

History In The Making For Catholics Worldwide

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
 By Ray Flynn (Former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican and Mayor of Boston)

When you read this its possible that the 115 eligible voting members of the College of Cardinals will have already elected a new Pope. I have to tell you, trying to figure out who the Cardinals will vote for, is one of the most fascinating things I have ever done. No matter how closely you follow Vatican news, because of the level of secrecy, very few people have much of an idea of what is going on inside the Vatican. Oh, some people will try and sound like they do, but they don't.

Most of the Cardinals don't know each other very well, except for those Cardinals who worked in the Roman Curia or went to college there. Others may be part of a coalition of some kind. Sixty seven of the cardinal electors were appointed by Benedict XVI, so they are loyal to each other. And, of course, language and culture is very important.

That's why I first raised Cardinal Sean O'Malley's name, because of his language proficiency. He understands the culture of several Latin and Central American countries. Milan's Cardinal Archbishop Angelo Scola was close to Benedict, attended school in Italy and was part of the Curia. I spoke to him several times when he was Rector of the Lateran University in Rome and was always interested in events in the United States.

Unlike 1978, when John Paul II was elected, electing a non- Italian is no longer an issue. But neither is not electing an American an issue. That super power rap no longer applies to America, unfortunately. O'Malley and Cardinal Dolan of New York are well respected and serious candidates, even if America is perceived to be in cultural

CONTINUED ON page 4



This Week's Poll
 On Page 6

Happy St. Patrick's Day Issue



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Editorial

“A Celebration, NOT A Protest”

Peace is a wonderful idea or philosophy. Doesn't the Bible state "Blessed Be The Peacemakers"? Sometimes, though, it is used as a cover for more questionable purposes. After all, our nuclear arsenal once contained a missile delivery system called "Peacekeeper". Nevertheless, true peace is something to strive for. Though like the expression "Freedom Is Not Free", peace is rarely achieved in a peaceful manner.

Patrick Henry probable stated it best, "Gentlemen May Cry Peace, But There Is No Peace. What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?" He, of course, went on to say he would rather die than live under those conditions. His words and those of others like him, inspired a nation.

Here in Boston, even back in the 1700's three pennies was not a lot of money. But the symbolism of that tiny tax, on a pound of tea, and the message, "you will have no voice and do what you're told" was enough for the citizens to risk hanging and rise up and throw the tea in the harbor. Those events lit the fuse for what we celebrate today – The First Victory by General Washington, the American Army and the American Nation.

We choose to honor and remember those Americans who died or were injured fighting in the battle, so long and for that peace they gave us and the nation they created by proclaiming their praise in a parade. We will

CONTINUED On page 4



“No man's life, liberty or property is safe when the legislature is in session” - Mark Twain

Last week's poll results:

Last Week's Poll Asked The Question:
What is the most important reason to celebrate St. Patrick's Day & Evacuation Day?

Answer	Percent
The Parade	0%
Honoring our Veterans	59%
Educating our youth on our nation's history	34%
Celebrating immigrant roots	7%

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Some Short Takes/Nice Try But No Cigar...?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

This week's column will start off with a series of short takes and commentary on the past week's stories in the news and move right into some upcoming holiday comments.

First: The Massachusetts communities of Cambridge and Amherst along with the California towns of Berkeley and Hollywood must still be in mourning over the passing of Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez. He was such a hero to so many lefties; it will probably be some time before they get over their loss. The man not only stole the freedom of the Venezuelan People, it also was learned after his death that he stole and hoarded more than 2 billion dollars of their money, as well. A true champion of the left, we have some in Washington who were his biggest admirers.

Busted: The Obama Administration was caught in some leaked emails telling certain federal agencies, among them the Agriculture Dept. to make the effects of the Sequester as painful as possible. This, it's believed was and is an effort to teach the public a lesson so they would never again go along with funding cuts to our out of control and growing government. Fabricated airport tie ups that really never happened, the release of illegal immigrant inmates from prisons that were unnecessary, and the biggest story to make the news was of course, closing the White House itself to tours; among them many school groups who had already planned way in advance to visit. It turns out that the people who actually give the White

House tours are all volunteers and the money saved by stopping the visits is short. But, they just have to make it hurt. It should be mentioned that the top shelf taxpayer funded Obama family vacations are still on schedule as are the golf trips. Like a child in a sandbox who finally did not get his way... 'Starbucks', once considered by some for whatever reason to be a bastion of Liberalism, is really starting to tick off the libs by its recent stands on issues. New York Mayor Michael 'Nanny' Bloomberg's large sized soda ban, stopped the district court, was to go into effect this week and Starbucks said it will not obey. Starbucks has also refused the demands of anti gun groups around the country by making a statement and allowing anyone who has a permit to carry a gun inside their shops. Company spokes people have stated that the 2nd Amendment gives Americans the right to bear arms and they will not go against the Constitution of the United States and the law of the land. Good for them.

Continuing on the subject of guns and the 2nd Amendment as you knew I would, communities from Texas, to Wyoming, to Georgia and even Maine; in towns all over the country, residents are drafting laws that will mandate that every resident have a firearm in their home. The reason? Nothing discourages would be criminals from committing crimes in a place more than knowing everyone is armed. In each and every location it has been done, the crime rate has dropped dramatically. It's called

'criminal control' not gun control. And that's something that has proved to work... And now a mention of some behind the scene activities that have been going on regarding this Sunday's parade. The police, for reasons that have speculation running wild, were going to move the street sweepers, who always follow the line of march and signify the end of the official parade, behind the so called 'alternative parade' being sponsored by the Veterans for Peace. This, according to some, could have caused a bit of confusion as to when the official or real parade ended and the other one begins. Was it an attempt to pull a fast one on the Allied War Veterans and their insistence that they and only they would decide who marches? It's not known for sure but that is the thinking of some we have talked to. The Allied War Vets are no slouches and cannot be out smarted; a fact lost on their detractors for

years but who give it their best shot yet never seem to learn. The Allied War Veteran's lawyers immediately contacted city officials and reminded them that the court ruling stated clearly, that the street sweepers would follow the official line of march and any alternative groups would be required to stay at least a mile back. The city agreed, they really had no choice and now folks, when you see the street sweepers, you can be sure that it WILL be the end of the St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Parade sponsored by the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council.

Here's wishing all a happy and safe weekend. And once again, high praise goes out to all the many dedicated South Bostonians who are volunteering their time and their efforts and their creative skills to help put on so many good events that make up this 2 weeklong celebration that has something for every age group.

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BCEC to Host “Very Important” Meeting March 18

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

staff report

The Boston Convention and Design Center (BCEC) has announced a community meeting to be held Monday, March 18 6:30 P.M. at the Convention Center. The purpose will be the introduction of proposals for two midsize hotels/motels along “D” Street between First Street and Summer Street.

For the last year Convention Center, BRA and developers representatives have been meeting monthly with the design advisory committee (DAC) chaired by Father Joe White, pastor of St. Vincent’s Church. DAC is a group of South Boston residents from Fort Point, City Point, Andrew Sq., the Lower End and all points in between, who have been appointed by the elected officials.

The mission of DAC is to make known development options and offer solutions to those issues that would be a concern and offer support for proposals that appear acceptable. As their name states DAC is only an advisory group and has no official authority. They simply articulate to the officials the neighborhood’s issues for presentation to the South Boston public. That is the purpose of this very important meeting.

Issues such as construction and permanent jobs, resident preference, height of hotel/motel, placement of parking facilities, relocation of existing industries in this zone, the plan for the entire zone between the Haul Road and the Reserve Channel. These are some of the major issues all residents should and must



seek answers for in order to be informed and not surprised.

At the conclusion of this meeting the “Comment Period” begins. This is a process which will end at 5 P.M. April 8th. This is a legally required procedure which allows anyone with any questions to have the questions asked, answered and printed in a public comment book prior to any approval or permitting being issued.

The community is urged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn, weigh in and shape the future. A well done goes out to community liaison, Bob O’Shea, for coordinating the shuttle service that is available to transport residents. Route A will pick up residents on Broadway at L, I, G, West Broadway parking lot, D, B and Broadway Station. Route B will pick up at Rotary Variety, Old Colony and Dorchester Street, D and West 7th, Condon School, D and Broadway and D and W. Second Streets. Both routes will begin at 5:30pm and proceed on the stated route then to the Convention Center. At the meeting’s conclusion, the shuttle will return residents to drop off points. Please make every effort to attend.

History In The Making... CONTINUED FROM page 1

decline. This is one reason I would vote for them, and a reason why I believe it would be best for the worldwide Church, and especially U.S. Catholics.

Scola, from Italy, certainly follows the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church, but that’s why he became a priest. Liberal and conservative labels that are given the Cardinals and Church are absurd. Some activists think Church teaching should reflect a more liberal, conservative or progressive point of view, but the Church is not a political party which has to pander to every special interest. Some reporters have been stressing the division in the Vatican as the key issue that the next Pope must deal with. It is an issue, but they should apply that same reasoning to the American government which is far more dysfunctional and divisive. I don’t understand why they feel that the College of Cardinals shouldn’t have strong and differing opinions as to who should lead the Church the next 10 or 20 years. That’s what elections are all about.

We saw some of the Cardinals being interviewed last week on television. We learned that unlike Europe and the United States, the Church is growing dramatically in Africa and Latin

America. Brazil is now the largest Catholic country in the world. Even countries like Ghana and Nigeria in Africa, where I visited, the population of Catholics is growing dramatically. But something new is happening at this conclave, North American cardinals are serious candidates. Dolan, O’Malley and Cardinal Ouellette from Canada, all three have the courage and ability to lead the Church to a new day. Yes, the Church has serious internal problems to deal with, but if the conclave makes the right choice, credibility and confidence can be restored.

Can you imagine the pride Americans would have with the election of The First American Pope? But we must all remember that the Pope is not the Church, anymore than our President is our country. It is us, we the people. We must be informed and get involved. We must not let others think or act for us, especially when they are taking us in the wrong direction. Respect them yes, but their policies must respect us as well.

Today, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, of Argentina was selected by the College of Cardinals to serve as the next leader of the Roman Catholic Church. He will take the name of Pope Francis.

Editorial... CONTINUED FROM page 2

not forget that proclamation is free speech in its purest form. The right to practice that free speech openly and without harassment has been defended, over the centuries, by countless South Bostonians. It is enjoyed by every other group and parade in the nation.

The right of other to criticize American military actions, now or in the past, or America’s action or America itself, is not in dispute. That, however, is for a different parade. Not ours. That is not our message. Imagine an uninvited guest demanding admittance to the wedding reception, in order to yell insults at the bride and groom. However, misguided other marchers might be at least their conviction is presumably sincere. Less so for the political hypocrisy that crosses race, gender, and age lines in “Peek-A-Boo” appearances on St. Patrick’s Day at the Breakfast. Shamefully, one candidate has stooped so low as to go to the world press with a petition urging people to silence her neighbors’ freedom of speech. It will be interesting to see how a ‘I think you and your parade are bigoted but please vote for me’ strategy works with voters. A strategy that denies the same right to South Boston Veterans and Residents.

No one yearns for peace more than those who bear the burden of war. The highest death toll of the Vietnam War that is contained in the twenty-five names on the monument in Medal of Honor Park at “M” Street attests to that fact. As does its message “If You Forget My Death Then I Died In Vain”. We don’t forget and this Sunday we’ll celebrate their lives and actions and all veterans services while in our hearts mourning those who are gone. The Allied War Veterans would like to thank those Boston area attorneys who have volunteered to monitor the start and otherwise distance that must be maintained as mandated by the court to protect the veterans’ first amendment.

Most of all the veterans wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Evacuation/St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.



Reading Between The Lines

“The Battle”

The final of a 3-part series on the History of Evacuation Day

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahoney@southbostontoday.com

Experience has taught us in Boston that rain, sleet, snow, gale force winds and freezing temperatures that arrive sometimes in February and March are known as a “Nor’easter”. Unaccustomed, The British could only equate this phenomenon to as “Hurricane”.

