Connolly Considering a Run for Mayor

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY staff report

The Boston Globe is reporting that City Councilor John Connolly is considering a mayoral run. For months, there has been wide speculation about the future of Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Connolly, a three-term At-Large City Councilor, has long been seen as a potential candidate. In 2009, when Mayor Menino went on to defeat former City Councilor Michael Flaherty for a fifth straight term, Connolly topped the ticket for City-Wide Councilors.

In the article, when talking about his reasons for wanting to run, Connolly speaks about how Menino has been in office since he was a sophomore in college. Connolly is the Chair of the Education Committee on the Boston City Council and has intimate knowledge of how the school system operates. He says that, while he has great respect for the mayor, he doesn’t believe that the city’s schools will see real reform unless the power at city hall changes hands. He also says he isn’t concerned with whether or not the Menino runs for re-election. “I’m not making this decision based on what the mayor does. I think my time frame changed when my daughter entered the public schools. I’m making this decision because I think I can bring about real change in our schools and bring a new generation of leadership to City Hall.”

Connolly has been raising money at a rapid clip since last December. He has outpaced Menino in month to month fundraising during that time. Connolly’s campaign bank account...
Editorial “In your face (book)"

It goes without saying that when the President rails about the rich paying their “fair share” and also reforming the tax codes, he’s talking about the evil Republicans and the big oil companies that they run. When these evil rich people point out the tax loopholes they use are legal, the President’s response is – “that is the reason we have to change the tax code”.

Another reason the president may have missed is the operation of a company like Facebook. This American Icon, created by Harvard’s media libs of course, has all of its financial holdings OFFSHORE. This means that, this year, they paid no federal taxes. It gets much better though. It turns out Facebook pays its top executives, in America, bonuses and incentives. This allows Facebook, in our logical tax system, to receive a $429 million tax refund.

Perhaps, Mr. President, a closer and equal look at the “beautiful people” who run these industries might bring us all closer to that “fair share” goal of yours.

“Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit” - Ronald Reagan

Last week’s poll asked:

Question: With the need for 7th & 8th grade school options for parents at an all time high, should South Boston Catholic Academy offer 7th & 8th grade options?

Yes: 279 votes  97%
No: 10 votes  3%

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You often hear talk about the evils of out of control taxation. You hear it too sometimes from writers here at South Boston Today. Wars have been sparked by what our Founding Fathers called Taxation Without Representation. In what could be another American Revolution in our future, the cold, compassionless acts of our leaders who feel it’s their right to tax the people whenever these so called leaders get the urge are either completely out of touch with the populace or they just don’t give a damn. Some of them believe it’s their right to spend our tax money as irresponsibly as they want to and just keep going back to the people for more. They forget that as elected officials, it is they who work for the people who put them in office and not the other way around.

In Boston, we have property taxes going through the roof; forcing families who have been Boston residents for a lifetime out, because, though many residents may own their own homes, the ever increasing burden of tax increases makes those homes impossible to hold on to. The rents? What can you say about the rents being charged for places that in some cases are not worth a tenth of what people are forced to pay? Some of that increase, not all, comes from the need of property owners to pay the property tax increases.

In Massachusetts, we have a governor who, like his hero in the White House, tends to think he is either king or emperor. He would raise the gas tax, he raised the sales tax, he will never lower any tax; even though he promised in both of his campaigns to do so and many bought that story hook, line and sinker. Hike taxes, hike fees, hike penalties on everything, like a junkie in need of a fix, the man is out of control. So much like a dictator does Deval Patrick believe himself to be that in the recent blizzard, he threatened anyone who did not obey his command to stay off the streets with a year in jail (to the gulag with them). Oh really Deval? Just try to enforce that one someday.

So the spotlight has turned toward these compassionless politicians as the story has hit the news and the pressure to justify their actions mounts. What excuse do they give for being so cruel? Well, you see, the reasoning is that when these homes are finally rebuilt, someday, maybe, after those who actually can afford to rebuild which in many cases will wipe out their life savings, their homes just might be worth more in the market place. So, up go the taxes now, just in case. For entertainment, do these same pols grease the steps at nursing homes and kick puppies?

It’s important to note that in cities, counties and states around the country NOT run by all devouring gluttonous liberal politicians, you know, in REAL America, where Conservatives govern, when tragedies and natural disasters hit those areas, the tax burden which is far lower to begin with, is actually lessened or even waived until things get back to normal allowing people to get back on their feet. This is how Americans treat fellow Americans. At least that’s how it is in real America.

In closing this week, once again the appeal goes out for contributions to help defray the cost of the upcoming St. Patrick’s Day/Evacuation Day Parade. The place to send the contributions is: Parade Committee, PO Box 351, South Boston, MA 02127. The South Boston Allied War Veterans are experts at putting on one of the best parades in the country. They work hard at it, they volunteer their time and like with anything they do, they get it done and they get it done right. The parade thrills people of all ages; especially the kids. But they cannot do it without our financial support.
Rep. Nick Collins Fights to Preserve $9M in Local Aid

Last week State Representative Collins joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in approving a $115 million supplemental budget that stops the Governor from taking local aid away from programs that benefit the people of Boston, thus preserving $9 million in much funds geared toward programs to pay for more police, improved underfunded schools and assist in public works efforts.

“I commend my colleagues in the House for voting to preserve these funds that have proven essential in this economic downturn,” said House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo. “Aware of the widespread concern amongst constituents and state officials alike, we will once again look to maintain local aid as a top priority as the FY ’14 budget-balancing process begins.”

“All of Boston’s neighborhoods need these funds to put more police on our streets, improve our underfunded schools, and help assist our public works efforts, particularly after a blizzard like we experienced last week,” said Collins, who was assigned to the House Ways and Means Committee this January. “I look forward to continuing to work together with my colleagues in the House and Senate to move forward the progress we made in the last legislative session to help offset the pain of the economic downturn,” continued Collins.

“I am committed to fighting for all of our working families up at the State House every day to deliver results and resources back to our district,” stated Collins.

The New England Council recently hosted a Congressional Roundtable breakfast with Rep. Stephen Lynch at the Hampshire House in Boston. Over 100 local business leaders attended. The Congressman is pictured here (C) with New England Council President Jim Brett (L) and former State Senator Jack Hart, now a partner at Nelson Mullins
“I disagree with what you say, but I will defend, to the death, your right to say it”. That quote is generally attributed to the Frenchman Voltaire, who is considered the father of the enlightened school of thought that gave birth to the French revolution and the philosophies of our founders and our own American Revolution - events that forever unchained the rights of the people from the dictates of kings and royalty; A philosophy that is also the foundation of our American liberal philosophy; A philosophy that has become some Frankenstein of political correctness.

“We have about 60 different cultures and ethnicities here” was the whiny answer given by the Malden School superintendent when asked why he was cancelling any celebration or recognition of Valentine’s Day. The obvious response is “so what” What does culture, religion or ethnicity have to do with an expression of love? Is it somehow offensive to some unknown cult? What about the right of those who wish to speak of love? Will anyone speak for their rights?

This, of course, is not new. It is, however, a new level of hate employed by these cowards. I call them cowards, because they never have the courage of their convictions or the power of their argument to debate the issue in “the marketplace of ideas”. Instead, like sneaky thieves at night, they wait until just before the event happens before they announce its cancellation and when it’s too late for any corrective action. Why not have the courage to make announcements on what holiday observances will or won’t be allowed during school opening in September?

It is a pattern that we see repeated, whether it is an assault on words like Merry Christmas, Christmas Carol or Santa Claus or on the St. Patrick/ Evacuation Day Parade. There is a fascist school of thought loose in the country, masquerading as “political correctness” - a school of thought that will “defend your right to say it” only if it agrees with them. There are many who “go along to get along” and who have no malicious motive. Then there is the hardcore antagonists, who are on some bitter crusade to make everyone as hate-filled as they are.

A case in point, as we prepare for our annual parade, is the appearance yet again, of a group of malcontents, who try to crash the end of our parade. Having the right to express protected speech means freedom from harassment or abuse during the exercise of that speech. Yet, despite a U.S Supreme court decision affirming that right, the Mayor of Boston attempts to circumvent the Constitution and the court at every opportunity. To paraphrase John Kerry, our Mayor was “for the Constitution before he was against the Constitution.”

