segregated graduation ceremonies. Will separate drinking fountains be next?

There definitely is a backsliding going on where discrimination is once again becoming common place in many parts of the country and the concerning part is, it's government sanctioned while being promoted and accepted by the left leaning segment of the public. This is one of the biggest reasons that come the next election, there needs to be a major and permanent political shakeup.

And now a comment on the exploding violent crime rate taking place in so many Democrat-run cities: What we are seeing on the news is just the tip of the iceberg. Most people understand now that the news media can no longer be trusted to tell the whole story and what they do report is slanted to fit their narrative. The numbers of murders, robberies, muggings, home invasions etc. is skyrocketing in all those places where the elected officials have cut police funding and tied the hands of law enforcement. To most Americans, this was predictable. Add in the new fad of 'smash and grab' where gangs of

looters invade stores and take what they want with little if any consequences and we all see the picture. Cities have let this happen for two reasons. They are either intimidated by the ANTIFA and BLM thugs or the liberal mindset has put politically correct or 'Woke' policies in place in the effort to be oh so trendy. In many cases it's both.

In Los Angeles: one of the capitals of anti-police liberalism, it's now so bad that one police spokesperson who has had enough, spoke out the other day. He said "It might be safer to be on a movie set with Alec Baldwin than to go shopping in LA".

He went on to say, "The city's rules enable predators to commit crimes and be released from jail without bail before the arresting officers even have time to finish filling out the paperwork".

Of course, many other liberal run cities are facing the same situations, but California is the standout. Said one small business owner who has relocated his family and his store to the safe Red state of Wyoming: "They should somehow find a way to cut California loose and let it float away – FAR away into the Pacific Ocean before it can infect the rest of America.



#### **CASPER**

Funeral & Cremations Services

ESTABLISHED IN 1930

Serving Families with Dignity and Respect through the toughest of times for over 80 years

**Home of Personal Service** 

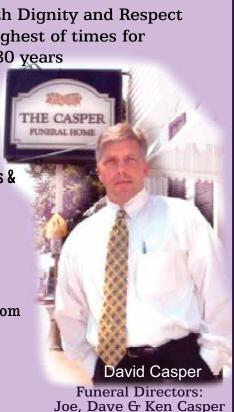
**Pre-Planning Specialists** 

Casper's specializes in **Massachusetts Cremation Services & Veteran Services** 

Please visit our website for information you may find helpful during a time of need

www.casperfuneralservices.com

Casper Funeral Home 187 Dorchester Street South Boston, MA 02127 617-269-1930





#### 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.

#### When Amazon Web Service runs into trouble, so does the world

For just a moment yesterday, we caught a glimpse at what the world would look like if one of the largest network service providers went down. It was a dark one filled with inconveniences and real-world impacts. Amazon's cloud service AWS experienced outages yesterday that affected companies left and right, reports the Associated Press. Critical issues lasted for about five hours before the company said it had "mitigated" the main problem.

But you have to remember, many governments, media, tech, and entertainment companies rely on AWS for computing services. That includes numerous organizations here in Massachusetts like Boston's transportation department, which posted to Twitter that people couldn't pay for parking through the ParkBoston App, reports Boston Globe's Jeremy C. Fox. Similarly, Bluebikes was experiencing software issues that were causing errors and delays for users. And even The Boston Globe encountered trouble publishing to their website for a period of time, according to the media outlet.

By 6 p.m. eastern time, most of the issues with AWS were solved, and life started to return to normal. But for those few hours, it was made clear just how much the world relies upon massive companies like Amazon to function.

Elugardo planning run for open

#### Senate seat

Rep. Nika Elugardo is looking to move up in the Legislature. State House News Service's Matt Murphy reports that the Jamaica Plain Democrat plans to run for a Senate seat in an open district that was redrawn during the redistricting process. Elugardo will have to give up her House seat to take a shot at the seat currently held by Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, a democratic gubernatorial candidate.

#### Boston witnesses less homicides and shootings this year

Shootings and homicides are down in Boston this year. Boston Globe's Danny McDonald reports that there have been 38 homicides so far, down from 53 this time last year and below the five-year-average of 51 killings. The data for this year runs contrary to national trends. More from McDonald: "But in 2021, the city experienced a year-over-year decrease in street violence. Boston's year stands in stark contrast with what is going on in other major US cities, many of which are grappling with record-breaking numbers of shootings and homicides in 2021."