The British plan was to cross to Castle William (Castle Island), assemble, and then assault across at “Dorchester Point”. Instead General Howe later wrote a “Hurricane” had forced the cancellation of the assault ‘in the fear they would all be lost’ due to the weather. The same storm that drove the British indoors was used by the Americans as a fortuitous opportunity to strengthen their defenses, so that when the storm abated by noon on March 6, the British realized their chance to assault had passed. Undeterred, a squadron of warships weighed anchor and with sails full attempted to close on the North Shore (First Street). The looming Heights of the “Bush Tree” Hill forced the British to attempt a dangerous maneuver.

Shifting nearly every cannon to one side of the ship, the British intended this would allow the few cannons remaining on the other side to gain enough elevation to strike the American position on “Bush Tree”. This rarely used tactic carried the danger of swamping or even capsizing the ship. The North Shore at the time was riddled with inlets, barely submerged mud flats, and deepwater channels. This unpredictability, plus the batteries at “Bush Tree” and “Dorchester Point”, made the danger of grounding a ship under American guns too great to allow the British ships’ cannons to continue firing and this action was halted.

At “Dorchester Point” the Americans were giddy at the British ships retreat.

They began waving flags, gesturing, and generally taunting the British Troops at Castle William (Castle Island). The British at the castle had fired but found the range prohibitive. To counter this, the British attempted a double load of powder. Unfortunately this caused cannon to explode killing and wounding several British. That ended the day’s events and on March 7 an unspoken truce seemed to be in place and the British began making preparations to pack up.

On March 8 the intently watching Americans were dismayed to observe and receive reports that the British efforts toward withdrawing had turned into looting and destruction. It was then Washington played his final card. With sunset the Americans, who had kept their last 10 cannons behind the base of “Nook Hill” at “C” and 3rd Street, began the construction of the final and closest battery. Late into the night the American troops labored. Then, perhaps due to overconfidence, a soldier lit a fire for warmth.

Almost immediately the British “Green” Battery (at Washington and Berkeley Streets), alerted to their location, began a deadly fire. A company of the 10th Artillery Regiment under Captain Thomas Pierce continued to work under this withering fire. This unfinished position attempted to return fire. A 17-year-old Private, Stephen Jennings of Norton, dashed back and forth bringing powder to the cannons. It was during one of these runs he was felled by a bursting shell. Watching this was 25 yr old Sgt. Obadiah Adams from Littleton and 33 yr old Surgeon Enoch Dole from Lancaster. Along with two other soldiers, they grabbed a litter and ran to aid Jennings. Sadly, as all four gathered round his fallen form, yet

another British shell exploded, killing all four of the rescue party. Ironically, the act of aiding and hovering over Jennings, by the four, shielded him and he survived with the loss of a hand and eye. The firing continued all night, ending at sunrise after over 800 cannon balls had been fired and the American abandoned the fortification attempts.

This action seems, at least initially, to have prompted the British to cease the town’s destruction and continue the evacuation. Still by the morning of the 14th Washington had tired of the British stalling tactics. He was well aware more troops had already sailed from England. In any event, Washington was spoiling for a fight. “If the enemy will be kind enough to come out for a fight, I mean to give them one” he stated. In full view and in broad daylight, the very place that the very first soldiers of this new army, of this new nation, under this new commanding General had given the “last full measure”, he ordered to be fortified.

By late afternoon on March 16th, this final and most ominous position was completed. The next day, March 17th, the last British ship cleared Boston Harbor by noon as American troops entered the city. These troops discovered the final contempt of the British who had looted and used churches and meeting houses cavalry stables. In fact, in violation of the cease fire, they set Castle William ablaze as they left. Washington, expecting English treachery, placed in command as Officer of the Day (O.D.) General John Sullivan of County Wexford and made the password “St. Patrick”. So in effect the great British Empire surrendered their first American Colony to an Irish Catholic. This would probably be comparable to a former plantation slave owner

working and taking orders under former African slave. “Those that laugh last, laugh best.”

How did this action, without which, arguably, the revolution would have failed, become a footnote in history? Would the Revolution have survived without their secure base in Boston? The British successfully moved in and occupied New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia. Over the next year, the only other American victory was the Christmas raid at Trenton, so how did the victory at Boston become so overlooked?

When the British fleet sailed away that St. Patrick’s morning they left behind their hatred of the Irish and Catholics that remains with us in some form and by some people to this day. Consider that the battle occurred 236 years ago but for the first 130 years it was never observed. This is only the 104 observance. The ruling political elite were determined to keep the Irish in their place, but the joining of St. Patrick’s and Evacuation was seen by the Irish, as divine intervention. That and the flood tide of Irish Immigration swelled their ranks to political power. Prior to that every undesirable activity was placed in South Boston by the ruling elite. The poor house and insane asylum were placed in South Boston. Except for the “Twin Hills”, all of our “Heights” were leveled to fill in the Back Bay. A 45 acre park created for South Boston residents was first re-claimed by the Government as a military base and is now site of the Convention Center. When the Dorchester Heights Monument was dedicated in 1902 the guest speaker referred to the longstanding discrimination toward the Irish South Boston by noting “The Mayflower and

CONTINUED ON page 6

COLLINS PUSHES FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Boston - At the beginning of the new legislative session, Rep. Nick Collins filed a bill that would significantly increase job opportunities for people with disabilities in Massachusetts. The bill, H2793 An Act Relative to Employment of Persons with Disabilities, would require at least 20% of people hired through any contract receiving state funds be individuals with disabilities.

The purpose of this bill is to assist people with disabilities in achieving personal independence through useful, productive, and gainful employment by assuring an extended and constant market for their services. Rep. Collins has made this legislation one of his priorities this session as 7 out of 10 people with a disability are currently unemployed.

"This bill would harness the ability of the state to open up new pathways to independence for people who are woefully underserved," said Rep. Collins. "We are not creating new programs here, we are creating new opportunities," continued Collins. The federal and city government already offer such opportunities for

people with disabilities.

The federal government currently employs about 150 people with disabilities in federal buildings in the downtown area alone. Most of these jobs are provided through Work, Inc., New England's largest employer of people with disabilities. Such jobs consist of facility management, food services, landscaping, mailroom services, and many more. Collins' bill will expand these jobs and thereby minimize dependence on entitlements, welfare, and other costly services.

Jim Cassetta, President of Work, Inc. commented that, "This legislation will have a significant impact on employing more individuals with disabilities. With an unemployment rate of 70% among this population, passing this bill is the right thing to do."

H2793 has been recently been sent to the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight where it will await a public hearing. Rep. Nick Collins has assured the disabilities community that he will fight for this bill's passage at every stage of the legislative process.

Was Last Friday Winter's Final Swipe?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

staff report

How embarrassed were the weather forecasters last week? To say they woke up on

Friday Morning with egg on their faces would be an understatement, even by their own admission. All week prior, they were predicting a storm but a much lighter one. A few inches of snow over there, some rain here and overall, not a big deal. Even late into Thursday night the word out was - well, the morning commute would be a little slippery, so just use a bit of caution while heading off to work or school.

We all know what followed. People woke up to the sound of snow plows, scraping shovels, snow blowers and curse words permeating the air from ticked off and shocked residents who never expected a foot of new snow. What we all thought was over for the season came roaring back to bite us all in the - well...

It was back to big snow mounds; this time made up of wet slush in some cases so heavy and thick, it was like trying to move nearly hardened concrete. Then out came the space savers again; quick, before someone takes the spot you were working on all morning. A trip around town exposed how badly the city and the school department was taken by surprise as crowds of cold wet kids dutifully waited for their buses to come to shuttle them off to school. Yup, to make it worse, school was not cancelled that day because you see, the weather forecasters got it all wrong. But can we really complain? We had a nearly snow free December and January, got slammed hard by the 'Blizzard of 2013 in February, got another taste last Friday and now the snow haters will be home free - or are they. What surprises still await us?

But as the angle of the sun shifts, the warmth of springtime, which officially arrives next week, will melt those winter blues away at a pretty good rate of speed. The trees will sprout leaves, flowers will bloom and the birds will start singing making the cold and dreary past few months seem like a distant memory. And as we look at the calendar awaiting the month of April with great anticipation and hope, we see, oh wait, oh no here we go again. Street cleaning begins and it's move your cars or get ticketed and towed. That's right, street sweeping begins on April 1st in South Boston. Come to think of it, not everything about winter time in the city was so bad after all..

How will you all enjoy the coming warm weather? Locally, our beaches, parks and causeways beckon and offer a variety of recreational opportunities from running, long walks and organized sports activities to just kicking back and passively enjoying the good weather. We are fortunate to live in the part of the city that offers so much to so many. When you think about it, we have it pretty good.

This Week's Poll

City Street Sweeping begins April 1. Is it necessary to tow vehicles or simply ticket them, especially if they have a resident sticker?

- ☐ **Tow all vehicles**
- ☐ **Ticket all vehicles**
- ☐ **Tow only non-resident vehicles**



The Battle... CONTINUED FROM page 5

the Shamrock have finally joined". Even then St. Patrick could only be celebrated under the umbrella of Evacuation Day.

Yet, even today, a simple parade to honor the military birth of America and our cultural heritage is constantly under attack, No where else and no other parade is singled out to be the target of others' political agenda. Not a single court in Massachusetts had the courage or honesty to give us the right that was so obvious the U. S. Supreme Court upheld it unanimously. 9-0!

I have a framed sign in my house. It was printed AFTER my mother was born. It reads "No Irish Need Apply". As we watch officially sanctioned assaults on our parade and us continue, it's obvious that some things haven't changed all that much. Still, here we stand and will always stand. Celebrate with pride. Happy Evacuation and St. Patrick's Day. Take care until next week.



Brian's Beat

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian Wallace

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bwallace@southbostontoday.com

It has been going on for as long as anyone can remember. They were always held on a Friday night and the whole town would turn out to watch as many as 30 fights in one night. The fighters came in all sizes and in all ages and abilities. If you grew up in Southie that was the one event you just didn't miss. I can remember nights when they couldn't pack another person in the gym with a shoehorn. I can also remember one of the most highly anticipated fights that ever took place at the annual affair. It was 1964 and the anticipation of the fight literally gripped the town and divided it right down the middle. The fight lived up to its billing and people still talk about it today.

The pride of the Lower End was a young boxer named Tommy Connors who had already won a few National Titles and who, still till this day, holds the professional boxing record for the fastest knockout in history. Tommy knocked his opponent out, at the Boston Garden, in thirteen seconds, and that is counting for the ten second count. One punch, three seconds, plus the ten count. It is a record which will probably never be broken. But the Garden and the bigger arenas were a long way off from that night almost fifty years ago at the Muny. Tommy had something like eighty amateur wins and one loss as he headed up to the Muny, with his entourage, to fight a kid from City Point who had no amateur fights and would never fight in the ring again after the bout that night with Connors.

His name was John "Scratch" Scarcella and he was known more for his work on the gridiron than his work in the ring. He was a star on

George McCarthy's Mohawks and later starred at Southie High but this boxing thing was new to Scratch. I actually think the night Scratch fought Tommy Connors was his first time he entered a ring of any kind. I didn't know much about Scratch, that night, other than he was tough as nails and the kids from City Point hailed him as the toughest kid from that section of Southie. I admired his courage for even stepping in the ring with a rising legend like Connors, but when Scratch entered the gym, the place erupted. I was shocked by how small this City Point legend looked in street clothes. He had on a pair of glasses and looked thin. I said to my friend Knocko, "this kid is in trouble."