At the time of the original parade controversy, the Mayor said South Boston parade organizers’ banishment of marchers was against “the law of the land”. As such, he wouldn’t march. After the Supreme Court and the Constitution said, in fact, parade organizers were protected by the “law of the land”, the Mayor still refused to march. This, of course, is his right. Coincidently Gay Pride Parade organizers cited the Supreme Court decision on the Southie parade decision in order to bar a fundamentalist Christian Group from marching in their parade, which was the organizers’ right to do so.

Yet, despite that court decision, at least in South Boston, every year the Mayor allows these cowards, even at a mile distance, to dispute our “right to have our say”. In South Boston, the City will “defend your right to speak”, only if they agree.

This, of course, brings us full circle to Malden and Valentine’s Day. Does the Malden Mayor speak for you? Discriminating against love is evil, pure and simple. All that is needed for “evil to triumph is for good people to remain silent.” Take care till next week.

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahone@southbostontoday.com
Fuel Costs Soar, Keystone Pipeline An Option

As South Boston Today reported 3 weeks ago, prices for gasoline and home heating fuel were on the rise. As of this writing, the increase continues and in fact the rate is climbing at an even faster pace. Prices at the pump have jumped over fifty cents a gallon in the last month; rapidly approaching that dreaded $4 a gallon mark. Home heating oil has already passed that mark causing many people to actually cut back on the amount of groceries they buy in order to try to pay their heating bills. This is causing great hardship for many people all over the country, including here in South Boston.

As was stated before, when prices of fuel rise it has a direct effect on just about everything else. The cost of food goes up, as well as building materials and clothing and the economy can go into even more of a tailspin than it is currently experiencing. Meanwhile, in Washington, it seems no real effort is being made to bring about a solution and it’s causing frustration among Americans everywhere. So now the debate about the proposed Keystone Pipeline is heating up with sides being taken. The Keystone Pipeline, if built, would pipe oil in from Canada through a line that would stretch from Canadian territory, through several American States reaching as far South as Texas. It is said that so much oil would be pumped through the pipeline that the United State could escape from its dependence on Middle Eastern cartels. With the combination of that new supply of oil and the growing production of shale natural gas supplies; finally, all of our country’s fossil fuel needs would come directly from North America, eliminating even imports from Venezuela. And in addition to more energy independence, tens of thousands of American jobs would be created in the short term, leading to many times that number down the line.

Opposing the construction of the Keystone Pipeline are environmentalist groups who are strongly opposed to any increase in fossil fuel production and in fact are demanding a cutback of not only production but the eventual elimination of it all together. This is setting up a confrontation with Big Labor which in many cases has lined up in support of the Keystone project. It has also put President Obama in a tough situation as he traditionally draws support from both movements. But if you were to put it to a vote by the American people, the Keystone Pipeline would definitely get the green light and get it fast. Recent polls show that more than 65% of Americans now support the construction of the pipeline and with fuel prices growing at the rate they are, that support will most likely increase as well.

In the meantime, Americans are feeling helpless watching the debate go on while the cost for heating their homes and driving their cars keeps going up; waiting for some sort of relief to come. How long that wait will be is anybody’s guess. But it is safe to say that patience is wearing thin. As we said, sides are being taken.

This Week’s Poll

In response to City Councilor John Connolly’s decision to explore a run for mayor, do you think the 2013 Mayor’s race will be an open one with many candidates, or a race between just Connolly and Menino?

Open race
One on One
This Saturday many people and many candidates will gather at the Cornerstone for the annual Jimmy Flaherty Breakfast. There are, I’m sure, many people, who are new to South Boston, who are probably saying, “who is Jimmy Flaherty and why are they having a breakfast in his name?” I can tell you first hand who Jimmy Flaherty was and I can tell you about my relationship with Jimmy, which wasn’t good, to say the least.

During the 60’s and 70’s Jimmy Flaherty was one of the most influential, behind the scenes political operative that I have ever known. He was a Board Member of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, he was the legislative aide to Senate President Johnny Powers, and he was the head of the South Boston Flaherty political family, which was just starting to spread its wings after Michael Flaherty Sr. was elected State Rep in the early 60’s. Jimmy Flaherty was also close to the most powerful city elected officials, and many people in and out of South Boston would not make a move without talking to and getting the blessing from Jimmy Flaherty. He really had that kind of power. Nothing was built in South Boston without Jimmy’s OK and nobody ran without Jimmy’s blessing. Jimmy was the last of the ward bosses and he was good at what he did.

You can imagine how Jimmy reacted when a young 26 year old political activist from South Boston announced his candidacy for State Representative in South Boston in 1976 without consulting Jimmy? To make matters worse, this young 26 year old kid, as Jimmy called him, was running against Michael Flaherty Sr. This was pretty much unheard of in Southie at that time, and soon people started taking sides. Jimmy Flaherty was livid. He took this as a personal insult and he vowed that he would teach the young candidate a lesson, so that others wouldn’t decide to follow his lead. Oh, did I mention that I was the young candidate.

It was a typical South Boston campaign for the times, complete with mud being thrown and a lot of signs being torn down and bumper stickers being torn off cars. The race split families and friends and Jimmy refused to even speak to me. I have never told anyone why I chose to challenge the powerful Judiciary Chairman Mike Flaherty, and I am not going to start now. I will tell you that for a bunch of young guns we put on quite a show and actually had people betting on the outcome. There were odds, of course, but people were laying out cash on the final result of Flaherty vs. Wallace. They weren’t betting that I was going to win. They were betting that I couldn’t keep Flaherty’s victory margin under 1,000 votes. I had my own cousin lay 3 to 1 against me one night in the Bay View Pub. “Nothing personal Brian, just business,” he said.

A couple of days before the election I walked by Mike Flaherty’s headquarters which was located on West Broadway. I looked in and saw all of Kevin White’s commissioners and department heads licking envelopes. I couldn’t help it, I walked in and everyone just froze. I looked over to where Jimmy Flaherty sat, giving orders, and I said, “hey Jimmy that young kid must have you guys pretty scared. You had to bring in all of Kevin White’s people? Who is running the city?” He chased me out of the headquarters and some of the swears he yelled at me I had never even heard before. I remember he called me a #@#@#@ munchkin and I looked back and saw him running after me with those big heels on his shoes which a sound like a horse galloping. I yelled back, “at least I don’t wear Cuban heels.” I don’t know where that came from or what it meant, but the name stuck. From then on all my friends called Jimmy “Cuban Heels.” Elections were fun in those days. Election Day came and we lost although by less than a thousand votes and Jimmy Flaherty never spoke to me for the next fifteen years.

If we saw each other in public he would say, “you little munchkin.” And I would answer, “Go put on your Cuban heels.” That lasted until one day I was waiting for a friend at Jimmy’s Harborside. I took a seat at the end of the bar and noticed that there was only one other person at the bar. It was him, Jimmy Flaherty. He looked at me and didn’t say a word. I did my best to avert my eyes. After about five minutes the bartender brought over a beer and said, “It’s on Jimmy Flaherty.” I laughed and said, “Well then you taste it first.” The bartender had no idea what was going on. A few minutes later Jimmy got up and sat beside me. He extended his hand. “I was wrong about you Wallacy. You do a lot for our town. Just don’t run against a Flaherty again.” I promised I wouldn’t.

Jimmy Flaherty did a lot for this town. He never sought the headlines. He just got the job done. He is missed, but never forgotten. And I never did run against a Flaherty again. Lesson learned.

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bwallace@southbostontoday.com
Have You Heard About Build.org

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

E very year, 1,300 to 1,600 students drop out of Boston’s high schools. This translates to eight dropouts every day school is in session, and is equivalent to losing all 1,575 students enrolled at any given high school each year. Among Boston dropouts, approximately 70 percent are African American and Latino; 55 percent come from low-income families. Dropouts will earn almost $2 million less over a lifetime than those who obtain a bachelor’s degree.