#### Leading the charge: Pressley pushes resolution condemning GOPs Boebert

U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley will introduce a resolution to Congress that seeks to strip Colorado Congresswoman Lauren Boebert of her committee assignments because of her

recent anti-Muslim attacks on fellow members of Pressley's progressive squad, Marianna Sotomayor and Jacqueline Alemany of the Washington Post report. Pressley's resolution has gained a dozen co-sponsors but it remains unclear whether House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will bring it to the floor for a vote.

#### More than \$20M in art donated to Boston College

If you live by Boston College, you now have a new opportunity to see works from some of the greatest artists who ever lived. Associated Press' Boston Bureau reports that 30 pieces of art worth more than \$20 million were donated to the college including works from Pablo Picasso, Mary Cassatt, and William Homer. The donation comes from alumnus and investment manager Peter Lynch.

Run it again: Judge says Framingham special election needed after ballot dispute

He's calling for a do-over. A
Superior Court judge ruled that a
special election should be run to
resolve a razor-thin race for a seat
on the Framingham City Council
after determining that issues around
two disputed ballots are enough to
warrant a runoff. Zana Razzaq of the
MetroWest Daily News has the details. Meanwhile, Adam Bass of The
Item reports a recount staged in Lynn
over a close city council election has
affirmed the victory of Richard Co-

lucci, whose margin of victory over challenger Natasha Megie-Maddrey actually grew by three votes.

#### Wu names new chief of streets

There's a new chief of streets in town. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu selected Jascha Franklin-Hodge to serve in the roll, reports CommonWealth's Bruce Mohl. Franklin-Hodge plans to start in January and will be in charge of Boston's transportation and public works sectors and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

#### These retirees bring in \$100K in annual pension payments

These 470 people are making a good bit of money in retirement. Boston Herald's Joe Dwinell reports that commissioners, captains, and deputies make up some of the 470 city of Boston retirees who bring in \$100,000-plus retirement payments. The city's pension payroll includes 12,700 former city employees, including former police commissioner William Gross who brings in \$193,570 a year.

#### Yawkey Foundation donates \$15M to Pine Street Inn

Speaking of donations, Pine Street Inn is the recipeint of a \$15 million gift that will help the organization build 400 to 500 new housing units. Boston Business Journal's Grant Welker reports that the Yawkey Foundation's donation is the largest in Pine Street Inn's more than five decade history.



#### SEN. COLLINS, REP. BIELE HELP PASS ARPA RECOVERY PACKAGE

The bill delivers targeted, transformational support to critical sectors such as economic recovery, health care, housing, the environment, and education

tate Senator Nick Collins and State Representative David Biele recently voted in support of a \$4 billion spending bill that directs federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and FY21 surplus funds to help the Commonwealth's ongoing economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier this year, the Massachusetts Legisla-

ture opted to put the state's \$5.3 billion ARPA award, which must be disbursed by 2024, into a separate fund to ensure stakeholder and residents engagement through a public process. After six public hearings and over a thousand testimonies heard, the House unanimously passed the ARPA spending proposal in October and the Senate passed their version in November. The goal of the spending package is to facilitate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through one-time investments in housing, economic development, workforce development, health and education.

"I am proud to support these critical investments that will allow us to take major steps in recovering from the pandemic," said Senator Collins. "I am grateful to work with my colleagues and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to communi-

ties across our Commonwealth."

"Massachusetts has a once-in-alifetime chance to make significant investments in essential programs across the state with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and excess revenue from FY21. This spending package will support our communities in our recovery from the pandemic and I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in making these critical investments in communities," said Rep. Biele.

Highlights of the spending bill include:

- \$530 million for housing initiatives, including the creation and preservation of affordable housing;
- \$500 million to replenish the Unemployment Trust Fund to help offset the contributions from Commonwealth's businesses for unemployment programs;
  - \$500 million to provide premium





pay bonuses for lower income essential workers;

- \$400 million to expand access to mental health and behavioral support programs, including \$6.5 million to support recovery efforts at Mass and Cass; and
- \$135 million to support arts, culture, and tourism industries negatively impacted by the pandemic.

With the House and Senate having reconciled and passed the spending bill, the legislation has been sent to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

### Councilors Baker, Flynn, Breadon, and Bok Hearing On Biotech Workforce Opps

Baker, Ed Flynn, Liz Breadon, and Kenzie Bok are holding a hearing on Monday, December 13th at 10am to discuss workforce development programs that can provide training and education to prepare our residents for the life science and biotechnology industry. This hearing will be held virtually via Zoom, and will be chaired by Councilor Julia Mejia in the Committee on Small Business and Workforce Development.