Scratch went downstairs to change and a roar sprang up from the crowd that could have been heard all the way to Broadway Station. In walked Tommy Connors with an entourage of Saints, the toughest gang in Southie, leading the way as Tommy made his way through the crowd. I thought it fitting, even at that young age, that Tommy and Scratch entered the gym from two different directions. Tommy entered from the door closer to the lower end and Scratch entered from the door closer to the Point. It couldn't have been set up any better. The electricity in the ancient gym was like a Celtics-Lakers seventh game. It took Connors at least twenty minutes to work his way through the crowd and down to the locker room. This was big. There were no neutral observers that night. You were either for Tommy, if you were from the Lower End or for Scratch if you were from the Point.

Usually on St. Patrick Day fight

nights, the locker room was pretty much left to the fighters, a few trainers and a few friends. That night, in 1964, the locker room was filled to capacity as the fighters prepared to do battle. With so many people downstairs in the locker room, I said to Knocko, "Let's go, now's our chance to get a good seat." We hurried upstairs and found two empty seats four rows from the ring, as the fighters entered the gym. Connors had on high laced black boxing boots, green and white trunks with a shamrock on the side. He had a beautiful green and white jacket that said "Irish Tommy Connors" on the back. Scratch, on the other hand, was wearing a pair of ordinary gym trunks, a pair of white sneakers with white socks and a plain black sweatshirt and he still had his glasses on. The difference couldn't have been more apparent. Connors shadow boxed around the ring, throwing jabs and four and five punch combinations at an invisible opponent. Scratch just stood in his corner and looked at Connors like he was crazy. "He's going to get killed," I said again to Knocko. Joe Heirty called the fighters to the center of the ring and gave them instructions. It was to be a three round fight with each round lasting three minutes.

Scratch walked back to his corner, took off his glasses and his sweatshirt and all of a sudden I saw a different kid. The skinny kid with glasses now looked like a linebacker and a strong one at that. He was really well built. Connors actually looked small compared to Scratch as the bell rang. Connors danced around throwing jab after jab which did nothing to stop Scratch's relentless pursuit. "Stay out of the corner," Connors handlers

screamed. Scratch seemed oblivious to the jabs and combinations that Connors threw from all angles. He stalked Connors like he was prey and he pushed him and tied him up and often looked clumsy compared to the polished Connors, but he never took a step backward. He pushed Connors into the ropes, he smothered him. Connors looked confused. "He's a lot tougher than I thought," I said to Knocko. Round one to Connors.

They came out for round number two and it was now Scratch who was throwing bombs. Connors deftly avoided all but one. That one, Connors took in the liver; you could see the pain on his face. Scratch continued to throw haymakers and again Connors looked confused. Scratch had him off his game plan and he actually won the second round. The third round, both fighters went at each other like rock 'em sock 'em robots. Neither gave an inch and neither stopped throwing punches. It was now a street fight and the crowd was on their fight and screaming the entire three minutes. Connors hit Scratch with a five punch combination with such quickness that Scratch had no defense for. But, he took the punches, and even though he was hurt, he kept coming forward. When the bell sounded ending the fight the crowd cheered wildly as Connors and Scratch embraced in the center of the ring. It seemed like an eternity before Joe Heirty stepped to the center of the ring and announced that the judges had scored the fight a draw. It was the right call. Neither fighter deserved to lose that fight that night. Connors looked disappointed. Scratch looked happy to have survived and left the ring quickly

CONTINUED ON page 32

Linehan Putting Finishing Touches on St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

Saint Patrick's Day is almost here and Councilor Bill Linehan is finalizing jokes and warming up his vocal chords for the St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day Breakfast. This year's Breakfast promises some great guests and a few surprises as well. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Tom Menino & Speaker of the House Bob DeLeo are just some of the notable politicians from around the Commonwealth that will be in attendance. Former Senator Jack Hart will be recognized for his dedication to his constituents and his contributions to the annual Breakfast for past years. Special

guest performance will be by the world famous musical group, Celtic Woman. There will be plenty of laughs, singing and surprises, so be sure to tune in.

"I want to wish everyone a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day. I'm looking forward to a great time at the Breakfast and then hustling up to the Parade. It's always great to see so many friends along the route," said Councilor Linehan. The Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast will be broadcast live on New England Cable News (NECN) from 10am to 12pm. Tune in while the corned beef is boiling for some great entertainment.



Jim Brett, New England Council

Jim Brett has been elected President of the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health. Brett is the President and CEO of The New England Council, a group that represents businesses across all six New England states, and has worked for more than 20 years as an activist on behalf of those with intellectual disabilities. That work has included serving as chairman of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability. The Boston-based Massachusetts Association for Mental Health is a non-profit that advocates for the creation of services for those with mental illness.



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Too Many Options - Home Entertainment

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Peter Ostashen

If you have walked into your local electronics store lately to look for a new TV, DVD player, or surround sound system it can be quite a daunting task. If you look on the shelves or on the display wall there tends to be over one hundred different combinations.

TV's have too many features these days and most of it is to encourage you the consumer to keep upgrading. The manufacturers want consumers to continuously upgrade, but is it really necessary? If you take a deeper dive into the Applications that come loaded, and all of the bells and whistles that the salesman tries to sell you, your computer already does. There are cheaper ways to get that functionality from your computer screen to your TV screen and we will touch on that in a future article. The main thing you need to know when buying a TV is that there are 3 main technologies with flat panels – LED, which is the newest to the market, LCD, and Plasma. The LED TV is going to have a crisper image and is going to be more energy efficient but with that being said they are going to cost more money because LCD and Plasma are an older but still very reliable design. If you find a great deal that suits your needs, chances are it is going to do everything you want it to do. Just don't let a salesman up sell you on features you don't really need just so they can get a better commission.

If you have shopped for DVD's recently you will notice there are two technologies out there; Blue-ray and standard DVD's. Blue-rays will only play in special Blue-ray DVD players and are designed

to take advantage of high definition sound and high definition TV's for the ultimate theater experience. Most Blue-ray players can downgrade and play regular DVD's so if you're in the market for a new player keep that in mind. I would go with a blue-ray player as long as you get it at the right price and within your budget. If you want to get the best blue-ray experience, you want to make sure you have a true 1080p TV with full HD-surround to get the true blue-ray experience.

There are many surround sound options out there; some are box sets that come with all of the components and cables but some you have to build yourself. Some surround sound receivers come combined with a DVD player and some are just receivers that play your devices audio through external speakers. When deciding on a project like this do yourself a favor and determine a budget as that will help you decide which route you want to go. If you have never had a surround sound system before I would recommend that you start with a box set that has everything you need so that you can become comfortable with how things work. In a few years when you want to upgrade it will really help when you try to piece your own system together.

Remember technology is changing rapidly every day, don't be discouraged if you buy a new setup and go into your local store the next month and a newer model is out. This is part of the technology lifecycle and it is impossible to stay on top of the curve. If you have any further questions please email me at: peter@ostashenconsulting.com



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The Artist's Studio

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Deb Putnam

Tommy Cherry is a true son of Southie. Husband, father, firefighter and artist, it is easy to see his love of community and family through his expressive oil paintings. Whether painting a row of sherbet colored triple-deckers or two girls rigging a sail in Pleasure Bay, he captures a moment in time with his sure brush strokes and bright, fresh color. You may have seen his paintings in one of his numerous shows at the 224 Boston Street Restaurant where he is a perennial favorite or at the Marina Bay Arts Festival in Quincy. He is a charter member of the South Boston Arts Association and recently shared his art and process with a painting demonstration as the Artist of the Month.

Born in South Boston to Jacky Cherry and Nancy Troy 37 years ago, Tommy speaks of his fortune to have grown up in Southie, where as a youth, he participated in all the great local sports programs. He learned to sail at the McDonough Sailing program although he adds "We were more into tipping the sailboats over on purpose though, to go for a swim out in the middle of the lagoon. It's nice to see places like this in Southie are still going strong." He grew up eating hot dogs at Sullies, and spending weekday August afternoons at M street beach with a Herald and a cooler. He speaks of all the great friends he's made and people he's met here over the years.

These days Tommy is continuing those great memories with wife and muse, Monica, his adorable son Patrick and another little Cherry on the way in May. He claims to have the best job in the world at the Boston Fire Department - Ladder 15, which affords him time to spend with his family and to pursue his painting. Tommy remembers scribbling as a kid, drawing as an adolescent and then picking up painting his 20's. For the past 5 years he has been pursuing his art seriously. He has studied painting under artists Casey Baugh, William St George and South

Boston's own, Bobby Farrell.

Attending numerous workshops in Rockport and Cape Cod has helped him to hone his craft. He has always been drawn to Southie scenes like Sullies, Muls, the Bandstand or Gatey, but recently he has been painting more figurative scenes.

Whenever he can, Tommy is trying to paint outside more "to better grasp the light in a painting, something, you really can't in a photo." Aiming to focus on capturing a moment and the light along with choosing interesting subjects has become an important part of his process. His bolder, thicker, brushstrokes, along with a clever composition, help to create a feeling of spontaneity and joy in all his paintings.

If you get a chance, check out Tommy's blog at SouthBostonArt.blogspot.com.



[blogspot.com](http://SouthBostonArt.blogspot.com) where he has begun an interesting and innovative artist endeavor. To harness the power of Social Networking he is taking on commission-like requests from anyone that would like to see the process of a photo become a painting. It is fascinating to watch as he takes you on an artist's journey, step by step, from beginning to completion. If anyone out there has any ideas for some paintings of Southie, Boston, or Cape Cod landmarks, and think it would make a cool painting, you can make requests via his Facebook page. Each week he selects a few photos and paints them. The paintings will then be available for sale, with first dibs going to the person that submitted the request. For more information on Tommy Cherry's art please visit his website: www.southbostonart.com.

The Irish and How They Got that Way

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Review by: John Joseph Fahey

Nestled within Davis Square (and the close by Davis Square MBTA station), at the intimate yet spacious Davis Square Theatre in Somerville, Frank McCourts's lively and often comedic *The Irish and How They Got That Way* continues its run for the next several weeks.

Directed by Danielle Paccione, this dynamic and spirited presentation looks at the lives of the Irish with all its sullenness and vivaciousness from the Emerald Isle through the Diaspora – via narrative and music; the later being an integral part of the production as the audience is treated to such well known songs as *If You Ever Go Across The Sea to Ireland, I'll Take You Home Again* Kathleen, *Torra, Lorra, Lorra*, and *The Fields of Athenry*. However, particular note must be made of several medleys

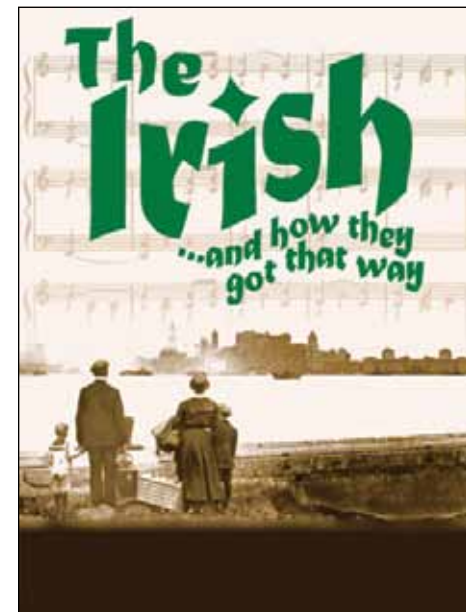
that definitely are memorable: Mrs. McGrath, *Shores of Amerikay*, *Finnegan's Wake*, and *Danny Boy*, which was sung by Gregg Hammer.

Gregg, as well as the rest of the ensemble demonstrated their thespian and musical talents to a full house on the night of February 23rd – a full house that obviously enjoyed the performance. Not only were the actors engaging in their portrayal of the humble Irishman and woman striving to overcome impoverishment in their native land, but also well represents those who were fortunate enough to migrate and make it in a land of opportunity – indicated with such songs as *Give My Regards to Broadway*, *You're a Grand Old Flag/Over There* and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*.