These are the sad statistics for low-income urban youth in Boston and in high schools across the country. But BUILD is changing them. Since its launch in Boston, which officially began in January 2011, BUILD is working in partnership with the Boston Public Schools. They are currently serving close to 100 students at Jeremiah E. Burke High and Community Academy of Science and Health in Dorchester, Charlestown High in Charlestown, and Another Course to College in Brighton. Also exciting is the number of corporate partners who have come on board to provide mentors, business coaches and other volunteers to work with our students. These include State Street Corporation and John Hancock Financial Services, both with headquarters in South Boston, as well as Bain Capital Ventures, Mintz Levin, Goodwin Procter, Reebok, Staples and National Amusements, to name a few.

To learn more about BUILD’s plans to expand and how you can help, go to www.build.org.

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Will There Be A Republican Candidate To Succeed Kerry?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

B r i a n W a l l a c e

M y mother told me when I was very young that I should never put all my eggs in one basket. I had no idea what the heck she was talking about. I didn’t have any eggs and if I did have some eggs I would most likely put them in the fridge, which I didn’t own either. It was one of those life lessons which dawns on us many years later. Oprah would call it an ‘aha’ moment. One day I realized that my mother’s life lesson had nothing to do with either eggs or the baskets. It had more to do with what the Republican Party stands guilty of today. They put all their eggs in the Scott Brown basket and they got burned. They are now left with candidates named Doug Bennett, Dan Winslow, Gabriel Gomez, Michael Sullivan, Sean Bielat, not exactly household names. Even party stalwarts like Bill Weld, Kerry Healey, Tagg Romney Sen. Bruce Tarr, former Bush Presidential advisor Andy Card and Charlie Baker have all looked at the race and decided quickly that it was not for them. Only Bielat, an ex-Marine - although my buddy Joe Timilty would tell you that there is no such thing as an ex-Marine - has a Congressional organization in place, having just lost to Joe Kennedy.

Why is that so important? It’s important because in order to run for United States Senate, you first have to get your name on the ballot. If you want to run for State Rep you could put Audrey Williams outside of Stop & Shop for one day in Southie and she would get you the 150 signatures you needed to get your name on the ballot. Not so, with the United States Senate. In order to run for Senate you need 10,000 certified signatures from registered voters by February 27th. The other catch is that you must get those signatures from registered voters who are either registered Republicans or as Independents. Republicans make up 11% of the electorate while Independents make up 53% of the electorate. So you are starting behind the eight ball with only two weeks to get 10,000 signatures from only 64% of the voters. That is an enormous task. Gabriel Gomez, a former Navy Seal from Cohasset has no organization to acquire that many signatures. Dan Winslow, a state rep and former Judge has no state-wide organization in place, having just lost to Joe Kennedy.

Time is dwindling down for the Republicans. They could be in the position of not having a candidate in the Final Election to challenge the winner of the Democratic Party. What did I tell you about eggs and baskets? A lot of Republicans aren’t too happy with Scott Brown right now, but let them walk in his shoes for a day. He has had two major state wide elections in two years. This Senate Election would be his third and the election for the full Senate term is next year. That is crazy. Imagine running four state-wide campaigns in four years, all of which take their toll with Scott Brown right now, but let them walk in his shoes for a day. He has had two major state wide elections in two years. This Senate Election would be his third and the election for the full Senate term is next year. That is crazy. Imagine running four state-wide campaigns in four years, all of which take their toll on you, your family, your friends’ pocket books and a lot more.

I think this was a good move by Scott and it sets him up to be the next Governor in 2014, gives him and his family time to rest and rejuvenate and to raise money without the pressure. I don’t think this makes Charlie Baker too happy, but hey, all is fair in love and politics. Nobody is going to beat Lynch anyway.
I wrote a seemingly far-fetched novel, The Accidental Pope, more than a decade ago that told the improbable story of a humble Cape Cod priest who became Pope — the planet’s most important moral voice. It was titled, From Vineyard Sound to the Vatican.

My Pope was a pious fisherman, a father of four who lost his wife, Mary, to illness, but who was forever thinking of the downtrodden. He remained humble, hopeful and worried about the church. I created an everyday pope. He was a Pope who would know people like me with college bills and a family to feed. I based that portrait on a Bishop named Sean O’Malley and Father Paul McCarrick, both were then in the Fall River Diocese. Now Cardinal Sean is being mentioned as a candidate for pope. The implausible is now possible.

My novel told of a College of Cardinals caught up in the tale of a tireless fisherman that turned into a worldwide sensation with the election of my fictitious Father Bill Kelly from Massachusetts - who takes the name Peter II. Cardinal Sean epitomizes what my accidental pope preached — humility and empathy.

Cardinal Sean, along with Father McCarrick, reached out to me decades ago to help sway former college basketball stars to compete in a tournament to fund scholarships for poor kids in New Bedford and Fall River. They were both thinking of the little people and I was more than happy to help. After returning from the Vatican, I wanted to write about my remarkable experiences. Cardinal Sean was somebody I deeply admired. He was well respected within the Portuguese community and I wanted to write a book about a priest who knew about real people with real problems. Why not a down-to-earth cleric who understands the challenges average people and immigrants experience?

When I first proposed the idea of an American pope with co-author Robin Moore, literary agents said it was crazy. Well, we wrote the book feeling all things are possible. I knew that it was only a matter of time before we would see an American Pope.

I also wrote a screenplay for “The Accidental Pope” and often kidded Cardinal Sean that maybe Liam Neeson would play him in the movie. Maybe the story of a Bay State Pope won’t remain fiction. We had the first Catholic president in Boston, why not the first American pope?

Raymond L. Flynn of South Boston is the former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See and served as Mayor of Boston from 1984-1993

Lent: Observed In South Boston And Around The World

The Lenten Season is upon much of the Christian World. It began with Ash Wednesday last week and will continue for the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox Christians begins on what is called Clean Monday and Ash Wednesday is not observed. In Lent, Sundays are not included in the 40 day count.

As do many Christians around the world, Lent is observed by many South Bostonians who partake in the traditions in a variety of ways. Whether it is observed by additional prayer, spiritual discipline, fasting, penance, self denial or just consciously making those extra efforts of doing good deeds for others, many Christians consider this a very sacred time of the year. It is a period to set aside times for reflection on the life of Jesus; his suffering, his sacrifice, his life, his death, his burial and of course his Resurrection.

Many area churches have additional Masses, services and ceremonies in celebration of the time and for the preparation for Easter. Attendance at church and at prayer vigils is always considered to be very high. In fact, Lent and the Easter Season are considered the holiest of times on the calendar for Christians. The Bible itself does not mention the season of Lent; however in several parts of the Bible, the season of sacrifice and repentance is mentioned which many believe led to how lent is observed today. As we said, it is all in preparation for the coming of the beautiful celebration of Easter. May all our readers of any denomination have a healthy season of reflection.
Councilor Frank Baker of Dorchester filed a petition on January 16 to change the make-up of the Boston School Committee to include a seven member committee with three at large elected members. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday February 28 at 3:00PM in Boston City Hall.

In his petition (excerpted below), Baker states, “In order to provide a world-class, quality, innovative education and ensure direct accountability, fair input and involvement from parents, school children, educators and city residents, it is necessary to change school governance by having a school committee composed of both elected and appointed members.”

**PETITION (in part):**

Section 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 108 of the acts of 1991, chapter 452 of the acts of 1948 as amended by chapter 376 of the acts of 1951, as further amended by chapter 190 of the acts of 1952, and further notwithstanding sections one hundred and twenty-eight to one hundred and thirty-four, inclusive, of chapter forty-three of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the school committee of the city of Boston as presently constituted is hereby abolished and beginning on the first Monday in January 2014, there shall be in the city of Boston a school committee consisting of seven members, four to be appointed by the mayor subject to the provisions governing the nominating panel as set forth in chapter 108 of the acts of 1991 and three to be elected-at-large, at the regular municipal election to be held in November of 2013. Members of the school committee shall be residents of Boston. Members shall serve for a term of four years each.

Section 2. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of an appointed member according to the provisions of chapter 108 of the acts of 1991. If at any time a vacancy occurs in the office of an elected member of the school committee for any cause, the city clerk shall within twenty-one calendar days notify the city council and the school committee; and within fifteen days after such notification, the remaining school committee members shall choose, as an elected school committee member for the unexpired term, whichever of the defeated candidates for the office of school committee member at the regular municipal election at which the school committee members were elected for the term in which the vacancy occurs, who are eligible and willing to serve, received the highest number of votes at such election; or, if there is no such defeated candidate eligible and willing to serve, a registered voter of the city duly qualified to vote for a candidate for the office of school committee member. If the remaining school committee members fail to choose an elected school committee member as provided for the unexpired term within fifteen days after the notification of a vacancy by the city clerk, the choice shall be made by the mayor with the approval of the city council.