In recent years, Boston has become a hub for the life sciences industry, with dozens of development and lab spaces coming online or proposed all around our city. For proposals that are granted approval following a thorough community process, and to not exacerbate our existing housing crisis, it is critical that the city also focus on discussing workforce development opportunities as the biotechnology sector will continue to be a key piece of both our city and region's economic recovery and future. The biotech industry can provide high paying and stable jobs, and Boston residents deserve to have a fair shot at these opportunities and a career in these industries; especially

our residents from working families, communities of color, and immigrant neighbors. We need to discuss how employers, training programs, and our schools can best prepare our residents for a potential career path in the life science industry, and that our residents are afforded equitable opportunities in this workforce.

"The City of Boston is undergoing a massive boom in lab and high-tech manufacturing. We have thousands of jobs coming here in the next few years and I think we, as a City, have an obligation to be on the forefront of job training in the life science industry, to ensure that our residents have access to the jobs of the future," said Councilor Baker. "I look forward to collaborating together to bring this vision to fruition."

"With a significant number of proposals for lab space, research and development projects in District 2, it is absolutely critical that we connect our neighbors to employment and internship opportunities so that we do not compound our current affordable housing crisis, as well as educational resources to help prepare our children at a young age for the jobs of today

and tomorrow," said Councilor Flynn. "I want to thank Councilor Baker for including me in this hearing, as well as to my co-sponsors for partnering with me on this important issue.

"The biotechnology and life sciences industry has drastically ballooned over the past several years, making Boston the top cluster in the country with over 7 million square feet under construction and nearly 30 million square feet proposed," said Councilor Breadon. "In order to keep up with the rapid pace, we must have a seat at the table to ensure our residents have access to quality jobs in the industry and that the City achieves adequate benefits."

"Boston residents should directly benefit from the increasing prominence of the biotech industry in our city," said Councilor Bok. "I look forward to working with industry, academic, and community partners to secure education and training for Boston residents, so that they can achieve good-paying, long-term jobs in the biotech industry."

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









#### Our Christmas Tree Ritual



by Kevin Devlin

always knew when it was time to go out and buy our family Christmas tree, the one that would play a special part in our lives over the holiday season, when I saw the red and green tree holder lying on the parlor floor. My father, along with my brothers and I, would walk to Dorchester Avenue to purchase that perfect tree.

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

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

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

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

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

The garland, along with the glittering, silver tinsel, would then be placed on the branches of the tree. This was my favorite part of the entire undertaking. Shining brightly, the stringy tinsel would hang down from the branches like chilling icicles, visibly and strikingly pointing downward from rooftops on a frigid, wintry day.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Next DA continued from front page

time in 50 years that a full Senate had to take a recorded vote.

As a result, Gov. Charlie Baker will have a chance to pick a new interim Suffolk County district attorney as he plans his exit route from the State House's executive office. After weeks of delay and contentious arguments, the Senate confirmed Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins to serve as the next U.S. attorney for Massachusetts, making her the first Black woman to serve in the role.

"I'm deeply honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve my community, my Commonwealth and my country as the next United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts," Rollins said in a statement after the vote. "Every policy and initiative that I have put in place as Suffolk County District Attorney has been designed to improve the safety and wellbeing of the communities I serve, to improve the public's trust in law enforcement and our courts and to improve the fairness and equity of the criminal legal system."

Baker now needs to choose someone to serve the rest of Rollins' term, which will end in 2022. Puzzanghera reports that aides to Baker have not said who he plans to nominate though the administration officials talked to several candidates in September. Speculation includes the possibility of City Councilor Michael Flaherty being under consideration, which would elevate David Halbert as next in line to replace him on the Council.

As much of the process has been for Rollins, the day had a few dramatic moments. Boston Globe's Jim Puzzanghera reports that Vice President Kamala Harris had to make her way to Capitol Hill twice on Wednesday to break 50-50 ties -- once on a procedural motion to advance the nomination and a second time on the confirmation vote. Rollins' nomination process took an unusual route. Typically, U.S. attorney nominees are confirmed unanimously with little to no

debate. But for Rollins, a deadlocked Judiciary Committee and heated arguments on the Senate floor led to a narrow confirmation vote.

Boston Herald's Sean Philip Cotter reports that Republicans focused on Rollins' progressive background and sought to frame her as "pro-criminal." Senate Democrats, including Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, rushed to Rollins' defense, describing her as a capable law enforcement official and "smart on crime."