Certainly, the litany of names mentioned of those who have made an impact on American culture is

quite impressive, notably President John F. Kennedy, with the song *Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye*. The Irish did make an impact, all the more remarkable given the prejudice that existed upon the arrival of the Irish and which continued through subsequent years and finally abated when the Irish made inroads in the political arena; the actors do a laudable job in exhibiting this.

Along with Gregg Hammer, the ensemble for this performance included Meredith Beck, Alexander Sovronsky, Jon Dykstra (who also serves as Musical Director), Janice Landry and Irene Molloy. Indubitably, the word ensemble, with this cast, cannot be overstated as the company utilizes such instruments as Flute, Percussion, Guitar, Mandolin, Violin, Piano, Harmonica, and Mountain Dulcimer; and, of course, the strong



and exuberant vocals.

Choreography is by Sebastian Goldberg.

The Irish and How They Got That Way is performing at the Davis Square Theatre, 255 Elm Street, in Somerville.



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BRA

The Boston Redevelopment Authority
will host a public meeting regarding
the Massachusetts Convention Center
Authority (MCCA) PDA filing

on **Monday, March 18, 2013 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm**
at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Room 154, 415
Summer Street, Boston, MA 02119

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (the "Proponent") has filed a Second Amended and Restated Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 50 in South Boston, including a description of the area involved and a fact sheet (collectively, the "PDA Plan"), which was filed on Friday, February 22, 2013, under Section 80C-5.2 of the Boston Zoning Code. Comment period ends on Monday, April 8, 2013.

Boston
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BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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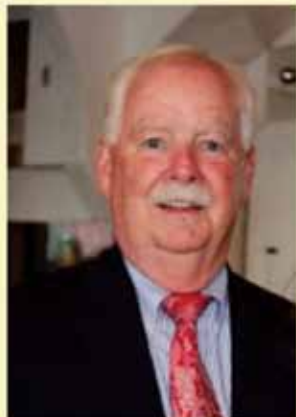
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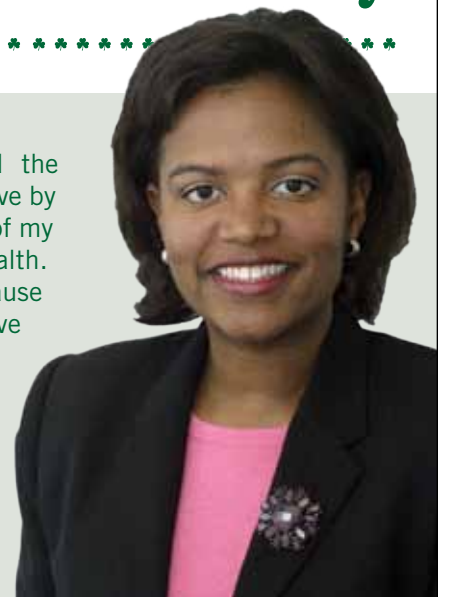
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from

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Some Irish Humor Collected From Our Readers

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up me Irish Whiskey!'

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and asks the first man he meets, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

The man said, 'I do, Father.'

The priest said, 'Then stand over there against the wall.'

Then the priest asked the second man, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

'Certainly, Father,' the man replied.

'Then stand over there against the wall,' said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and asked, 'Do you want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'No, I don't Father.'

The priest said, 'I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?'

O'Toole said, 'Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now.'

Patton staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Paddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Kathleen.

He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful.

Managing not to yell, Patton sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood.

He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed..

In the morning, Patton woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Kathleen staring at him from across the room.

She said, 'You were drunk again last night weren't you?'

Patton said, 'Why you say such a mean thing?'

'Well,' Kathleen said, 'it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror.'

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, 'Sir, have you been drinking?'

'Just water,' says the priest.

The trooper says, 'Then why do I smell wine?'

The priest looks at the bottle and says, 'Good Lord! He's done it again!'



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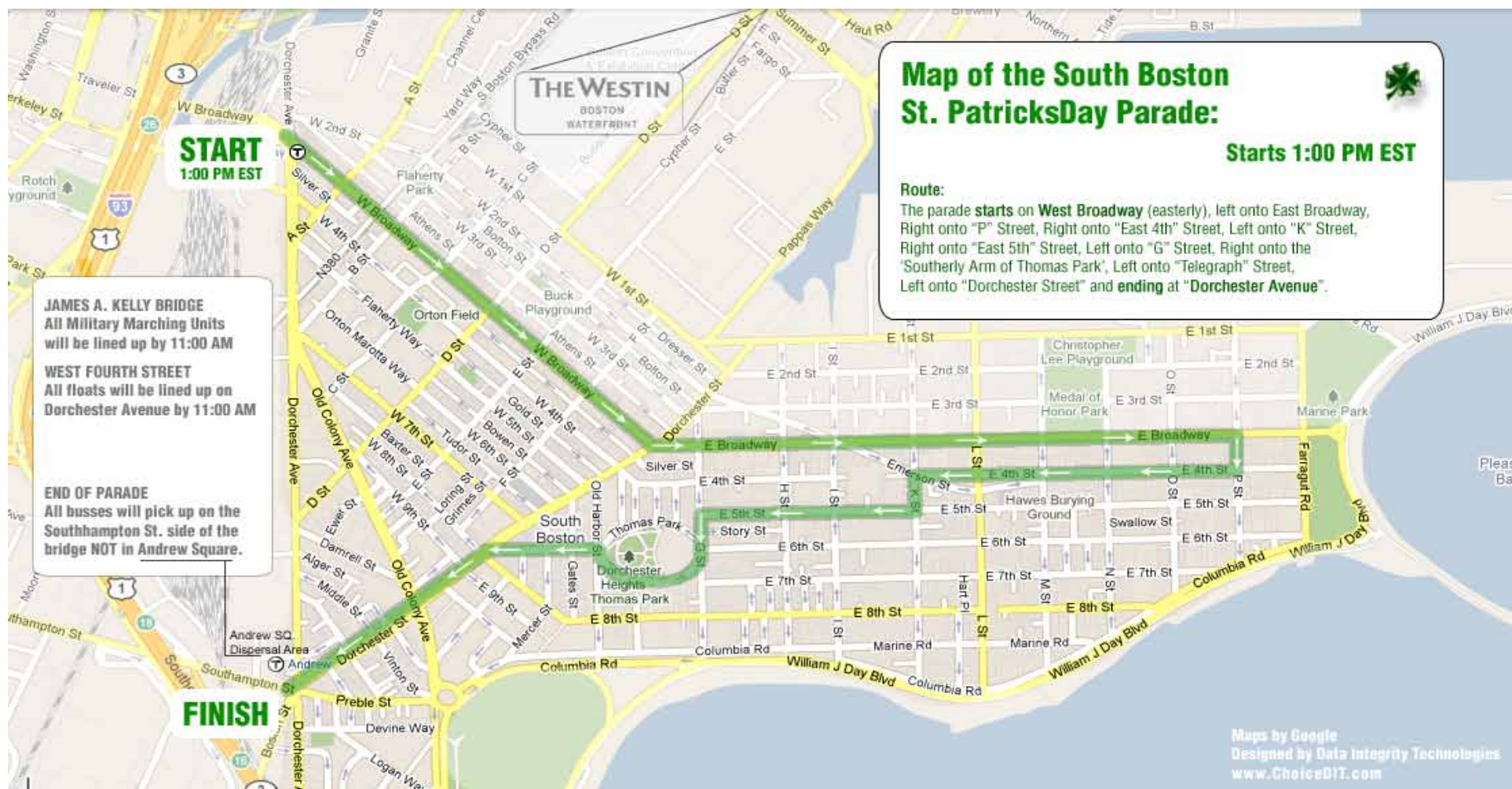
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13. Immaculate Heart of Mary Still Water MA. Representative Nick Collins
14. Paso Fino Del Fuego Farm Inc. Middleboro MA. Mike Bruce
15. 101st Combat Engineers WW2 Vets John Piantadosi
16. Catamount Pipe Band Marshfield VT. James Mulhegan
17. United States Marine Corps. Boston Recruiting Sgt. McLeod
18. 103rd Electricians Fife and Drum Band Kenny Talent Congressman Bill Linehan
19. U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard Kevin Patrick Richie
20. United States Coast Guard Steve Lavzon

21. Quahaug Highlanders Pipe Band Monson MA.
22. Iron Workers Local #7 Bob K.
23. Sanford High School Marching Band Sanford ME.
24. Ghost-busters United Waltham MA. Kevin James
25. Kevin Barry Irish American Pipe Band Pat McDonnell (Mt. Wash. Bk.)
26. Men of St. Patrick "The Emmett Kelley Clowns"
27. Boston Fire Department Marchers Antique Piece & Color Guard
28. Bishop Guertin High Marching Band (Nat. Park Serv.)
29. Boston Recruiting Company Sgt. Carig
30. Clowning For Kids Foundation West Warren MA.
31. Water Witch Hose Company Pipe Band Milford CT.
32. Friendly Sons Of Saint Patrick New Bedford MA.
33. Barber Shop Harmony Society Prov. RI.
34. Mass Maritime Marching Band Wayne McGee (FGOL)
35. Lexington Minutemen
36. The New England Brethren of Pirates Brendan Barry
37. The Irish United Nations Veterans Assn.
38. Douglas High School Marching Band
39. South Boston Citizens Association
40. Pipe fitters Local 537 Boston

2013 OFFICIAL PARADE ROSTER continued

41. 505th Regiment Combat Engineers Keith Patenaude
42. Bible Baptist Church
43. Local #17 Sheet Metal Workers Tin Men Float and Marchers
44. Worcester Sound and Lights Joe Tortorelli
45. South Boston Educational Complex Jr. ROTC Maj. K
46. Thomas J. Kenny School Marching Band Boston MA.
47. Wheels of Time Car Club Avon MA.
48. Aleppo Mini Haulers
49. The New Liberty Jazz Band
50. Daniel K. Poling Chapter 992 Vietnam Vets
51. 501st New England Garrison "50 Star Wars Characters"
52. 505th RCT WW 2 Reenactment Kieth Patenaude
53. Boston Celtics Sean Sullivan
54. Kick-Ass K-9 Rescue Stacia Gorgone
55. North East Italian Band Sal Erna
56. New England Regional Council of Carpenters Paul Greeley
57. Mass 22nd Volunteers Infantry Patrick Brown
58. Hudson Highlanders Pipe Band Garrison NY Mark Civita
59. Cape Cod Fire Brigade "Shriner s" Jack Grant
60. New England Revolution Soccer Team
61. Tony Barrie Band Saugus MA.
62. City of Boston Credit Union
63. Wachusett Brewing Company T.J. Morse
64. Hot Tamale Brass Band (Truck) Mikey Bones Cahill
65. Robert Treat Paine Chapter Son's of The American Revolution
66. Veterans for Our National Honor Guard 2 Fire Trucks "Smokey Joe's"
67. Merrimack Valley Concert band Anthony Beatrice
68. LMPK Event Super Hero's Woburn MA.
69. 85th Regiment De Saintonge
70. South Boston Historical Society Marchers
71. St. Brennan's Youth Gaelic Football
72. Mass Bay Credit Union
73. Boston Bruins Ice Girls
74. Boston Young Marines ROTC
75. Son's of The American Revolution E. Bridgewater MA.
76. Electric Attack Squadron 209 Star Warriors
77. Sutherland Pipe Band Boston MA. Mike Saltis
78. Boston Celtics Basketball
79. Thomas Doherty Cronagort Doolin County Clair Ireland
80. Middlesex County 4H Fife & Drum Sudbury MA. Kelly Lavari
81. Boston Red Dog
82. The American Made Hero's
83. Ghosts and Gravestones 1 Trolly
84. Jambalaya Jazz Band Jim Kilroy
85. Cycling Murray Family
86. Musical Leprechauns Bill Dalton
87. Local 35 Painters and Allied Tradesman John Doherty Jr.