Section 3. The provisions of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Section 4. If any of the above sections are determined to not be constitutional under the law, the remainder of the provisions shall remain valid.
Chef Frank at “Barlows”

A restaurant is only as good as its chef and at Barlows with Frank “The Chef” Santonastastos, great might be a better description. Frank is married to architect Jessica and together have a son Alex and are expecting another child. A local man, Frank graduated from Newton High School and later received his degree in Culinary Arts from Newbury College.

A South Boston resident for over 10 years, Frank originally lived on Telegraph St. and immediately loved the town. He has since moved but only to a roomier Southie address for his growing family. Frank’s restaurant experience goes back to the old “Pewter Pot” chain. He is not that old but your memory has to be good to remember then. Learning the business from the ground up, Frank was sold from the start. He also learned the pros and cons of ownership versus heading up the kitchen. Frank’s overwhelming joy in food preparation won out, and it shows in his work.

First of all, Frank doesn’t have a gimmicky “specialty”. He instead maintains a goal of making every dish “special”. Whether it is brunch offered both Saturday and Sunday, or luncheons or dinners offered every day, that special touch is evident. Everything is fresh and homemade on the premises. Sausages, pastas, breads, meatballs, sauces - everything.

The specials are: Monday Dollar Oyster, Tuesday is Taco Night. Friday and Saturday Night Prime Rib that just melts in your mouth. Later in the evening on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, live music is offered. If your appetite is lighter the “Bar Bites” menu offers many samples of some entrées, as well as mixed American Cuisine.

Of course, ambience is always a needed ingredient and Barlow’s supplies this with their 1860’s red brick exterior, full length windows and expansive, roomy, interior layout with the large oval mahogany bar at the center. Nostalgia buffs will remember Barlow’s drinks are served under the same license that once was “The Quiet Man and before that the “Royal Café”. Also, the outside wrap around deck is an added attraction in good weather. Always needed is location, location, location.

Barlow’s is only about a 15 minute walk from “F” street and Broadway and with the added daylight and moving closer to spring - not a bad stroll. At the same time, Barlow’s is exploring the idea of creating a dinner shuttle here in Southie. So stay tuned. In the meantime, no matter how you arrive, Chef Frank and Barlow’s will give you that “special” treatment that keeps you coming back. Barlow’s kitchen is open every day from 11am-10pm Sun-Wed and until 11 pm Thursday-Saturday. They also open an hour earlier at 10am for Sunday Brunch which ends both Sat and Sun at 4 pm The staff begins preparation at 7:00 am; Chef Frank arrives at 10 and stays till 11pm to ensure your experience will be “special”.
Commonwealth Ventures To Build Hotels in South Boston

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

reported by the Boston Business Journal, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority has selected CV Properties, a division of Commonwealth Ventures, to build a pair of hotels across from the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. They will partner with Jones Lange LaSalle for their hotel expertise. “We are thrilled to be selected and plan to dive right in and get this thing going,” said Richard Galvin, Commonwealth Ventures president & founder. “We brought in Jones Lang LaSalle (NYSE: JLL) as a development partner for their hotel expertise. The number one job of a developer is to build a great team and we’ve done that.”

Commonwealth Ventures, together with Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide (NYSE: HOT), have proposed a 330-room Aloft hotel and an 180-room Element hotel. The two hotels will contain a total of 510 rooms and will be built on land acquired by the MCCA last fall. A request for proposals was issued last fall for proposals from private development teams to develop two “mid-priced” hotels on the site. In its proposal, CV said it would build the two hotels with 510 rooms at a cost of $137 million.

Their plan includes rent payment of $50,000 to the authority for the first two years with rent escalating in later years. The developer will be responsible for designing, 100 percent financing, constructing and owning and operating the hotels. Ground breaking is expected to occur by the end of 2013, with the hotels opening in 2015.

The hotels must pass muster with the community-based Design Advisory Group, and the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Furthermore, these groups are also engaged in a larger-scale urban design initiative that will establish a vision and goals to guide future development on D Street in the vicinity of the BCEC, the authority said. The objective is to transform D Street into a vibrant corridor with active uses that connects South Boston to the waterfront.

The Boston Business Journal is acknowledged for the contents of this report.
## Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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<th>Baths</th>
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<td>655 E Second Street UNIT 204 Condo</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thinking About Selling or Buying in 2013?

Our South Boston Real Estate Experts Provide Excellent Service and Sound Advice

Mary Collins, James Collins, Linda Perry
Jim Collins, Jill Karwoski, Tracy King, Timothy Bradeen

Maryann Crush, President

**BRA**

The Boston Redevelopment Authority will host a public meeting regarding

**319A Street/327-337 Summer Street**

6:30PM, Thursday, February 28th, 2013
BH+A Architects, 300 A Street, South Boston

**Project Proponent:** W2005 BWH LLC.

**Project Description:** The Proponent filed a Project Notification Form ("PNF") proposing the redevelopment of four lots it owns within the Fort Point Channel District that are located along Pastene Alley, 327-333 Summer Street; 337-347 Summer Street; 319 A Street; and an undeveloped parcel (Parcel C) that abuts 337 Summer Street. The Proposed Project includes: Combining the three adjacent parcels at 327-333 Summer Street, 337-347 Summer Street, and Parcel C into a single parcel; combining two existing buildings at 327 and 337 Summer Street into a single integrated building for use as office; and rehabilitating 319 A Street for continued office use.

**Close of Comment Period:** Friday, February 1, 2013

**MAIL TO:** GEOFF LEWIS
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ONE CITY HALL SQUARE, 9TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02201

**PHONE:** 617.918.4297
**FAX:** 617.742.7783
**EMAIL:** Geoffrey.Lewis.BRA@cityofboston.gov

Brian P. Golden
Executive Director/Secretary
As a follow up to our Java article from a few weeks ago, it is important to keep all of your software packages and systems up to date. Every vendor releases updates at their own pace and it can be a daunting task to keep things up to date. Most vendors want you to turn on automatic updates, which will do most of the work for you, but this is not always the best strategy. When this feature is turned on updates will be downloaded and installed as they are released. This is good practice for the everyday home user but probably not the best practice for a business environment. Most vendors have really tried to streamline this process for you but there sometimes is a need for some manual labor to ensure that the updates do not break your device.

Windows updates come out weekly and the day is known in the IT industry as patch “Tuesday” which is when all the Systems/Network Administrators log in to see what Microsoft is fixing this week. Microsoft has the majority of the market share with PC’s [1] and applications like Microsoft Office [2]. When you have the majority of the market share people are more motivated to find ways to comprise your software to gain an advantage. This puts a lot of pressure on Microsoft to release patches to fix software bugs and holes. Microsoft has one of the most rigorous patching schedules and is known to do a fairly good job in the industry. With that being said the updates will only help you if you take the time to install them. Based on my industry experience I have noticed that most people do not keep anything up to date. This will leave your infrastructure looking like Swiss cheese to an attacker due to the amount of exploits available on your network that is unpatched.

Apple updates do not come out as frequently as Microsoft and they have started to streamline them through App Store notifications in Lion and Mountain Lion. Just like on the iOS devices when your installed Apps and Operating system need updates it notifies you with a number on the App Store icon. Apple comes out with updates randomly for iOS devices (iPhone / iPad) so it is important to stay educated.

Other software packages have updates that come out at many different times of the month or year. Some examples are Adobe (Flash Player, Reader), Anti Virus vendors (Norton, McAfee, Kaspersky), Java, web browsers (Google Chrome, FireFox, Opera). Some vendors, typically Anti Virus companies, require you to pay an annual subscription to keep the software up to date. We recommend buying an Anti Virus solution so you can be better protected from viruses and malware, and you should pay the yearly fee associated with that. There are other not so obvious devices that also require firmware updates like your wireless routers, TV’s, GPS devices, etc. It is important that you check the manufacturers’ websites and keep them up to date especially as more and more devices are being connected to your networks and the Internet.