WGBH News' Mike Deehan reports that Baker spokesman Terry MacCormack said, "The Governor will make an appointment soon from a pool of qualified applicants to serve as District Attorney in Suffolk County."

The Herald's Joe Battenfeld contends that Rollins appointment will come with a political price for President Biden, as Republicans plan to make her the poster child for the prosecutorial 'soft on crime' trend that is being politically challenged in cities and counties across the country. He writes that 'conservatives now will be putting Rollins under a microscope as she navigates her new job, which puts her in charge of all federal law enforcement agencies like Immigration and Customs in Massachusetts'.

Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who is on the list of potential 2024 presidential contenders, spearheaded the opposition to Rollins along with Cruz, another possible White House candidate.

Even Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell called on his colleagues to block Rollins, noting rising crime rates in some cities across the nation. McConnell and others made it clear they would use Rollins against Biden to portray his administration as soft on crime. "This soft-on-crime advocacy should have earned the nominee a pink slip. Instead, President Biden is giving her a promotion," McConnell said.

The political fallout from this appointment will reverberate not only in Massachusetts but around the country and Washington DC.

#### MAYOR MICHELLE WU PROPOSES NEW PILOT PROGRAM TO ADVANCE EQUITY IN PROCUREMENT

ayor Michelle Wu filed an order with the City Council to create an equity in procurement pilot program through June 30, 2022. This order will allow the City of Boston to designate up to 6 city contracts for procurement from minority- and women-owned businesses, known as a sheltered market program. The order is part of a larger initiative to direct city resources to local, diverse businesses that are vital to expanding wealth-building opportunities and supporting their capacity to compete for city contracts.

In 2020, the City of Boston released a disparity study that showed that only 1.2% of the \$2.1 billion City's contracts for construction and professional goods

and services went to Black and Latinx-owned businesses. The pilot, implemented in close collaboration with the City Council, the Administration & Finance Cabinet, the Equity & Inclusion Cabinet as well as the new Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet, will allow the City of Boston and contracting partners to measure effectiveness as they address the historic inequities in Boston's procurement process.

"Building on the work in the City Hall to ensure that our public dollars are going to build wealth in our communities and close the racial wealth gap, I am excited to file for a pilot program to create specific opportunities for Black and Brown businesses to contract with the city," said Mayor Mi-

chelle Wu. "As we recover from the pandemic, the City of Boston will use every dollar to make our city a place for everyone."

"We know from our 2020 disparity study that businesses owned by women and people of color have historically been excluded from City contracts. This program will provide those businesses the opportunity to compete and be prime contractors for the City of Boston and help ensure that the City's resources are being spent equitably across our communities," said Celina Barrios-Millner, Chief of Equity and Inclusion.

"The request for authorization of this sheltered market program gives us another powerful tool to improve equity in City contracting," said Justin Sterritt, CFO and Chief Procurement Officer. "The challenges surrounding procurement are complex, and require using every tool available to help close persistent gaps and inequities in City contracting. This sheltered market program builds on a series of reforms and



Council orders to improve the procurement process and increase opportunity for new and diverse vendors. Under Mayor Wu's leadership, we will use every tool at our disposal, and the addition of this sheltered market program is a major step."

This order builds on Mayor Wu's years of commitment to require equitable City contracting and close the racial wealth gap. In 2016, then-Councilor Wu and then-Councilor Ayanna Pressley presided over the City Council hearing<a href="https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001GXCh\_QlUqgVFjQ45n-">https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001GXCh\_QlUqgVFjQ45n-</a>

#### Councilor Flynn Calls for Pedestrian Safety Improvements



B oston 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. There are currently 10 pedestrian fatali-

ties in 2021, which unfortunately makes Boston on track to have the most pedestrian fatalities since 2017. 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."



## When The Temperature's Down...

our supply of hearty red wines should be up! Here are some timely suggestions for knocking our winter chill down to size.

Pine Ridge 2017 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, is one of the best from the 2017 vintage; even at \$40.00 a bottle, it drinks like a Cab that should cost twice the price. Deep notes of black currant, blueberries and an earthiness that comes from a strong minerality. If it's steak, lamb or a roast for dinner, this is one to have on hand. Winemaker Mike Beaulac says it's one of the best he's crafted in his time there and that's say-

ing a lot, as he's won numerous gold medals for his reds and whites.