88. Newport Ancient Order of Hibernian s Pipe Band Newport RI.
89. Community Rowing Inc. Brighton MA. Steve Sutter
90. Billy D & The Rocket Doop Show Band
91. Joseph A. McCarthy Memorial Scholarship Fund
92. Teamsters Local #25
93. South End Show Stoppers Joanna Acevedo Dance Team
94. Tony Roma Marching Band
95. Chelsea Solders Home Tom McDonough
96. Liberty Tax Service
97. Pogo Dave
98. National American Miss Massachusetts
99. Danny O'Connor Boxing
100. South Boston Arts Assn. Dan McCole & Rick Winterson
101. Leathernecks Motor Cycle Club
102. South Boston Girl Scouts Debbie McCarren
103. Silver Dolphin Honor Guard & Drill Team Groton CT. John Greer
104. WAAF Radio
105. New England Coffee Company John Chase
106. Evolution 101.7 FM
107. Boston EMS Jake Doyle
108. Jam-min 94.5 FM
109. The Box Of Records Mike Majorowski Band
110. New England Coed Pageants Michelle Landry
111. Last Hope K-9 Rescue Rachel Huelfman
112. Mass Wing Civil Air Patrol Steve Lavzon
113. FM 96.9 Boston Talks Radio WTKK
114. Gotham City Police Department
115. Boston Moped Army
116. New Bedford High School Jr. ROTC
117. USCG Division
118. WEEI Radio
119. WROL Irish Hit
120. The Blue Mobile "Elliot & Jake"
121. Halo Float 3 Vehicles Tim Trealy
122. Beam Inc. & Kilbeggan Distilleries Emily Duffy
123. American Red Cross
124. Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Dawn Leighton
125. Urban Advent ours Natile Brady
126. 105.7 FM WROR Radio
127. Peter Haslam Group Red Castle Ireland
128. Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation Maria Sullivan
129. South End Dynamite Baton Twirlers
130. Bee's Knee's Supply Co. Jennifer Turner
131. Allied Integrated Marketing Carly Benton
132. MIX 104.1 CBS Radio, WBMX
133. Boston Beer Company
134. South Boston Hope & Recovery
135. "Boston City Sweepers

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The End of This Parade

“SOUTHIE”

By Billy O’Neill, Jr.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TOWN WITH THE MONUMENT ON THE HILL
WHERE EVERYONE KNEW EACH OTHER & TIME STOOD STILL
REMEMBERING SOUTHIE BACK IN THE DAY
WHERE PEOPLE WOULD SHOP & CHILDREN WOULD PLAY
GROWING UP WITH YOUR FRIENDS & WALKING TO SCHOOL
WHEN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS & LOYALTY WAS THE GOLDEN RULE
REMEMBERING CARSON BEACH ON THE 4TH OF JULY
WHERE NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS WOULD SEE THE FIREWORKS FLY
GATHERING ON THE FRONT DOORSTEPS ON A HOT SUMMER NIGHT
WAITING FOR THE CRABMAN WITH THE PUSH CART FOR A DELIGHT
WAS A THING EVERYONE DID WHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS TIGHT
THE BEACHES WERE PACKED WITH SUMMERTIME FUN
BACK WHEN FAMILY & FRIENDS MET IN THE SUN
WE HAD NEIGHBORHOOD STORES LIKE POBERS, ROBELL'S & SANDS
BARS LIKE STRIGGIES, CASSIDY'S, PBL, THE LIGHTHOUSE, MACS & ENGLISHES
WHERE NEIGHBORS MET & SHOOK HANDS
WHETHER YOU LIVED UP THE POINT OR DOWN THE LOWER END
REMEMBERING BRIGHAMS & MARYANNS WHERE PEOPLE WOULD MEET
JUST TO TALK TO OLD FRIENDS & GET SOMETHING TO EAT
SOUTHIE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY WAS THE PLACE TO BE
AS WACKO HURLEY HAD GREEN BEER & IRISH BANDS TO SEE
LITTLE LEAGUE & BABE RUTH, CHIPPEWAS DOWN COLUMBUS PARK
SOFTBALL AT M. ST. UNTIL DARK
WATCHED BY MOTHERS & FATHERS NOT FORGOTTEN TO THIS DAY
IT WAS SUCH A JOY TO WATCH THEM ALL PLAY
GORINS, SLOCUMS, & WOOLWORTHS, JOES SPA I REMEMBER
THE CAR STOP THAT CLOSED DOWN ONE NOVEMBER
PIMPLE BALL & HALF BALL WERE PLAYED UNTIL DARK
AND SPUCKIES FROM DIRTY JOHNS ACROSS FROM THE PARK
AT OUR OWN PARISH CHURCH ON SUNDAY WE WOULD PRAY
THE GIRLS ARE WORSE THAN THE BOYS MONSIGNOR WATERS WOULD SAY
GOING DOWN CASTLE ISLAND WITH YOUR PARENTS FOR A STROLL
AND STOPPING AT SULLIVANS FOR A HOT DOG ON A ROLL
IRISH NIGHT THURSDAYS AT CASTLE ISLAND WHERE WE ALWAYS MET THE GIRLS
TO ALL OF YOU WHO REMEMBER & THOSE WHO NEVER WILL
SOUTHIE HIGH AT WHITE STADIUM WHERE THE STANDS WERE ALWAYS FILLED
BOSTON GARDEN WHERE THE SHRIMP BOATS FROM THE HILL
AND THE 1956 CHAMPIONS GAVE US QUITE THE THRILL
OUR OLD SOUTHIE IS GONE WITH ONLY MEMORIES TO FILL
SOUTHIE TIES WERE WELL SEWN, OUTSIDERS WILL NEVER KNOW.



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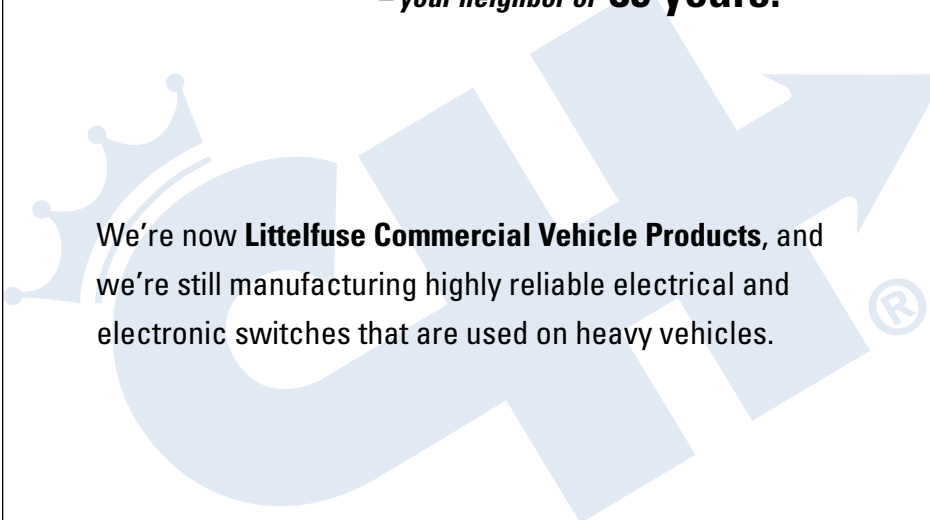


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SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN

I WAS BORN DOWN ON A STREET, RAISED UP ON B STREET
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT
PERMIT ME TO SHOUT IT, WE'RE THE TOPS FROM MILES AROUND
WE HAVE DOCTORS & TRAPPERS, PREACHERS & FLAPPERS
MEN FROM THE OLD COUNTY DOWN
SAY THEY'LL TAKE YOU & BREAK YOU BUT NEVER FORSAKE YOU
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN
I HAD AN ARGUMENT THE OTHER DAY WITH A GUY FROM OSCALOO
HE WAS BRAGGIN BOUT HIS OLD HOME TOWN SAYS I TO HIM WHAT TO DO
I GOT HOT RIGHT UNDER THE COLLAR TO THAT SCHOLAR I DID HOLLAR
I WAS BORN DOWN ON A STREET, RAISED UP ON B STREET
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT
PERMIT ME TO SHOUT IT, WE'RE THE TOPS FROM MILES AROUND
WE HAVE DOCTORS & TRAPPERS, PREACHERS & FLAPPERS
MEN FROM THE OLD COUNTY DOWN
SAY THEY'LL TAKE YOU & BREAK YOU BUT NEVER FORSAKE YOU
SOUTHIE IS MY HOME TOWN

The Wearing Of The Green

Lyrics

O Paddy dear, and did ye hear the news that's goin' round?
The shamrock is by law forbid to grow on Irish ground!
No more Saint Patrick's Day we'll keep, his color can't be seen
For there's a cruel law ag'in the Wearin' o' the Green."
I met with Napper Tandy, and he took me by the hand
And he said, "How's poor old Ireland, and how does she stand?"
"She's the most distressful country that ever yet was seen
For they're hanging men and women there for the Wearin' o' the Green."

"So if the color we must wear be England's cruel red
Let it remind us of the blood that Irishmen have shed
And pull the shamrock from your hat, and throw it on the sod
But never fear, 'twill take root there, though underfoot 'tis trod.

When laws can stop the blades of grass from growin' as they grow
And when the leaves in summer-time their color dare not show
Then I will change the color too I wear in my caubeen
But till that day, please God, I'll stick to the Wearin' o' the Green.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

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Danny Boy

Lyrics

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side
The summer's gone, and all the flowers are dying
 'Tis you, 'tis you must go and I must bide.
But come ye back when summer's in the meadow
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow
 'Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so.

And if you come, when all the flowers are dying
 And I am dead, as dead I well may be
You'll come and find the place where I am lying
 And kneel and say an "Ave" there for me.

And I shall hear, tho' soft you tread above me
And all my dreams will warm and sweeter be
If you'll not fail to tell me that you love me
I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me.
I'll simply sleep in peace until you come to me.

I'll Tell My Ma

Lyrics

Chorus

I'll tell my ma when I go home
The boys won't leave the girls alone
They pulled my hair, they stole my comb
But that's all right till I go home.
She is handsome, she is pretty
She is the bell of Belfast city
She is counting one, two, three
Please won't you tell me who is she.
Albert Mooney says he loves her
All the boys are fighting for her
They knock at the door and they ring at the bell
Sayin' "Oh my true love, are you well?"
Out she comes as white as snow
Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes
Old John Murray says she'll die
If she doesn't get the fellow with the roving eye.

Chorus

Let the wind and rain and the hail blow high
And the snow come tumblin' from the sky
She's as nice as apple pie
She'll get her own lad by and by.
When she gets a lad of her own
She won't tell her ma when she goes home
Let them all come as they will
For it's Albert Mooney she loves still.

Chorus (twice)



Céad Mile Failte



"A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!"

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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*Source: MLSpin

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Southie's Own

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

Today's article is at least a three-fer. Sometimes we profile an artist or a business person or a resident making their mark abroad. Please meet Bridget Nee-Walsh, the owner of "Southie's Own" a shop of Irish imports and custom gifts. Instead of buying one of these cheap, mass produced, pieces of cheesecloth from a street vendor, you'll have an originally designed item really from Irish South Boston. As well as supporting a local business. Which will be here after the marchers and spectators have all gone home.

The youngest of Thomas and Grace Walsh's six children, Bridget grew up at "G" and 7th Street. One of her earliest memories is of her father drawing. This instilled a love for art that Bridget pursued after her education at the Laboure, Gate of Heaven and Archbishop Williams High School.

In 2001 she graduated from the

"Burren" Art School in County Claire, Ireland. In 2004, she attended and graduated from the Art Academy of Montserrat. This island nation speaks Gaelic in certain region as a result of Irish missionaries. Besides oil and watercolor, Bridget is a graphic artist. In addition, she is an iron sculptor. Did I mention she holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree?