To note there is still a chance that if you follow these guidelines you could still be suspect to what are called zero day attacks. These are attacks are targeted against fully patched software packages because an attacker found a new exploit that isn’t public yet. Just remember that there are always people out there looking for ways to comprise any device that is connected to the Internet. We will write a follow up article taking a deeper dive into zero day attacks in the next few weeks. If you have any questions regarding this topic please email me at: peter@ostashenconsulting.com

The Artist’s Studio

I wasn’t surprised in the least when I spied two Bill Frew paintings at the Paraclete Center’s fundraiser this past week. It’s a known fact that Bill is a generous guy when it comes to giving his time or his art. What’s interesting is how a gentleman, who was once known as Bill “no sale” Frew because he couldn’t part with his art for any dollar amount, evolved into an artist who generously and repeatedly donates his art to raise funds for others.

Walking into a gallery you can pick out the paintings by Bill Frew immediately. It’s those darn skies. Skillfully painted with a practiced and knowledgeable eye, he wills the viewer to experience his excitement at the beauty and colors of nature. Then your eye travels down the canvas from the impeccably painted sky and you’re welcomed home in a winter’s scene at Pleasure Bay or a summer’s swim at Carson Beach. Tending to work on a smaller scale, his paintings create an intimacy where you can enter his world and be contented to stay awhile. When asked about his approach to painting, Bill explains his excitement at the world around him. “Often I stop and say to myself, ‘Oh my God, look at those fantastic colors.’ I try to catch the scene but I am still striving to equal the scene as I remember it. We of course do not have the brilliance and intensity of colors to equal nature so we have to try to use other means to make the scene stand out.”

Bill has lived in Southie all his life except for his time in the Air Force, where he was an Aviation Cadet and then flew KC-135 jet tankers in the Strategic Air Command for almost 8 years. Born at St. Margaret’s and living in South Boston, he moved in with his grandparents at age 4 after the death of his mother. His wife, Renee Heenan, was a flight attendant with TWA. Renee passed away in 1994 of breast cancer. He has two wonderful children, a son, Joseph, and a daughter, Nora.

After leaving the Air Force, Bill was a pilot with TWA for 30 years where he first flew the Constellation, his dream job, and then the 707, 747, and L-1011. It’s easy to connect all that time he spent in the clouds to the spectacular skies that appear in many of his paintings.

Bill started painting in the Air Force while stationed in Oklahoma and North Dakota after seeing another officer in the BOQ (bachelor officer quarters) have success in his initial attempts to paint. He painted for a short time after joining TWA, but the time demands of commuting from Boston to JFK in New York and raising a family forced him to give it up for a while. He started painting again about 10 years ago. His good friend Frank Strazzulla, who is a member of the prestigious Guild of Boston Artists, has been a great source of information. Along with studying with Frank, he has also taken classes with Lisa Knox at her Fort Point Studio.

Bill joined the South Boston Arts Association and found it to be a wonderfully supportive group of highly intelligent and talented people. That support enabled him to have the confidence to exhibit paintings at the street festival for the first time in 2001. Since then, Bill has been showing his work at Boston City Hall, Logan Airport, the Boston Convention Center and a number of shows in Quincy where he has continued the Southie tradition of winning awards for his wonderful paintings. His paintings are in private collections across the US and his art has been chosen 3 times to grace the cover of the South Boston Literary Gazette. Bill continues to be an active member of the South Boston Art Association where he serves as the official Irish Bread baker.

You can see more of Bill’s oil paintings on his website: http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/wfrewpaintings.html
A Different Look At South Boston

I f one were to Google South Boston nowadays, all they would see would be books about Whitey Bulger, movies like The Departed and Gone Baby Gone by Martin Scorsese and Ben Affleck. They would read books by people like Eddie McKenzie, Kevin Weeks, Red Shea, Kevin Cullen and Shelley Murphy, Dick Lehr and Gerry O’Neil, Howie Carr, Tom Foley and others about the Irish mafia and many of the people who either killed or got killed. People certainly have a fascination about South Boston and for quite some time.

I remember in 1974, South Boston was on the national news every night as television crews from as far away as Australia rode up G Street hill and set up their cameras to catch the buses arriving the next morning up East 6th Street. I remember one pretty famous American newscaster saying to me, “Do you think there’s going to be any trouble today?” I told him that I never knew what was going to happen day to day. “God, I hope something happens, I flew the red eye all the way from L.A. just to get here this morning,” he said as he waited like everyone else for the buses to arrive. That was the mindset. They wanted to see blood on the street or as they say in the media “If it bleeds, it leads.”

Families were leaving Southie in droves back then. Nobody wanted to be told where to send their children to school, so they left and settled in Plymouth, Hanover, Quincy, Milton, Rockland, Norwell and sent their kids to the school they picked, not some federal judge. It seemed like nobody wanted to live here. Now, it seems like everybody wants to live here.

What do they all really know about South Boston? Nothing really. If you were to ask most people what were the two things they knew about South Boston they would say “Whitey Bulger” and “Forced Busing”. But Southie is a lot more than that. It is a lot more than a TV show that tries to capture the Southie essence or spirit. It’s a lot more than some slogan on a bumper sticker. If you were to ask me, and many people have, why Southie is so difference. Two words….the people. That is exactly what I started out to write about when I first sat down to write my “Southie Memoir”. It’s called Haystack, Cooz, Sully and Me” and it is now in New York being looked at by a couple of publishing firms.

“Haystack, Cooz, Sully and Me” is a story about two street smart kids from South Boston who grew up in the changing world of the 60’s. Brian Wallace was a young basketball star whose friendship with a funny, fast talking kid named Sully took him on an unforgettable journey. On their first encounter, Sully lit the house next door to Brian’s house on fire. On their last boyhood encounter, before College and the Marines separated them, they conned their way into staying for a weekend at the Kennedy’s compound in Hyannis. In between those encounters they used Boston as their personal playground and will never forget some of the people they met, and the encounters they had, along the way.

One of those people was a teenager they hung around with whose mother would plan robberies on a chalk board in her kitchen, as her three sons and one daughter recited their roles in the robberies. They hung around with a tough kid, who was killed after his role in a bank robbery. He was 14 years old. They took up with a genius, who sold firearms to the highest bidder and planned bank robberies and armored car heists for a cut of the take for the mafia. He was killed before he reached his 16th birthday. His body was never found.

To escape the violent world around them Brian and Sully turned to basketball. But in Boston, the street life sometimes invaded the

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REV PAUL V. DONOVAN, REV. A. PAUL WHITE AND JACK MCDONOUGH AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED SATURDAY

O n Saturday, February 23rd, the Gate of Heaven C.Y.O. Annual Fundraiser/Cocktail reception will be held at Anthony’s Pier 4 Restaurant, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. During the event the Rev. Paul V. Donovan, Rev. A. Paul White and Jack McDonough Awards will be presented. The Rev. A. Paul White Award is presented annually to a woman in our community whose dedication and commitment has had a positive impact on the youth and families of the Gate of Heaven Parish and South Boston Community. This year’s recipient is Kathy Lally wife of our Athletic Director Kevin Lally and daughter of Ginny Jenness.

Kathy has always been in the background taking care of business for the Gate of Heaven C.Y.O. and other Southie organizations her entire adult life. Starting off with the C.Y.O. Kathy has been treasurer and secretary for over 20 years and on the Fundraiser committee for 25 years. She has always been available to help out whenever asked. She served as treasurer of the Gate of Heaven Home & School Association for 11 years and was a member of the School Board for 3 years. Parish bazaars, fundraisers, cookouts, dances, selling raffle tickets, church parties and fundraisers Kathy has always been there to lend a hand and always with a smile. Kathy’s charitable activities have carried over into other South Boston groups. She has been treasurer of the South Boston Babe Ruth League for 10 years, helps out with the Mt. Washington Road Race, Gavin House Fundraiser and Health Center Auction. We have been lucky to have such a wonderful person who gives so much of herself to our community over the years. With great appreciation we thank Kathy for her dedication and commitment to the Gate of Heaven Parish, C.Y.O. and the youth of the South Boston Community and congratulate her as this years Rev. A. Paul White Award recipient.