Pinot Noir Chehalem Mountains, Corral Creek Vineyards, 2015, is another great example of a great "winter red". Although Pinot Noir isn't typically a heavy red, this Oregon wine is deeper tasting and has more body to it than its French cousins.

If your grill is still out, try some salmon with lemon and bernaise sauce. It'll be a perfect pairing and bring out the wine's tart cherry notes and it's unusually earthy, gritty tone.

Beaulieu Vineyards, 2015
Tapestry Reserve Red Blend, is a masterful wine made from five different varieties of Rhone and Bordeaux grapes. It has a huge nose with notes of caramel, tabac and leather that mingle with deep red fruit flavors. Try this one with a nice Filet or Beef Wellington and you'll notice right away how this one brings out the beefiness in both the meat and the wine.

Avalon Lodi Cabernet Sauvignon, 2017. Juicy aromas of dark fruit, mocha, and spice meet with hints of vanilla. On the palate, black cherry,

red raspberry, and plum are followed by a long, smooth finish. Avalon Cabernet Sauvignon's ripe fruit and clean acidity make it a versatile food partner. Enjoy a glass on its own or with your favorite foods like grilled burgers, pizza, and rotisserie chicken.

Since Christmas is looming up, I thought I'd end this week's column with something bubbly. J Vineyards, 2013 Sparkling Wine, presented a stellar growing season and was the second in a series of vintages characterized by warm, dry and generally excellent growing conditions. A near-perfect flowering and fruit set in the spring ushered in a summer free of rain, followed by a balanced growing season that extended into the fall. Harvest was one of the earliest in J's history. They began in early August by hand-harvesting whole grape clusters at night when they reached maturity. This beautiful vintage delivered wines of intensity and finesse and will be a standout on any holiday table.

\*The Wine Guy is a bit under the weather but Talk To The Wine Guy at jdris8888@ gmail.com





#### Eighteen South Boston Residents Named to Honor Roll at BC High

oston, MA: The following students have been named to the First Quarter Honor Roll at Boston College High School:

- Ryan Goodine, High Honors (Class of 2022)
- Hayes McCarron, High Honors (Class of 2023)
- Edmund Tirabassi, High Honors (Class of 2023)
- Tristin Pecevich, High Honors (Class of 2024)
- Vedant Agarwal, High Honors (Class of 2025)
- Owen Donovan, Honors (Class of 2022)
- John Maddox, Honors (Class of 2022)
- Jacob Meli, Honors (Class of 2022)
- Joshua Pascarelli-Healy, Honors (Class of 2022)
- Connor Strickland, Honors (Class of 2022)
- Christopher Hosea, Honors (Class of 2023)
- Patrick McCarron, Honors (Class of 2023)
- Maxwell Milan, Honors (Class of 2023)
- Chase Bell, Honors (Class of 2024)
- Vasily Mantrov, Honors (Class of 2024)
- Peter Leucke, Honors (Class of 2025)
- Ryan McGarrell, Honors (Class of 2025)
- Jacob Mulligan, Honors (Class of 2025) For High Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.80 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.6 quality point average and all grades "C+" or higher.

For Honors a Sophomore, Junior, and Senior must have at least a 3.20 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher. Freshmen need a 3.165 quality point average and all grades "C-" or higher.

About Boston College High School: Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college-preparatory school for young men in grades 7 to 12. Founded in 1863, the school enrolls approximately 1,500 students from more than 140 communities in eastern Massachusetts. For more information please visit behigh.edu.

#### Report SSOs

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow is an unintentional discharge of untreated sewage into the environment or onto property.

If you encounter a sewer overflow, call BWSC 24 Hour



**Emergency Service** 

**BWSC.ORG** 



Boston Water and Sewer Commission





#### **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.

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:

12/20/2021

BostonPlans.org 🛛 🐒 @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

#### **Important** Information **About**







Boston's drinking water is provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority from the Quabbin Reservoir, which is lead-free. However, lead can get into tap water through lead service lines or galvanized pipes connecting to the street and pipes in homes or businesses.



Running taps uninterrupted for two minutes in the morning helps to flush lead out, but if you have a lead service pipe, removing it is the safest solution.

We offer up to \$4,000 towards the cost of replacing private lead service lines for qualifying homeowners.