Her shop's name reveals another talent. Bridget hand paints baby clothes and one customer was so impressed he demanded a "Brand Name". After consideration, Bridget settled on "Southie's Own" as a label that captured the essence of her work. After all, as she points out "growing up in South Boston gave me the confidence I could succeed in art or in any venture I tried."

Her ventures are many as proved by the art studio she maintains in King Terminal at L and First Street. An example of what her

talents produced is a child's toy box beautifully covered in firefighter motif, complete with the fire fighters prayer. Bridget custom paints every piece and creates a work of art.

In her spare time Bridget is a welder with Local 7 of the Ironworkers Union where she has worked for the past seven years.

You might say she creates large art when the next skyscraper goes up.

If you want to present yourself with an original design of Irish art our many faceted artist, Bridget, will be there to assist 10-6pm weekly. Leading up to the parade, the hours are expanded 10-8pm. So come and visit at 394 West Broadway.



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Happy St. Patrick's Day
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Southie Music Men: Where Are They Now

The Story of Rhondo

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Mike Quigley and Brian Wallace

Rhondo was a Southie band that played around Boston in the early to mid 1970's, but will always be remembered as a Southie's Soul Band. The band first got together as a result of a street corner gathering on the corner of K Street and 7th Street in South Boston. The gathering of local kids hanging on corners was the norm for so many in Southie. The kids who hung out on the corner of K Street and 7th Street were composed of a lot of musicians. This particular corner seemed to attract the musical and artistic kids of the area. On a corner where there could be a gathering of ten to over fifty kids hanging out, it was almost assured most of them were musicians. There were at least five to seven bands that were actively playing who hung on this corner. It was a place to share musical information as well as a social place to congregate.

The origin of Rhondo began on this street corner. Four of the regulars on this corner were; Louie Sasso, Gussy Wright, Jimmy Quigley and Jake Trainor. The four mentioned had always been in bands previously, but were not playing in any organized band at the time. It was Louie that suggested to Gussy, Jimmy, and Jake that they should start a band. The 'roots' of the band would be: Louie on Lead Vocals, Gussy on guitar, keys, sax and flute, Jimmy on Bass and Jake on drums and backup vocals. This was the origin of the band called Rhondo.

The band songs were mostly Motown oriented, with some rock songs thrown in. The band performed songs by Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Van Morrison, The Beatles and so many more. Rhondo started to play local clubs and bars around Southie and New Hampshire. Like so many bands at the time, Rhondo had a following that would travel to their shows no matter how far away they played. They were the house band at a Southie club owned by former Boston Bruins goaltender Gerry Cheevers which was located at B and West Broadway called Patcheesi and later Barney Grogan and Street Lights.

The band had its sights focused on getting into the better venues in Boston at a place called The Garage. It was not long before there were playing at that club on a regular basis. Later that year, a new member joined the band to add even more talent to the already popular band and expanded the music and vocals to a new level. This new member was John Baker. John Baker was a native of Dorchester, but good friends with both Gussy Wright and Jimmy Quigley. John added a whole new extension to the band in performing more and more Soul music. John also brought his talent of expertise in playing guitar, flute and saxophone to the band as well as his ability to sing lead vocals. John's lead guitar work also led the band to be able to play some songs by the Allman Brothers Band in which he and Gussy would switch back and forth on guitar leads as well as lead guitar harmony parts. This was best represented in Rhondo's version of Blue Sky by the Allman Brothers. John also added some great flute solos as in Van Morrison's song Moondance.

In 1975, Gussy Wright and Jake Trainor left the band and were replaced with John Bowe on keyboards, guitar and vocals and Mike Ferrell on drums. The mainstream music of the band did not change though. The 'new Rhondo' was also putting a Promo package together for Lordly and Dane who were a top notch agency in Boston. The band played for a few more years, and like most rock bands, they finally broke up and each went their own separate ways. Some of the only memories of the band are a few photos and some good audio recordings will always be around. The memories of the band will always be there as well. We hope that this article will bring back good memories of the band and how things were at that time. The 'old' days are gone, but a few reminders of those days, in my opinion, are always a good feeling. I hope you feel the same. Where have you gone Eddie Tuma Adams?

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Around Town

Evacuation Day and Memorial/ Historical Exercises This Saturday

South Boston citizens' Association will be conducting the Annual Memorial/Historical exercises this Saturday, March, 16th, due to the Parade falling on the 17th. A Mass will begin the celebration at St. Augustine's Chapel; the oldest Catholic Church in Boston will be celebrated by this year's Henry Knox recipient Father Joe White at 9:00AM. Margret lynch will be the honorary chairperson for the mass.

The exercises will then proceed by a gathering up on Dorchester Heights Approximately 10:00A.M. to observe and celebrate the British evacuation of Boston in 1776 – the first colonial victory of the Revolutionary War.

Henry Knox, a colonial Colonel at the time, brought the British cannons from Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York. State Representative Nick Collins, Past SBCA President Bernie O'Donnell and South Boston Historical Society's Bob Allison will chair the event.

The Association encourages all to attend and bring a friend to this important part of American history, as they will announce the poster and essay contest winners. Depending on weather, the plan is to present awards at the Heights. Clerk of Courts Michael Donovan and Maura Doyle will chair the awards presentation.

Final Shout Out

Here is the final Roster, please let everyone know that Friday the 15th will be the deadline for all "Southie Shout-Outs" and to please donate to this year's parade by dropping a few dollars in the Parade Bucks Boxes located in most variety stores and liquor stores, or by donating online at www.southbostonparade.org

Thanks for all your help!
Tim Duross

Brian's Beat... CONTINUED FROM page 7

before they changed the result. I thought Connors won and my friend Louie Lentini though that Scratch had won, but Louie was from the Point.

Connors went on to have a tremendous professional boxing career and is in quite a few boxing Hall of Fames. He is still involved with the St. Patrick's Day Boxing Show and he trains young Southie boxers at Peter Welch's gym. Tommy is always giving back. Scratch went on to have an outstanding football career at Southie High and there are many who say that the Southie backfield of Pat Flaherty and Scratch Scarcella was the best backfield combination ever to wear Southie uniforms. I'll leave that for others to speculate about. All I know is that on a cold March night in 1964 a young Southie kid from the lower end saw one of the best fights he had ever seen and has never forgotten the event, even after all these years.



BRA Public Meeting

March 18, 2013, 6:30 - 8:00PM at the BCEC, Room 154

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) will host a public meeting regarding the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) PDA filing for 371 – 401 D Street at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), 415 Summer Street, South Boston. The MCCA will provide a Shuttle Service along two separate routes to and from the BCEC in South Boston.

Route A:

Location:	Pick-Up Time:
L & East Broadway	5:30PM
I & East Broadway	5:32PM
G & East Broadway	5:34PM
West Broadway (Municipal Parking Lot)	5:37PM
D & West Broadway	5:40PM
B & West Broadway	5:42PM
Broadway Station	5:45PM
A & Melcher Street	5:48PM
BCEC	5:52PM

Route B:

Location:	Pick-Up Time:
Old Colony Ave. & Preble Street (Rotary Variety Store)	5:30PM
Old Colony & Dorchester Street	5:33PM
D & West Seventh Street	5:45PM
Condon School (200 D St.)	5:47PM
D & West Broadway	5:50PM
D & West Second Street	5:52PM
BCEC	5:56PM

The Shuttle buses will do a return trip on both routes at the conclusion of the meeting.

If you have any questions please call 617-954-2000.



Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.

www.southbostontoday.com

Honorable Michael Joseph Donovan to Receive SBCA John Joseph Moakley Award

South Boston Citizens' Association President Tom McGrath is pleased to announce that Michael Joseph Donovan Clerk of Courts (Civil) has been chosen to receive the John Joseph Moakley award for Outstanding Government Service at the South Boston Citizens' Association's 133rd Annual Evacuation Day Banquet March 15, 2013. "It is an honor for the association to present this award to Clerk Donovan for his countless contributions to the betterment of South Boston and the Suffolk County for well over 40 years," McGrath said.

Michael Donovan currently serves as the Clerk-Magistrate for Suffolk County Superior Court Civil Business. He is a graduate

of Suffolk University and Suffolk Law School. Michael lives on East Fifth Street, with his wife Kathy and son, James. He is also active in soccer, baseball and basketball programs in the South Boston Community. Donovan, who is in his first year of his 7th term in office, is the only person ever elected that has worked in every position within the Clerk's Office, and at the time, Donovan was the youngest Assistant Clerk ever appointed in Suffolk County, and the youngest ever elected in Suffolk County. This award along with the Shamrock, President's and Doc Tynan awards will be presented at the Association's 133rd Annual Evacuation Day Banquet, to be

held on Friday evening, March 15th, at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. A host of invited dignitaries are expected to attend this year's banquet.

McGrath cautioned that tickets are sure to be purchased at a good pace, with so many of South Boston's most valued community leaders receiving awards. Curragh's Fancy will provide the entertainment. I urge those that are planning to attend to act fast. For information on tickets call Tom McGrath at 1-857-204-5825. This year parking will be available in the South Lot for \$12.00, with a shuttle service to the entrance for the Banquet. Valet service will still be available for the same rate as last year \$25.00

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Happy Birthday Dennis 'Sonny' Linehan



On a recent Saturday night the Michael J. Perkins Post at O and E. Fourth Streets was the scene of a surprise birthday party for well known and well liked Dennis 'Sonny' Linehan. Sonny's friends and family were able to keep it a tight secret passing the plans around the community by word of mouth, email, Face book and Twitter lists. When Sonny walked into the Post at 8pm, thinking he was going

to a party for a relative departing for the Marine Corps, he got quite a shock and surprise when he found a packed house gathered in his honor to wish him a Happy Birthday.

The wall to wall crowd of close friends and family members let out a roar of "SURPRISE!!" as a stunned Sonny stopped in his tracks with a puzzled look on his face, but just briefly. He quickly regained his composure, smiled to all his well

wishers and waded right into the crowd to dispense handshakes and hugs to all and some kisses for the ladies present and thank yous all around. A long line of good friends, Sonny's children, his siblings, cousins, grand children and others waited patiently as he made the rounds to all the tables. He was clearly now relaxed and enjoying himself very much.

As a DJ played, loud and non-stop,

all of Sonny's favorite songs the party got into high gear and went on into the night with everyone having a good time, kicking back and just enjoying the upbeat atmosphere, the company of so many good people and just the fun that only a Southie party can offer. From all of us at South Boston Today, we say as well - 'Happy Birthday' Dennis 'Sonny' Linehan. May you have many more and may they be just as happy as this one.

My First Parade

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Brian Wallace

My father Coleman “Bubby” Wallace was Past Commander of the Martin F McDonough Post in 1956 when he proudly asked me to march with him at the head of the parade. At the time, it wasn’t the first thing on my list to do that day but I knew it meant a great deal to him, which in turn meant a great deal to me. So I told him I would march as my older brother ran out of the room. No way was he marching. He was hanging with his buddies Ronny Lescinkas, Tommy Conley, Vinny Crowley, and Walter Ambrose. That night at dinner, my mother told me how happy my father was that I was going to march with him.

“Try this on.” She said as she reached into an old Bay View Men’s shop bag and produced a green scally cap. It was ugly and cheap and I balked.

“I said I would march but I didn’t

say I would wear that thing,” My mother tried another tactic.

“It is supposed to rain and you will need some kind of hat,” she said.

“Yeah that is some kind of hat.” I laughed. On the day of the big parade, my mother, as usual was right. It was pouring cats and dogs.

“Is the parade called off?” I asked anxiously at breakfast.