The Rev. Paul V. Donovan Award for the parish Outstanding Catholic Youth is presented annually to a person who exemplifies the best of what it means to live out the Catholic faith in today’s society. The criteria used in selecting the recipient are based on participation in parish C.Y.O. activities, on church attendance, and on personal characteristics which evidence a commitment to the Christian faith. This award is presented as an expression of our pride in the youth of our community.

The 2013 Outstanding Catholic Youth Female Award will be presented to Hannah Powers. Hannah is a senior at St. Joseph Preparatory High School in
athletic life. In 1967, an overflow crowd filled the South Boston High School gym as Southie played their rivals from East Boston. Midway through the second period, an errant pass sent the basketball sailing into the crowd. A few seconds later the ball was thrown back to the referee. A huge knife wound had punctured the ball. A few minutes after that, East Boston’s best player, Eddie Contilli, dove into the crowd after a loose ball. He didn’t come out. He was taken out of the gym, unconscious, on a stretcher. He is now a Police Officer in Boston and works with two of the kids who beat him up that day.

At 13 years of age, they were hired to work for the Boston Celtics. They made friends with Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West, and came to despise Bill Russell. They were used by Red Auerbach to play tricks on the Lakers, 76ers, Knicks and the St. Louis Hawks. They posed as ball boys for the Boston Patriots for the entire 1965 season. They found themselves unexpectedly in the Patriots huddle, cleaning cleats and giving out water in front of 25,000 football fans in Fenway Park.

You will never forget the hilarious fight Sully had with a 600 pound wrestler named Haystack Calhoun in front of 7,000 fans in Boston Arena. One of the funniest things ever seen was Sully’s attempt to fight Haystack, Cooz, Sully and Me.”

Gatey CYO Goes for 27...

T

wenty seven years, and forty plus years. Both numbers signify a good length of time, and both numbers are significant to Kevin Lally and “Touche” McDonough. Twenty-seven years is how long the Gate of Heaven CYO Fundraiser has been held and forty plus is how long both these men have been involved in CYO activities and its youth leagues. Before going any further, it must be mentioned that this is one of those events you have to buy a ticket for, whether or not you’re going. It is that important and that special. It is so important and special for what it offers - Safety and Supervision.

It is true that there are many gyms and programs throughout the city system. The odd thing is that most of these government funded programs operate only on school days, when you want the kids studying; and closed on the weekends, when kids are roaming around looking for things to do.

That the Gatey CYO still has a home is a story in itself. When the deterioration of the McDonough Gym had reached the end of the line, a number of people stepped up, notably Mayor Menino and his administration, our Senator, Representative and City Councilor. John McGahan and The Gavin House took over running the facility and Kevin and Touche supplied the league and the kids.

Now, on Friday nights, there is a gym open until 10pm. Eight o’clock Saturday morning until 9 pm, and Sunday after church, from 1:00 until 8:00pm. No one else offers this weekend sanctuary and no one else finances it except these folks.

Gatey CYO has always addressed whatever the need was. Before Pop Warner re-started in the present, there was no organized league. Gatey CYO created one. It is the same in all sports, but because we’re in basketball season, let’s talk that. A couple of former Gatey CYO basketball players used the discipline and hard work ethic they learned there to good use. Paul Evans became The Boston Police Commissioner and Jack Hart was our State Senator. John Hurley captained the Division 1 Holy Cross Basketball team and went to the NCAA tournament.

More recently, the boy’s basketball team, playing together since 5th grade upped their win loss record to 127-2 during that span. They also repeated as the New England Regional Champions. They only stopped there because there were no more tournaments to win. The same problem the girl’s basketball team faced. After defeating all comers and winning the state championship they too had no more tournaments to win.

What is another positive about Gatey CYO? The amount of time given to girls and boys activity is equal. Girl’s softball and volleyball teams are always among the top. Attention is not only paid to Gatey CYO, but, as Boston vicariate director, Kevin Lally coordinates all CYO sports activities. This, however, is what they do. The city or community cannot do, CYO steps in and tries to provide programs. Like everything else, it needs funding. There are many willing to do their part to help Kevin and Touche. Some folks have attended all 27 events.

Remembering some of those folks sent the three of us down memory lane during this interview. We found ourselves telling tales and laughing about the events and attendees from previous years, which is another reason for showing up at Pier 4 on Saturday February 23 - to laugh, reminisce, share old memories, and create new ones. No matter what Parish you’re from there’s probably a Gatey connection somewhere. Maybe the old Gatesmen, maybe the Gatey dances. I’m a St. Vinny’s lower ender through and through, but was married at Gatey.

Remember they are totally self sufficient and we all have to pitch in. Besides next year will be 50 years of Gatey CYO, so this year’s event will be sort of a warm up or practice for next year. Or make this your inauguration to Gatey CYO. See you there.
Baby Bridget McGeever is Doing Fine

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

One of the first stories South Boston Today ran when our paper was just a few weeks old was called ‘Miracle Child: Baby Bridget McGeever’. As many of our readers remember, little Bridget’s story truly was a miracle and touched a lot of hearts because it turned out so well for her and her loving family. To bring those who may not have read the original story up to date, Bridget was born premature, nearly 4 months early and weighed in at just 1lb 6oz. She almost didn’t survive; it was a touch and go situation with many complications. After spending quite a while in the hospital, she finally did come home and though still very small at the time, she was able to live in her own home with her family where she belongs to the delight of her parents, South Bostonians Adam and Summer McGeever.

Bridget was their first born. Well, since that story ran several months ago, we have had many inquiries from readers asking if we could do an update for what has proven to be a very supportive community. We thought that was a great idea, so we spoke recently with Adam and Summer and asked them if they would be willing to give us that update on Baby Bridget’s progress. They were happy to do so and we are happy as well that we can report that all is going so well.

Bridget, as of her last weigh in is now 7 lbs., 4oz and over 19 inches in height. In fact, she has grown 5 inches in the last month alone. All of her tests including sweat tests and eye exams are coming back as good. She is eating constantly. In short, she is healthy, happy and doing a lot of smiling now. This adorable child is not only the joy in the life of her ecstatic parents, but she is even the object of much attention and love from the family’s two dogs, Franklin and Hazel, who Bridget seems thrilled to have as company.

With all of the problems in today’s world, it is surely a pleasure to be able to report on the good things as well, such as the very special miracles that bless this neighborhood. The success story and good fortune that has come to the McGeever Family in the form of this precious child brings happiness to us all. South Boston Today and our many readers wish all the best to Baby Bridget and we sincerely thank the McGeever Family for allowing us to share such good news to what is, as we said, a very supportive South Boston Community.
Congressman Stephen F. Lynch-2013 Evacuation Day General Chairman

South Boston Citizens’ Association President Thomas E. McGrath has announced that U.S. Rep. Stephen F. Lynch will serve as General Chairman of the Association’s 2013 Evacuation Day commemoration by the SBCA Executive Board.

“Congressman Stephen F. Lynch was the unanimous choice of the executive board to serve as General Chairman of this year’s activities,” McGrath said, “and he was gracious enough to accept, despite his hectic schedule in Washington, in his district, and across the state as he campaigns for the United States State.”

The Association’s event begins with the Jimmy Flaherty Kick-Off Breakfast on Saturday February 23rd, followed by the Senior Salute on March 2nd, along with a host of educational and athletic events. This year’s SBCA commemorative events will conclude with the 133rd Annual Evacuation Day Banquet at the Boston Convention Center on Friday, March 15th, to be followed by the Memorial Mass and Memorial Exercises at Dorchester Heights Monument on Saturday, March 16th.

“The executive board and I look forward to working with Congressman Lynch to ensure once again the success of this unique community celebration, the commemoration of the British evacuation of Boston in 1776,” said McGrath. “Everyone is aware of his commitment and genuine devotion to the community of South Boston, being a lifelong resident and active member of the SBCA. His dedication to the South Boston Citizens’ Association and our community has remained steadfast throughout his entire life and political career. We are honored to count Congressman Lynch as a member and strong supporter of the Association, and are even prouder to name him this year’s General Chairman.”

The Association this year once again is sponsoring a full roster of civic and sporting events over a two-week period as part of its annual commemorative celebration of Evacuation Day.

“I remind everyone that a limited number of tickets are still available for our Banquet, which is the capstone event of the 2013 commemorative activities,” McGrath. “Anyone who is interested in purchasing tickets to the banquet should email me as soon as possible at bmcgad@aol.com.”