For Lead Service Pipe Removal, call BWSC about it's Lead Service Replacement Incentive Program at 617-989-7888.



www.bwsc.org





Family Owned & Operated Since 1929

617-268-4662

•Automatic Delivery •Quality Fuel Oil •Service Contracts Budgets Expert Oil Burner Service •Complete Heating Service •Boiler and Furnace Installations •Oil Tank Protection Plans

**ORDER OIL ONLINE** 

#### MetroEnergyBoston.com

641 East Broadway South Boston, MA 02127



The Evolution of Oil heat

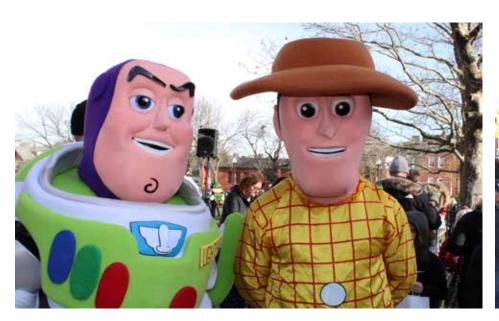
### Tis The Season To Be Jolly!

t was a holly, jolly day at Mayor Wu's Christmas tree lighting at Medal of Honor Park last Sunday. As the crowds awaited Santa and the Mayor, children of all ages were entertained by Frozen's Elsa & Olaff, Toy Story's Woody & Buzz,

Paw Patrol's Chase & Marshall as they greeted children and posed for photos. There were stations set up serving pizza and snacks, a hot chocolate bar from Deja Brew, Kick Off For Kids candy bar while dancing to the music of DJ Kait. Santa and Mrs. Clause arrived with Mayor Wu on the Christmas Trolly while being escorted by Boston's finest (BPD) and the kids were filled with glee! Mayor Wu threw the switch and the tree was lit to the clapping and cheering of the

crowd. A huge shout out to South Boston's Liaison from the Mayor's Office, Haley Dillon, who has once again has created a magical event for our community.

(more pictures and the full story can be seen on SBT Facebook)









































#### Santa Said Hello South Boston!

ast Thursday, Santa arrived by fire truck followed by **✓** Carly Underwood riding in a 1959 red convertible singing Christmas songs while being escorted by Captain Boyle and the C-6 Community Service Officers; Sergeant McNeil, Officers Sullivan and Hill as the fun began. The original Dickens Carolers were strolling Broadway spreading Christmas cheer. Santa made his way down Broadway stopping at Medal of Honor Park, South Boston Library, West Broadway and C Street. Children were

whispering their secret wishes into Santa's ear while receiving candy canes and hot chocolate to stay warm. Olga's Café gave out over 100 cups at the C Street stop. After a wonderful and festive night, Santa and Carly said good night. Santa had to rush back to

the North Pole to get to work on all of the special requests he received from all the good boys and girls of South Boston. A big shout out to the South Boston Chamber of Commerce for making this an amazing event each year.

(more photos shown on SBT Facebook)

































#### Girl Scouts continued from page 2

Cookie sale this season:

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she's selling cookies.
- Visit www.gsema.org to have Girl Scout cookies shipped directly to your door. GSEMA will cover 50% of customers' shipping costs for all online Direct Ship orders of six packages or more.
- Customers can make a purchase in-person or online and designate their purchase for donation to Cookies for a Cause to benefit first responders and healthcare professionals, the military and veterans' services organizations, local food pantries, and more.

Every Girl Scout Cookie purchase fuels local Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them, discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Whether they're using their STEM skills to solve a problem, changing a law to help their community, having a courageous outdoor experience, or starting an innovative nonprofit, Girl Scouts build a better future for themselves and the world. And through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including by earning new Cookie Business badges, girls get a taste of being entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life.



#### South Boston Chamber of Commerce Holiday Stroll







he 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. 9 and 16. **Splurge at more than 50 participating businesses** – they will each be displaying a Big Red Bow -- and enjoy incredible savings.

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 SouthBostonChamberof-Commerce
- Instagram SouthBosChamber



## South Boston Catholic Academy News SBCA Jingle Bell Run 2021

he Annual South Boston
Catholic Academy Jingle
Bell Run was held on December 4, 2021 which included
Youth Races and a 5K Run in which
many current and former students,
families and friends participated in.
Thank you to everyone who participated in the Jingle Bell Run and
making it a huge success!

A Special Thank You to Mrs. Katie Marshman who continues to be the master of organizing a successful event along with the help of the parents, students and friends on her committee. Thank you to all our supporters and sponsors and to everyone who helped to make this fun event possible for all ages! New families are welcome to email Mrs. Jamie Brown at j.brown@sbcatholicacademy.org to learn more about South Boston Catholic Academy.



























Week 13, bringing my record on the season to 34-31.