“We marched in a lot worse weather than this in the big one,” my father smiled. We headed out. The BIG ONE WWII. I didn’t how much the BIG ONE meant back then when I was six years old. I do now and I greatly respect all of the men and women who fought in that war of all wars. My father had a special bond with the members of the McDonough Post and it was because each could relate what they all went through back in the early 40’s. It was quite an honor for my father to be selected as Post Commander back then, but what

did I know. I just didn’t want any of my friends to see me with the stupid hat. I would never live it down. And I knew my brother and his friends were out there somewhere on the parade route waiting to ambush me. That was what I was thinking as we headed down to Andrew Square where the Parade started back then.

When we arrived my father was treated like a dignitary and was immediately escorted to the front of the parade and I right along with him. The rain was coming down in buckets and it was getting cold. I just wanted this whole thing to be over with as the Chief Marshall blew his whistle and we were off.

“What do I do Dad?” I asked. I really wasn’t parade savvy. I would get there, but not at six years old.

“Just wave to the people,” my father beamed. “But I don’t know them. I shot back.

“Today is a special day. We know

everyone and they know us. Now just wave and don’t forget to smile. Smile too? With this hat on?

We made our way up Dorchester Street and around the Heights when I noticed that instead of waving to me, people were pointing and laughing at me.

“Dad, these people are laughing at me. What is so funny?”

“They just love seeing someone as cute as you. That’s all, nobody is laughing,” my dad said looking down at me... I might have been six, but I wasn’t stupid. The pointing and the laughing continued as we made our way down Broadway. Then I saw my brother and his gang. Oh no! They were holding their sides laughing and calling me a leprechaun. I wanted this parade, this day, to be over.

We finally got to Broadway Station and I told my father I had to go to the bathroom.

“I will meet you up the McDonough Post,” he said as he accepted hugs and handshakes from friends and strangers alike. I had to go, so I sprinted up Broadway, climbed the hundred or so stairs to the McDonough Post and ran into the bathroom. When I looked in the mirror I almost fainted. My face was as green as the fields of Ireland. My hat was pure white. I knew it was a cheap hat. All of the rain washed the color off the hat and on to my face. No wonder people were laughing. I had these huge glasses. I stood about three and a half feet tall and I had a green face. Not patches of green, all green. I did look like a leprechaun. It took me a while to live it down and some of my oldest friends still call me “The Leprechaun”. At least I made my Dad happy and in the end that is really what counted the most.

Many years later as I walked up Broadway as South Boston’s State Representative I stopped in front of the McDonough Post and gave a salute. Most people didn’t know what I was doing, but my dad did from where he was watching the parade. “Happy St. Patrick’s Day Dad”.



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“The Tradition Continues”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

Besides Evacuation and St. Patrick's Day events and festivities, the start of March has always been a month of special interest in South Boston. At least in hockey circles.

After all, in addition to the NHL careers, Stanley Cups and National Collegiate titles Southie natives have been part of, the Murphy Rink is festooned with banners of national titles at mite and pee wee level. Perhaps the most impressive statistic may be that of South Boston High Hockey with 43 straight playoff appearances, unmatched in the state.

What's truly amazing this string began only three years after the construction of this town's skating rink. Sadly, the high school hockey team is presently disbanded. This says more about who is staying in public education than a lack of interest in Southie Hockey.

To prove that hockey interest is alive and well we have to look no further than South Boston son and Catholic Memorial High Hockey Captain Liam Coughlin. Leading scorer on his team, Liam had been held scoreless in the first two of the best three series against a great B.C. High team. The importance of this game in Stoneham, (at the rink Nancy Kerrigan made famous), was evidenced by the ticket line stretching 100 yards into the parking lot 10 minutes after the game started. B.C. took control of the first period as C. M. seemed to do a lot of floating and grabbing instead of hard skating. This led to a penalty and a B.C. power play goal and the lead after one period. The second followed the pattern until just after the halfway mark. Coughlin, with a speed burst he's known for, grabbing the puck outside the blue line, made one move then straight down the right side and from about 30 ft. wristed a laser that was in the back of the net as the goalie was still reaching.

B. C. took a 2-1 lead 5 minutes into the third. Again, Coughlin took a



feed at center ice, sped down the left drawing the defense, passed to Kevin Hock who hit Aaron Clancy in stride and it was tied up once again. When the P. A. announcer intoned “one minute left in the period” everyone began thinking overtime. Well, not everyone. C. M. launched a furious assault with Coughlin grabbing the puck at the left post, circled behind the net, skated out to the right front and hold and hold and hold and finally wristed a shot into the top of the net with 24.5 seconds left. Game, set, match. A wild celebration filled the ice as C.M. looked forward to a semi-final match up versus Malden Catholic.

After the game Coughlin stated “It was the happiest moment of my life” (obviously, momentarily forgetting his first South Boston Little League title under coach Mahoney). Liam is just the latest in a long line of South Boston hockey players who have made March a special time around here. South Boston Today wishes Coach Hanson, Liam, and the entire Catholic Memorial Hockey team the Luck of the Irish all the way to the championship.

A Good Way To Support Mass Mentoring Partnership

South Boston resident George Lobaton, who works for State Street and is running the Boston Marathon to raise money for the Mass Mentoring Partnership, will be competing in this weekend's South Boston 5K against fellow State Street employee and Boston Marathon runner Chris Collier to raise money running in a banana costume while Chris runs in a gorilla costume. For more information see their Facebook event

<https://www.facebook.com/events/341849409259586> or YouTube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJKXiDh42Z8>



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SBCA Boxing Show Re-scheduled for This Friday Night

The South Boston Citizens' Association will hold its 72st Annual Boxing Show this Friday Night, March 15th. At 7:00pm. Citizens' Association President, Thomas McGrath, stated The Association will again be sponsoring this year's show, as they have for 71 years. The Boxing Show Admission is free to the public at the Walsh Center Gym, in South Boston located on East Broadway behind the South Boston Court House and known for years as the McDonough / Jim Walsh Gym. This year's Boxing Show, organized by Co-Chairman and Trainers Peter Welch, Tommy Connor, James Jimbo Curran and Danny Long should be one of the best in years, with boys -ages 6 to 18 years old. All boys who have been picked for this year's Boxing Show Friday Night must report to the gym by 6pm with shorts, sneakers and a mouth guard.

Here We Go Southie! Here We Go

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Brian Wallace

If you were there you will never forget it. If you weren't there, you wished you were or you have lied these past 39 years and told people you were there. By there, I mean the Boston Garden on Saturday March 9, 1974. It is hard to believe that 39 years have passed, almost to the day, when the greatest high school hockey game in the history of the venerable old Garden was played. I woke up that morning and read the Boston Globe sports section first, as I always did. The writers gave the upstart South Boston High School hockey team

Apprille played for Arlington and was one of those great players I alluded to earlier, but on that day he stood right behind his Southie kids and stared over at his old coach. When he was asked after the game what he said to his old coach before the game. Tommy smirked and said, "I told Coach Burns that I told our kids not to run up the score on him." Both student and teacher smiled at each other knowing that nobody had ever run up the score on Arlington, not here in this rarified setting, not anywhere. And when the game started it looked as though

there that day will never forget it. "Here we go Southie! Here we go." It was deafening and could be heard back in Southie. A few months later that same chant, "Here we go Southie! Here we go," would take on an entirely different meaning which would be heard around the world, but on that March day in 1974 it was a simple refrain meant to fire up a bunch of underdog kids, and that is exactly what it did. Coughlin struck again at 7:38 on a pass from Billy Flynn to make it 5 to 3. The chant grew louder. Billy Curley set Coughlin up beautifully in front of

Swoop Carroll's turn (37 points). Paul Carroll put Southie ahead at 1:54 of the final period and Southie led for the first time 6 to 5. The chant grew louder. Carroll again lit the lamp on a hapless Arlington goalie at 2:12 making the score Southie 7 Arlington 5. Southie had scored 7 straight goals after shaking off the garden jitters and Bartosiak looked like Gerry Cheevers in the net. Gould and Salmanowich were rocks on defense. We counted down the seconds, realizing we were seeing a change of the guard in high school hockey. Arlington scored a goal with



virtually no chance against the perennial powerhouse Arlington High School. Arlington, unlike Southie, had been in this position many times before. They had the best coach in high school hockey in the legendary Eddie Burns and they had a list of great high school hockey players that would stretch from one end of G Street to the other. Southie had Teddy Cunniff. This was the semi-final round of the State Hockey Tournament. This was where Arlington was supposed to be. Southie, let's say, was Cinderella. That is pretty much what the Globe reporters wrote that morning. "Southie's bubble will burst today," one of them wrote. "This is David vs. Goliath and tonight David will be slain," another reporter wrote. "Southie deserves a lot of credit, but they don't belong on the same ice as Arlington. It will be Arlington by five goals," another wrote.

It made the players mad and even more determined to make history that day. Southie's coach Tommy

the Boston Globe reporters and everyone else was right, Southie couldn't play with Arlington. The Spy Ponders came out flying and scored 5 goals in less than sixteen minutes. Southie looked helpless and lost. I remember watching some people from Southie getting up and leaving after the fifth goal. A lot more stayed.

It looked like it was only going to get worse as Mike Howland was called for a hooking penalty. Southie was not only down 5 goals but were shorthanded. Some more people left. Thank God Kevin Coughlin stayed. On the ensuing faceoff Mike Farina sent Coughlin in alone and Kevin beat the Arlington goalie and made the score 5 to 1. Seven seconds later Coughlin returned the favor and Farina beat the surprised Arlington goaltender to make it Arlington 5-South Boston 2. I laughed when I saw some of those who left, come running back in and take their seats. And then it started. I don't know who started it but anyone who was

the net and Kevin's third goal of the day made it 5 to 4. As the second period ended the chant, "Here we go Southie! Here we go" was deafening.

Everyone on the Southie side was hugging each other. The Arlington fans were in utter shock. This had never happened to their Spy Ponders before. You didn't have to be a hockey expert, which I wasn't, to see that Coach Burns had given instructions to his team to shadow Coughlin (59 points on the year) and shut down Billy Curley (43 points) Billy Flynn (38 points) and Mike Farina (36 points). But Southie got to the semis as a team and young goaltender Mark Bartosiak made some saves that were nothing short of miraculous and the chant continued.

After a kick save by Bartosiak the long rebound went right to Mike Lydon (37 points) and Lydon skated past an Arlington defender and at 1:15 of the third period Mike Lydon tied the score at 5. Pandemonium erupted. Now it was

3 minutes left and Bartosiak stoned them the rest of the way. When the final buzzer sounded people on both sides were stunned. The student had beaten the coach. Southie had beaten Arlington. "Here we go Southie! Here we go."

A few months later six buses would roll up G Street hill and the chant "Here we go Southie! Here we go," meant something entirely different. Southie hockey would never be the same although they would have a few good teams after that year, but nothing like the team that shocked the world on March 9, 1974. We will never know how many state titles Southie would have won. A Federal decree took that away from us and those kids. But, we had our one great shining moment and one that has been listed as one of the top ten greatest events ever held at Boston Garden. Let's hear your story on the game on our Facebook page. Trivia question: What kind of car did Frannie Flaherty drive his teammates to the game in?"

Irish-American Ice Hockey Classic At Murphy Rink



SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
staff report

South Boston's Murphy Skating Rink will be the site of the much anticipated 7th Annual Irish American Ice Hockey Classic and it all starts today, Thursday, March

14th and will continue right through Saturday (March 16th). All spectators are invited to come and watch some of the finest hockey playing that can be found anywhere. It's sure to thrill everyone from the biggest fans of the sport to the curious onlookers who just want to see what all the excitement is all about.

The Irish American Ice Hockey Association works in partnership with the Boston Bruins Charitable Foundation. Proceeds raised from this weekend's events will go to causes and programs around South Boston and will help promote youth sports as well. Players from Ireland, The United States and from other parts of the world will travel to our community to be part of this great tournament. In fact, one solo player will travel from as far away as Alaska to play. One of the mottos of this year's event is "from the shores of Ireland, to Boston and Beyond" There will be some top notch talent on display for these games - guaranteed.