Veterans’ Families Also Sacrifice And Serve

Veterans, police, community and political leaders met last week to go over plans for the upcoming 2013 Evacuation Day Parade. The meeting was sponsored by the South Boston Action Center. This is an ongoing effort to coordinate plans for an exciting and meaningful parade on March 17, 2013.

Chief Marshall Edward Flynn made the following statement to all the concerned South Boston citizens gathered:

“This year at the Evacuation Day Parade, we are fortunate to have so many young people with us that served in the U.S. military over the last several years. These young men and women volunteered for active duty and served throughout the world. These dedicated and patriotic South Boston residents wanted to serve our country and are now home with us again. We salute their service to our country. These veterans became highly trained and worked on state-of-the-art equipment and technology while in the U.S. military. Some served in combat conditions. I met some of them while on active duty. These men and women are a great credit to our neighborhood and country,” said Flynn, a U.S. Navy Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During another meeting with members of the South Boston Allied War Veteran’s Council, Flynn also talked about these same returning veterans who have joined the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department and the private sector and who are continuing to make significant contributions to our city and neighborhood.

“We will salute these young returning veterans while we continue to honor and pay tribute to our older veterans. Additionally, as it’s often said, “when a veteran serves on active duty, their family also serves.”

These spouses and children had to make sacrifices when their loved one was serving overseas. It is fitting to honor and remember them also as we celebrate this historic Evacuation Day Parade in Boston, when we also celebrate our Irish heritage and culture. We have much to be proud of, so let’s celebrate with pride and continue the tradition,” concluded the 22-year U.S. Navy veteran.

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Chief Marshall Edward Flynn made the following statement to all the concerned South Boston citizens gathered:

“This year at the Evacuation Day Parade, we are fortunate to have so many young people with us that served in the U.S. military over the last several years. These young men and women volunteered for active duty and served throughout the world. These dedicated and patriotic South Boston residents wanted to serve our country and are now home with us again. We salute their service to our country. These veterans became highly trained and worked on state-of-the-art equipment and technology while in the U.S. military. Some served in combat conditions. I met some of them while on active duty. These men and women are a great credit to our neighborhood and country,” said Flynn, a U.S. Navy Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During another meeting with members of the South Boston Allied War Veteran’s Council, Flynn also talked about these same returning veterans who have joined the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department and the private sector and who are continuing to make significant contributions to our city and neighborhood.

“We will salute these young returning veterans while we continue to honor and pay tribute to our older veterans. Additionally, as it’s often said, “when a veteran serves on active duty, their family also serves.”

These spouses and children had to make sacrifices when their loved one was serving overseas. It is fitting to honor and remember them also as we celebrate this historic Evacuation Day Parade in Boston, when we also celebrate our Irish heritage and culture. We have much to be proud of, so let’s celebrate with pride and continue the tradition,” concluded the 22-year U.S. Navy veteran.
Members of the Boston Bruins brought good cheer to the folks in Newton, CT this past Monday. On their scheduled day off, members of the team decided to visit the town that is home to Sandy Hook Elementary school that experienced one of the deadliest massacres in our nation’s history on December 14, 2012. Bruins forward Rich Peverly remarked on the tragedy. “I was here in Boston; I was going back over to Europe. It really kind of shakes you, especially when you have your own kids. It’s something that you never want to have to live through.”

Head Coach Claude Julien, along with Peverly and six of his teammates hoped to provide support and smiles at the Newtown Youth Academy. Close to 600 of the town’s children and adults spent the day and played street hockey with the with the Bruins contingent. The enjoyment and memories of Monday’s gathering will be felt by Boston Bruins, as well as the people of Newtown. Julien had this to say about the day. “I felt privileged to have the opportunity to go there. I know everybody would love to be able to help and, fortunately, we were some of the lucky ones who were fortunate to go there and hopefully put some smiles on some faces.”

Red Sox Acquire Carp From Mariners

Reporting from Fort Myers Florida, Peter Abraham of the Boston Globe writes that the Red Sox have acquired first baseman and left fielder Mike Carp from the Seattle Mariners for a player to be named later or cash. According to Red Sox sources, any player sent back to Seattle in the deal would not be a significant prospect. Ryan Kalish, who is recovering from shoulder surgery, was placed on the 60-day disabled list to make room for Carp on the 40-man roster. “It’s definitely a better opportunity for me than staying in Seattle as far as their needs go and my chance to get as many at-bats as possible,” Carp told the Seattle Times. “It’s really exciting. I have a chance to go to a great organization and should really get a chance to play. I’m looking forward to showing them what I can do.”

Carp, 26, hit .213 last season over 59 games. He missed 78 games due to three stints on the disabled list. Carp was out twice with a right shoulder injury and then with a groin strain. He was Seattle’s Opening Day left fielder before injuring his shoulder diving for a ball. Over his final 25 games of the season in the majors, Carp hit .293 (22 of 75) with three doubles, a home run and seven RBI. In 2011, Carp ranked among American League rookies in batting average (3rd, .276), slugging percentage (2nd, .466) and OPS (2nd, .791) and was named to Baseball America’s All-Rookie Team. He had 17 doubles, one triple, 12 home runs, and 46 RBI in 79 games for the Mariners. Given the uncertain health of first baseman Mike Napoli, who has a hip condition, the backup first baseman could get significant playing time.
Daniel Bard Off to Good Start

In what might seem like an innocent throwing session, Daniel Bard showed encouraging promise once again in front of Red Sox decision makers, when he threw a solid live hitting session this week in Fort Myers. Bard, who was the most consistent reliever, at times dominant, from 2009-2011, had a miserable season last year when the Sox decided to make him a starting pitcher. He was wild, his velocity dropped off, and he finished the year at Triple A Pawtucket.

Add to the bullpen relievers like Andrew Bailey, Joel Hanrahan, and Koji Uehara, and Bard has a great deal of pressure lifted off of his shoulders. For Bard, add this to his homecoming - back to the bullpen - and we could see a return to greatness. A rebound year is exactly what he needs, and so do the Red Sox.

Catching Position Starting to Take Shape

Red Sox Manager John Farrell does not want his pitchers wedded to one catcher. He believes pitchers shouldn’t be so high maintenance. Guys like Josh Becket - who was seen as just that - are gone. Farrell will see to it that it doesn’t happen again. Either way, the catching roles for the Red Sox seem to be taking shape. Last year’s starter Jarrod Saltalamacchia, appears to be resuming that role again. David Ross, the high priced and experienced back-up catcher will likely catch around 40 games, maybe a few more.

Unfortunately this leaves Ryan Lavarnway as the odd man out. The Red Sox know Lavarnway can play in the big leagues. Sometimes, timing can be an issue. Earlier this month, Red Sox General Manager Ben Cherington had this to say to the Boston Herald about Ryan Lavarnway and his abilities. “Sometimes the sort of clock doesn’t start exactly when the player wants to. He’s proven at the Triple A level that he’s capable of helping a major league team. That’s going to happen. We just don’t know exactly when.”

One likely end game is that Lavarnway gets called up if either Ross or Saltalamacchia get injured. The other is that Lavarnway gets traded to a team that needs a solid catcher. Depth at the catching position is both valuable and rare. But a talented player sitting on the sidelines patiently doesn’t last. Don’t be surprised if Lavarnway is wearing a different uniform come June or July.
Danny Picard: Spring Training and one of the story lines now is Alfredo Aceves. I’m sort of questioning why he’s still around right now. Tell us, first, what happened during that batting practice session the other day.