There are only five weeks left in the regular season. By now, we have a pretty good idea as to what teams are contenders, and what teams are pretenders.

Four teams have a bye in Week 14: New England, Miami, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia.

Week 14 begins with the Minnesota Vikings hosting the Pittsburgh Steelers on Thursday Night Football. It ends with the Arizona Cardinals hosting the Los Angeles Rams on Monday Night Football. The Sunday night game of the week is the Green Bay Packers hosting the Chicago Bears.

Let's get to the picks. Here's who I got in Week 14:

#### KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (-9.5) over Las Vegas

-It hasn't necessarily looked pretty, but the 8-4 Chiefs have won five straight and enter Week 14 in first place in the AFC West and are the No. 4 seed in the AFC playoff picture. They already beat the 6-6 Raiders last month, 41-14 in Vegas. Now, the Chiefs host the Raiders this Sunday at 1 p.m. In the last game, Patrick Mahomes threw for 406 yards and had five touchdown

passes. Surprisingly, that's the only game since Oct. 17 in which Mahomes has thrown more than one touchdown pass. That's a pretty wild stat. Even more wild is that Mahomes hasn't thrown a single touchdown pass since that win over the Raiders in Week 10. So, Mahomes is due. The Raiders? They're coming off a loss to Washington in Week 13, and they've lost three of their last four. It seems like everything fell apart once they were hit with the Jon Gruden drama. I don't expect Vegas to figure things out in Kansas City, where it's going to be rocking. Give me the Chiefs to go off, offensively, once again. KC wins by two touchdowns.

#### **DENVER BRONCOS (-7.5)** over Detroit Lions

-This game is in Denver on Sunday at 4:05. It might draw the least amount of interest of all the games on Sunday's slate. But that doesn't mean I should stay away from it. Let's face it, the 1-10-1 Lions are that team this season that you look at every week to see if you should put money on whatever team they're playing against. Detroit is that bad. And usually, the spread is pretty high, almost too high to risk. But not this week. The 6-6 Broncos

are coming off a loss to the Chiefs, but before that, they've had a few impressive wins over the Cowboys and the Chargers, both playoff teams. Detroit is coming off its first win of the season, a dramatic walk-off win over the Vikings. I expect the Lions to come back down to Earth by losing in Denver on Sunday. I'll take the Broncos to win at home by 10.

#### **TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** (-3) over Buffalo Bills

-After back-to-back losses to the Saints and Washington in Weeks 8 and 10, the 9-3 Buccaneers have won three straight, and are the No. 3 seed in the NFC playoff picture. They host the 7-5 Bills, who are coming off a loss to the Patriots at home on Monday night. Buffalo is holding onto the final Wild Card spot in the AFC, but they have multiple teams right on their tail. So, this is a must-win for the Bills on Sunday at 4:25 in Tampa Bay. It's the highest over-under in Week 14, at 52.5, so expect a high-scoring affair. And in a high-scoring affair, in Tampa Bay, with a spread of only three points, there's no way I'm not taking Tom Brady. Give me the Bucs to win by a touchdown at home.

#### **GREEN BAY PACKERS (-12.5)**

over Chicago Bears

-The 9-3 Packers are coming off the bye to host the 4-8 Bears on Sunday Night Football. Chicago is most likely going with Andy Dalton again, as Justin Fields is dealing with a rib injury. The Bears are coming off a loss to the Cardinals, and have lost six of their last seven. They stink. Green Bay, meanwhile, is fully rested, and before their bye, they put up 36 points in a win over the Rams. This is a division game, but Chicago has no chance. I'll take the Packers to win and win big at Lambeau in prime time.

#### LOCK OF THE WEEK: DALLAS COWBOYS (-4) over Washington

-How about Washington? They're 6-6 and have won four straight. Impressive. But that win streak comes to an end against the 8-4 Cowboys on Sunday at 1 in D.C. Dallas is coming off a win over the Saints on Thursday night, so they've had a little extra time to prepare for a game they should win. The Cowboys are much more talented than Washington. And it will show on Sunday. Give me Dallas to win by a touchdown.

Follow Danny on Twitter and Instagram @DannyPicard.





### SPORTS TODAY

# PATRIOTS ENTER BYE WEEK WITH SEVENTH STRAIGHT WIN

**SBT Staff** 

Bill Belichick's strategy against the Bills on Monday night wasn't conventional, by any means, but it was good enough to get the job done.