But with hundreds of highly talented players descending on our city, the activities won't just be limited to the games. Promoters promise that there will also be large doses of Irish Music, a bit of Blarney and a lot of Irish Cheer. On the ice at the rink will be Irish singers in between games. The National Anthems of The United States, Ireland, Canada and more will be sung. Area establishments will be the scenes of entertainment of all sorts; all of which should have as a benefit, quite a boon to the Boston economy, including that of South Boston.

You can log onto to the Irish American Hockey Association's websites at www.irishhockey.com and www.irishamericanhockeyassociation.com.

Here you can find the full schedule of games which will tell you which teams are playing at what times on what days. You can also get information about all the other activities and festivities that will be part of what should be a great weekend for participants and spectators alike.

The members and organizers of the Irish American Hockey Association, including those participants who are coming in from afar are happy to being part of this year's St. Patrick's Day/Evacuation Day celebrations in our community and look forward to spending time and money in our city and really getting to know the local people.

This tournament and all the events that come with it should prove to be a wonderful addition to what already promises to be one heck of a St. Patrick's Day Holiday.



Game is on for the 7th annual Irish American Ice Hockey Classic: 2013 at the Murphy in South Boston

The Irish American Hockey Association, in partnership with the Boston Bruins Charitable Foundation and the Boston Bruins Alumni Team, invite you to join Hockey Players from around the world for three full days of Hockey, Irish Music and a bit of Irish Cheer as we celebrate the great game of Ice Hockey from the Shores of Ireland to Boston and beyond.

Admission is free and the games begin on Thursday, March 14 at 1PM at the Murphy Rink located on Day Boulevard in South Boston. Game times and team lineups can be found at: www.IrishHockey.com

Boston Bruins Famed singer Rene Rancourt will once again be singing at the Murphy Rink on Saturday morning, March 16th at 11AM.

Rene sings at the Irish American Ice Hockey Classic each year and he regales the hockey crowd with Irish Ballads as well as the Irish, American and Canadian National Anthems.

The 2013 group of teams will be the most diverse to date and soon teams will be jetting to Boston, pucks and shillelaghs in hand, all with the goal of trying to take the 2013 Irish Hockey Crown back to their hometown. This year's Irish Hockey Classic promises

to be the most fun filled to date with Irish American Ice Hockey festivities throughout the city of Boston over the 3 day event. Over 500 Hockey Players from Ireland, Canada and across the US compete each year at the Irish American Ice Hockey Classic.

Many of the Boston Bruins Alumni team will once again be participating on various teams in the Irish American Hockey Classic including Terry O'Reilly, Ray Bourque, Brad Park, Rick Middleton, Ken Linesman, Gary Doak, Lyndon Byers, Bob Beers, Tim Sweeney, Don Sweeney, Andy Brickley, NevinMarkwart, Jack Cusack, Justin Collins, Bobby Carpenter and Steve Leach.

Other teams include: Dropkick Murphy's Hockey, Southie Chargers (Bryan McGrath), Team Covidien, Glacial Energy, BU Hockey Alumni, BC Hockey Alumni, Southie Hockey Alumni (Rep. Nick Collins), Mass State Legislators (Sandy Milley), Colorado Thunderbirds, WestPoint Hockey, Dublin Dangers, Mass State Police, Mass Black and Blues Hockey, Kanata Leafs, PJ Stock Express (Montreal), Boston Jr. Whalers Hockey Alumni, London, Ontario PD, Team Delta from Seattle

CONTINUED ON page 39



**Every week, we will run an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin", which can be heard LIVE every weekday from 8-10 a.m. on 1510 NBC Sports Radio Boston, and BlogTalkRadio, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be read on Comcast SportsNet.*

This week, Danny talked to Catholic Memorial hockey coach Bill Hanson about Jack Parker's retirement:

DANNY PICARD: Jack Parker will be retiring after 40 seasons as hockey coach at Boston University. What was your reaction when you heard this news?

BILL HANSON: I was up at the rink [Sunday], and I think it was in between periods of our game and someone came over to me and said, "Did you know Jack was retiring?" And I said, "You're kidding me." Because, on Saturday, I was at BU from 4-6. We had practice. And one of my former players who's one of the captain's at BU, Garrett Noonan, he had separated his shoulder Friday night and he came over when we practiced. He's there; he's with us all the time. And we had a conversation. He was getting ready to go to the Northeastern game that night, and he didn't mention a word. Right after the game [Sunday], I got a text from Garrett, and he said, "Congratulations coach. Great win." And then I texted back, "How you feeling?" And about an hour later, I gave him a call when all the commotion settled down. I said, "Did you know coach [Parker] was stepping down?" He didn't know about it, even [on Sunday]. So this was a well-kept, I don't know if it was a secret, or it certainly is surprising in one sense, where Jack is so passionate, and he's been recruiting. I know Mike Bavis was



just over in Europe for 10 days. But by the same token, 40 years is a good round number. He's had such a great career. I was him nothing but the best of luck.

DP: You played with Jack Parker, and you obviously know the numbers, three national championships, 21 Beanpots, a lot of people call that the "BU-pot." What is Jack Parker's legacy as he leaves the game?

BH: When I was a freshman in 1967, that's when they had freshman teams back in college hockey. So we used to travel with the varsity

every game. And I got to know Jack because he was a Somerville guy and I was a Southie guy. He was a Catholic Memorial guy. Little did I know that, six years later, I'd be coaching CM? His legacy is, you look at Agganis Arena, the Jack Parker Rink, what he's done for the program, he's irreplaceable, as far as a person who's going to have that kind of longevity, that kind of stamina, and that kind of passion to do what he did for his alma mater. That'll be tough to duplicate . . . He's an intense guy, a fiery guy, but if I had to use a word to describe him, it is just "loyalty." Forty years at the University, he dedicated his

life to the sport. Everybody sees the glamour, they see the games, and they see the accolades. But what they don't see is what these coaches have to do behind the scenes that just make that one of the most difficult coaching jobs of any sport, in the NCAA.

DP: Speaking of duplicating, does anybody know who will be replacing Parker?

BH: You get the usual names. Mike Sullivan is very close to him, and he's had the experience coaching the Bruins, and now he's with the Rangers. David Quinn is out with Joe Sacco with the Avalanche. Those are NHL guys who are experienced, they're BU guys. Whether they want to come back and take a college hockey job, people don't realize it's 365 days a year when you're coaching college hockey. And your summers are not your own any longer. It's a lot easier coaching in the pros than it is the college game.

DP: Where does Parker rank? Is he the greatest college hockey coach of all time?

BH: Well, you can go back to the old-timers, Amo Bessone at Michigan State, Ron Mason. As far as Boston goes, he and Jerry

York, they epitomize what college hockey and the poise and the class and the way they represent themselves and their schools. The other guys, they dealt with players of a different era. Today's coach has to be a coach, he has to be a psychiatrist, and he's got to be a social worker. And Jack is all of those and more.

DP: Let's talk about your team, a big win [Sunday] over BC High. Talk about that win. Southie's own Liam Coughlin with a big goal.

BH: And against your alma mater, pal.

DP: Yes, I'm a BC High guy, I know, I know.

BH: Liam really stepped up [Sunday]. He hadn't gotten on the scoreboard in the previous two games. But he's been playing in all three areas of the ice. He's been physical. He's really logged a lot of ice time for us. He styles things down, which allows the younger kids to go out there and relax and play their game. And [Sunday] against, arguably, one of the best goaltenders in high school hockey, Peter Cronin -- who also has South Boston roots -- Liam was just poised on the winning goal he got. He was behind the goal line, and instead of just wrapping it around, he back-skated away from the net, waited for the goalie to go down, and on an angle that was probably about a 170-degree angle from the goal line, he picked the far corner. Just an incredible shot.

DP: What's been the significance of this season for you personally, with this team that you have at CM this year, compared to years in the past?

BH: Well, we have a completely new team this year. We start a freshman goalie. We start a freshman right wing. And on various games, we start two freshmen defensemen. This is the most unusual team I've had in my 39 years of coaching, in the fact that, I just love going to the rink every day. These kids are fearless, they play with passion, there's no anxiety, there's no nervousness. Maybe it's the youth, maybe it's the inexperience, but they love the game. They really get along well with each other. We have tremendous senior leadership with our captains, Liam and Jack O'Hear. No cliques, everybody has everybody's back on the team. They'll be there early for practice, and the enthusiasm, they're hockey players. They love to play. They have fun. It's unbelievable.

Irish Hockey.. CONTINUED FROM page 21



and Hillside Hockey from Marlboro..

At last year's 6th Annual Irish American Ice Hockey Classic: Boston 2012, over \$5,000.00 was raised by South Boston State Representative Nick Collins to benefit South Boston Youth Hockey and the National Bound South Boston U16 Team that traveled to Reston, VA to compete for the National U16 Championship under the guidance of Coaches Tommy McGrath and Hockey Legend Teddy Cunniff.

At the 2012 Irish Games, South Boston's own and former Chicago Blackhawk Great Brian Noonan's "Southie Chargers" took home the Cunniff Division crown besting Team Glacial Energy in a 7 round shootout after a 10 minute overtime period. Glacial lost its stronghold as 2 time repeat Irish Hockey Champions and even after stacking their 2012 lineup with over a half dozen former NHL standouts, their off ice shenanigans caught up with them in the finals before they wore down to our guest from Chicago.

Off ice, Sandy Milley's boys as well as the Glacial Boys did Saint Patrick himself proud as the "Craic" flowed and flowed and flowed over the three day event. Food and fun, Irish song and laughter, along with adult beverages and buffets, were plentiful at Atlantic Beer Gardens and Whiskey Priest throughout the event. The Bunker Hill Pipers team as well as the boys from Chicago all took in Dropkick Murphy events in Boston and Jon Lamken once again took home tournament "off ice" MVP honors.

Many thanks to State Rep Nick Collins, the staff at the South Boston Murphy Rink and the over 500 Irish Hockey Participants for making the 2012 Irish American Ice Hockey Classic a tremendous success!

Comcast Sport New England and the NHL Networks recently aired a show entitled "Emerald Ice" which highlighted the various efforts of members of the Irish American Hockey Association as well as heroic folks in Ireland who have made the game of Ice Hockey a reality in the Emerald Isle.

More importantly, the show highlighted a recent effort entitled "Peace Through Pucks" which the Catholic kids from the Republic of Ireland travel North to share the passion of hockey with kids from Northern Ireland.

With the opening of Ireland's first and only ice hockey rink in December 2006, the kids of Ireland have taken to the game of ice hockey like no other sport and the passion and devotion to the sport is infectious as the game of ice hockey begins to grow in Ireland.

Aeidamar Sally of the Dundalk Bulls Youth Hockey Program in Ireland points out that "It is fantastic to see Catholic and Protestant kids mixing and becoming fast friends, particularly in the under 10/12s age group. These kids who would never have met if not for their love of Ice Hockey and these young hockey players are developing real and measurable friendships across the border due to their common interest and love of the game of ice hockey".

While In Ireland last fall, the Irish American Hockey Association, in conjunction with the Boston Bruins Charitable Foundation and the Boston Bruins Alumni Hockey team conducted instructional clinics for the kids in Dundalk (Republic) as well as the kids from Belfast region in Belfast.

Many of the same children who participated in last year's games and clinics in Ireland headed to Boston in March to be a part of the 6th Annual Irish American Ice Hockey Classic.

THE 40+ Irish visitors to last years Irish Hockey Classic Tournament in Boston enjoyed the Boston Bruins vs. Pittsburgh Penguins from the comfort of 2 luxury suites at the TD Bank Garden that Bob Sweeney of the Boston Bruins front office was kind enough to arrange for the kids of Ireland.

For additional information, feel free to give us a ring at the Irish American Hockey Association offices: 888-IRISH-17 or email us at: skate@IrishHockey.com

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