Sean McAdam: On Sunday afternoon, he was supposed to throw live batting practice or the uninitiated [batting practice] during spring training. When pitchers throw live batting practice, the expectation is that they’re going to throw at, essentially, full speed, as they would in an exhibition game. This is not batting practice as coaches might throw it before a regular-season game, where they’re throwing about 60 miles an hour, and the object is to make it easy for the hitters to hit and work on things. This is supposed to be a competitive situation, where pitchers essentially go at 100 percent and try to get the hitters out. And often the hitters are asked just to track the ball and only swing at the last couple of pitches. And for whatever reason, Aceves decided, on Sunday, to treat live batting practice like regular batting practice, and was not really lobbing the ball, but probably throwing about 60 miles an hour or as a coach would before a game. He did that for about 15 or 20 pitches to the great consternation of both [Red Sox pitching coach] Juan Nieves and [Red Sox manager] John Farrell watching from the side. Finally, Nieves went out to speak to him, and Aceves improved his velocity some, but still was throwing nowhere near 100 percent intensity. And afterward, when he came off, he had a long 10-12 minute sit-down in the dugout with John Farrell, who did 90 percent of the talking. And it was quite clear that the Red Sox were unhappy about this. And in the opinion of someone in the organization I spoke to, their belief was that Aceves was doing this to sort of test Farrell. You’ll remember that Aceves had a couple of run-ins with Bobby Valentine last year, the second of which resulted in a three-game suspension. And Aceves has always been sort of a mercurial character anyway. You never know what’s going to happen. And this was not exactly getting off on the right foot with the new manager.

DP: In testing John Farrell, I mean, doesn’t that phrase alone tell you that this guy’s going to be a problem? I mean, how can a player just test a manager during spring training? This seems a little ridiculous to me that he’s even still around. Are you surprised that he’s still around after this?

SM: Well, I think the issue here, Danny, is that Farrell is trying to come in here with a clean slate. He is fully aware of what happened between Aceves and Valentine last year. And obviously the front office and baseball operation is acutely aware; they witnessed it firsthand. I think Farrell’s approach is probably, “Look, I heard the stories and I knew what went on last year, but this is a fresh start, I’m new, I haven’t worked with this guy before.” By the time Farrell left for Toronto, Aceves wasn’t here yet, so they hadn’t had any interaction. And I think he had to treat this kind of as a first offense, even though if you go back to last year, obviously, there had been prior incidents, but not under Farrell. So I think the message that was sent -- both from Farrell to Aceves directly on Sunday, and then yesterday from Ben Cherington to Tom O’Connell, who is the agent for Alfredo Aceves -- is that, “Okay, you’re on warning. We’re not putting up with this again this year. That’s not just one strike on Sunday, that’s two. And the next incident like this, you’re out.” So I think the warning has been issued, the rules have been made clear, and we’ll see what Aceves does and how he responds.

DP: Is there a hesitancy to move him, because, when you look at what this team has right now in the rotation -- Clay Buchholz has the hamstring strain, Felix Doubront has weakness in his shoulder -- maybe they look at Aceves and say, “We might need this guy at some point in the rotation”?

SM: I think in the bigger picture, it’s not just about Buchholz and the hamstring -- and that already seems like a pretty minor issue. He’s [threw] live BP [on Wednesday]. He had a bullpen session [Monday], from which he responded very well. Who knows about Doubront, and how long that’s going to take to build up. But I don’t think they’re looking at [Aceves] quite as narrowly. I think they look at it as, look, this guy has been a pretty good Major League pitcher, for all his issues. He’s done everything from start to close, and in between, with multiple-inning relief stints. He is very resilient. You can use him about four times a week. It seems like he never gets a tired arm, and he can be an effective guy here, if he stays in line. But again, I think the events of the last couple of days have demonstrated that that comes with some expectation, and they’re not going to put up with those kind of incidents.

DP: Sean, you’ve been down in Spring Training for a good amount of time with the Red Sox. What’s
the one thing that’s opened your eyes the most the last couple weeks?

SM: I guess I would say -- and it sounds a little cliché for the lack of anything original -- there’s a pretty positive vibe here. You definitely notice a different atmosphere in the clubhouse and on the field. Players seem a little happier. And there doesn’t seem to be that uncertainty that hung over camp last year, when everyone was sort of wondering, “What’s Bobby Valentine going to do next? What sort of incredibly unorthodox drill is he going to introduce?” There is that fresh start. There are a lot of players here who have played for Farrell before -- albeit in a different role as pitching coach -- but are at least comfortable and familiar with him. And I think that’s kind of reflective in the way they’ve gone about their work, and the way you just sort of feel that they’re responding, as you’re in the clubhouse and talking to players.

DP: And Pedro Martinez is down there, and I’m reading some of the quotes from [Monday]. I mean, this guy is beautiful, some of the quotes that he’s dishing out still. What is his presence doing right now when you see him around some of these players? Is it helping at all, or is this the media loving this more than the players? What’s his presence like down there?

SM: It’s really only been one day. He had been in about a week ago, when there were only a handful of pitchers in camp, just to talk to some people and meet some of the guys. But [Monday] was really the first day in uniform, where he was a little bit more hands-on. He worked a little with Felix Doubront. He worked a little with Daniel Bard, Ruby De La Rosa -- who he knows from the Dominican, and has known his family for a long time. As terrific as Pedro was and is, it’s not like he can wave the magic wand over a pitcher and turn him into a Cy Young winner. But I think over time, Pedro’s a pretty good judge of talent. He obviously knows a world about pitching. And if there are players with whom he’s working, who are willing to listen -- and why wouldn’t you just be a sponge around Pedro Martinez and absorb and soak up everything he has to offer -- then I think that he can make some real contributions. I think it’s unclear, at this point, exactly how much he’s going to be around and the extent of his input. But as I said, you’ve got to believe that if he’s working with somebody, that there has to be some positive result or yield from that down the road. Not overnight, but over time. The feeling is that he’s going to be in and out, up to Boston occasionally, maybe around some of the affiliates in the minor leagues over the course of the year. I’m sure that when he’s back home in the Dominican, he’ll be at the Red Sox academy there, looking at some of their young, international prospects. It’s a feeling out process. Pedro’s trying to figure out how much time he has to devote, exactly how he can contribute. But as I’ve said, you’ve got to believe that, eventually, there’s a positive impact from his presence.

DP: Red Sox fans should hope that this starting rotation could learn some things from Pedro Martinez, because I think that’s the story here in Spring Training. It’s this starting rotation, and more specifically, a guy like John Lackey, and even how Jon Lester’s going to respond this season, early on. What have you seen from these guys? I know with Lackey, everybody’s talking about how he’s lost a lot of weight. He looks like he’s in great physical shape. And then how will Lester bounce back? A couple minor issues with Buchholz and Doubront. Overall, what have you seen with this rotation, and do you like what you see?

SM: I think it’s mostly positive from Lackey. You see him in better shape, and obviously that elbow’s been repaired from Tommy John surgery in October of 2011. So he’s had some time to recover. Lester’s here, Buchholz had that little hiccup with the hamstring, but he seems to have nearly hurdled that, and it won’t be an issue. Doubront is something of a concern because he came in a little heavy and had some weakness in his shoulder. And then you’ve got Ryan Dempster as the new guy who has averaged almost 200 innings over the last five years. So with the exception of Doubront, it’s mostly a veteran rotation. And it’s all about being healthy. In the case of Lester and Lackey kind of getting back to their previous levels of achievement -- in Lester’s case, a disappointing 2012, and in Lackey’s case, a lost year because of Tommy John surgery. As I said, it is a veteran rotation and staff that has provided some innings in the past, and will be counted on again to do the same, and the hope -- from the Red Sox standpoint -- is that those innings are much better than they’ve been the last year, year and a half.

DP: Finally, John Farrell last week talked about the lineup, and the possible number three hitters in this lineup, and that he was maybe leaning towards matching up against lefties and righties. He mentioned going with somebody different, Ortiz against righties, Pedroia against lefties. What’s your take on matching up in that spot, and this team, specifically, doing it?

SM: There’s some flexibility in that batting order, because you have a switch hitter in Victorino, you’ve got some guys, particularly, the guys they went out and got in the offseason, who seem to be able to crush left-handed pitching. Jonny Gomes in particular, though, he may find himself in some sort of platoon in left field. They do have some people they can move around. You would expect that Ellsbury would be pretty much the everyday leadoff hitter. But with Pedroia, Victorino, and some of the other guys, you can move around and match up with whether it’s a lefty or a righty starting. So there’s some flexibility here. I don’t think we’re going to have one of those years like 2005-06 where Terry Francona basically could go with the same lineup just about every day. This is a little different. There’s going to be some platoon. There’s going to be some adjustments. But there’s some flexibility that gives John Farrell some options, and we’re still five weeks-plus out from the opener, so he might not have a total feel about what he wants to do, but he certainly has some flexibility and different options.
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