Patriots quarterback Mac Jones threw the ball just three times on a night in which cold, swirling winds played a strong factor. New England was still able to come away with the win, 14-10, and hold onto their top spot in the AFC East.

It marked New England's seventh consecutive win, giving them a 9-4 record heading into this weekend's bye. The Patriots are

## Tweet of the Week



Red Sox @ @RedSox Jackie's back! Tell a friend!



#### WHAT<sub>TO</sub>WATCH

**NFL** THURSDAY, DEC. 9 Pittsburgh at Minnesota (-3.5) 8:20 P.M. FOX/NFLN

SUNDAY, DEC. 12 Buffalo at Tampa Bay (-3) 4:25 P.M. CBS

Chicago at Green Bay (-12.5) 8:20 P.M. NBC

> MONDAY, DEC. 13 LA Rams at Arizona (-3) 8:15 P.M. ESPN

NCAAF SATURDAY, DEC. 11 Army (-7.5) vs Navy 3 P.M. CBS

NHL SATURDAY, DEC. 11 Boston at Calgary 10 P.M. NESN/ESPN+

**NBA** MONDAY, DEC. 13 Milwaukee at Boston 7:30 P.M. NBCSB

the No. 1 seed in the AFC.

The Bills, at 7-5, are in second place in the AFC East and the No. 7 seed in the AFC playoff picture. They'll come to Gillette Stadium to play the Patriots for a second time in Week 16, the day after Christmas.

Monday night's Week 13 game saw plenty of action on the ground, as the Patriots ran the ball 46 times, gaining 222 total rushing yards. Damien Harris led the way, finishing with a game-high 111 rushing yards on 10 carries. Harris also scored the Patriots' only touchdown of the night, busting up the middle

for a 64-yard score in the first quarter that gave New England an early 6-0 lead, which then turned into an 8-0 lead after a successful two-point conversion run by Brandon Bolden.

Rhamondre Stevenson also helped carry the load in New England's backfield. Stevenson finished with 24 total carries for 78 yards.

Jones was 2-of-3 for 19 yards in the air. His two receptions were caught by Jonnu Smith and Brandon Bolden.

On the other end, Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen threw the ball 30 times, completing 15 of those passes, for 145 yards and a touch-

down. That touchdown came late in the first quarter, on a 14-yard pass to Gabriel Davis, cutting the Patriots' lead to 8-7.

The Patriots and Bills then exchanged field goals, with Nick Folk getting the last laugh on a 34-yard kick that gave New England a 14-10 lead in the fourth quarter, which is how it would end.

Buffalo now travels to Tampa Bay to take on the Buccaneers this Sunday.

After this weekend's bye, New England will head to Indianapolis to take on the Colts for a Week 15 Saturday night showdown.

#### BRADLEY JR. RETURNS TO BOSTON IN TRADE WITH MILWAUKEE

SBT Staff

ate last week, the Boston Red Sox surprised many baseball fans in Boston by announcing the return of center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr. in a trade with the Milwaukee Brewers.

As part of the trade, the Red Sox sent right fielder Hunter Renfroe to the Brewers. Boston also received a pair of minor league infielders in Alex Binelas and David Hamilton.

Bradley Jr. turns 32 in April. He left the Red Sox as a free agent last winter, signing a two-year, \$24 million deal with the Brewers. There's a mutual option on Bradley Jr.'s deal after the 2022 season, with an \$8 million buyout.

After being drafted by the Red Sox in 2011, Bradley Jr. spent parts of eight seasons in Boston, beginning in 2013. Bradley Jr. was named an All-Star in 2016, and won a Gold Glove in 2018, the same year he played an integral role in the Red Sox' World Series championship.

Bradley Jr. is coming off the worst offensive year of his career. In 134 games last season with the Brewers, he hit .163 with six home runs and 29 RBI. He also finished with a .236 onbase percentage and a horrendous OPS of .497.

In his eight years with the Red Sox, Bradley Jr. hit .239 with 98 home runs and 376 RBI with an on-base percentage of .321 and an OPS of .732.

Renfroe turns 30 in January. He played just one season in Boston,

in 2021. He's arbitration eligible through the 2023 season.

With the Red Sox last season, Renfroe impressed by finishing with 31 home runs and 96 RBI. But that didn't translate in the postseason, where Renfroe hit just .194 with no home runs and just one RBI in 11 playoff games.

As for the two prospects the Red Sox received along with Bradley Jr., Hamilton, 24, was ranked as the Brewers' No. 16 prospect, while Binelas, 21, was ranked as their No. 17 prospect.