Our Future Is Here

April 8 at 5:00 P.M. one chapter will close and another will open in the future of South Boston.

Under proposal is the design and construction of two hotels on “D” Street between First and Summer Streets. A brief chronological history is needed. In November 1997 the legislature passed Chapter 152 which allowed, with the approval of the South Boston Community and the Boston City Council, the construction of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. To gain that approval the South Boston Community was given some community benefits and protections. Among those benefits, the first was a public park from First Street along the Reserve Channel and Pappas Way to Summer Street also 120 units of market and affordable family housing at “D” and First Street. Among the protections was a ban on hotels south of Summer Street.

Today there still is no park. The BRA removed the Community Group tasked with building the 120 units stating the BRA would create these units. The units were never built. Approximately 1 ½ years ago the BCEC held a public meeting at the Condon School where the Community was presented with two options for developing “the zone” providing the legislature, in fact, removed the hotel ban south of Summer Street.

The “zone” is the area between the Haul Road and Reserve Channel and between Summer and First Streets.

This Week’s Poll
Poll on Page 6

Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll. Make sure you like & share.

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“Get in the Game”

It’s their world now and they better get in the game” was the message from a long time resident who described himself as “too old to care” about whatever changes come to South Boston.

We should always care, but the point was well made. This may be the most important month of April in South Boston’s history. The election for state senate comes at a time when massive development proposed for South Boston must be scrutinized by a strong, knowledgeable, informed and determined leader. People seeking to build multi-million dollar projects are not bad people because they want to build. It does however make them powerful. So powerful, in fact, that strong leadership is not enough without strong support from you, the community.

The development for hotels will not just create a new vibrancy and reality for the D Street area. The development will displace some existing facilities that support these hotels.

Where? The question is where do these unwanted facilities go? Where should they go? The industrial waterfront created for such purposes or closer to the residential area of South Boston?

On April 30th, you can answer the first question at the ballot box with your vote. On April 8th, you can answer the second question by sending your comments to the city.

Time to get in the game.

Last week’s poll results:

Last Week’s Poll asked South Boston Today readers the following question:

The Boston Landmarks Commission designated the Fort Point section of South Boston a landmark district in 2009 which provides stricter protections from building demolition and major façade changes. Should other areas of South Boston be considered for Boston Landmark District designation?

You voted overwhelmingly for more preservation considerations 98% to 2%.

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“If people do not have an ideal and try to live up to it, then they become mean, base and sordid creatures no matter how successful” - Teddy Roosevelt

April 4, 2013
Now that the mayor has announced what many people had a gut feeling he would, we should brace ourselves for one of the biggest episodes of political jockeying the city has seen in 20 years. We thought it would be a busy time with the political shakeups coming with just the special elections for US Senate, State Senate and probably State Rep and Congress. Well, throw in the first race for Mayor in 2 decades and the various campaigns running for all of these contested seats and it will be hard pressed to find an empty wall or building to put up their signs. I’m guessing any uncovered spot will soon have a political sign tacked up on it; not a real problem, it’s a temporary thing. Unlike what developers are doing with land. Show them an open space wider than a 2x2 lot and they’ll try to put a condo on it. But that’s progress I guess.

Who ever wins in these upcoming races will hopefully not fall into the typical Boston and Massachusetts dead end ruts and think the answer to everything is to keep on raising the taxes of working folks. A perfect example is a tale of two states that were contrasted in the news earlier this week. California used to be a place where many people dreamed about moving to and starting new lives. Now it’s a nightmare with people leaving as fast as they can. It’s so expensive to live there, many just can no longer afford to put food on their tables and pay for housing.

The tax burden on individuals is incredibly high and constantly rising. Business’s are fleeing as well, finding it too expensive and far too regulated to operate there.

California is now drowning in debt and it has a negative net worth debt of 127.2 billion dollars. So what do California’s liberal politicians do about it? They raise taxes even higher which keeps making it worse and driving more people away.

But look at the state of Texas - low taxes and business friendly. People and companies are moving there in droves for a better life. They have so many jobs in Texas they can’t even fill them all.

The lives of Texans are not regulated as if they were living in old Soviet Russia.

People are free to live good lives and prosperity is encouraged, not penalized. The Conservative elected officials there, from their governor on down know that the recipe to happiness, prosperity and economic success is to get government out of the way and let people be free of unnecessary burdensome taxes and from a government that over regulates the private lives of citizens. Texas is running an 8.8 billion dollar surplus this year. That’s right - a surplus. California see’s the success that Texas is having but just cannot shake itself lose from that old liberal tax and spend mindset. They are doomed to go bankrupt as a state just as many California towns are already in need of bailouts.

It’s too late for California. It’s beyond saving. But it’s not too late for Massachusetts. Though we are following the same losing liberal strategy that is destroying our fellow Americans on the West Coast, those making the decisions here in Boston and Massachusetts as a whole still have time to change course. But time is running out. Governor Deval Patrick would tax the fillings out of our teeth if he could. It’s often been said that he fantasizes about being able to sit on a park bench on the Boston Common and tax people as they walk by. Happily, he’ll be gone soon. So it’s
Mayor’s Race Looks Like Previous Mayoral Races

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian P. Wallace

For my money, the field of candidates in the 1983 race for Mayor of Boston was by far the most talented, well-funded, well-known and well-organized field that had ever run for that office. It is also truly reminiscent of the field that is lining up to run this year. There are so many factors that go into who will win that it is almost mind-blowing. It is not always the most well-known or the candidate with the largest war chest or even the best candidate who will ultimately win the coveted seat. It has more to do with what part of Boston the candidate comes from. It has to do with who else decides to enter the race. It has to do with press coverage and believe me, there is a lot of bias there. It has to do with work ethic and a lot of luck.

In 1983 David Finnegan, handsome, well connected, (his brother John was Ways and Means Chairman in the Mass. Legislature in 1983) well known as former President of the Boston School Committee and popular talk show host on WBZ radio, was the John Connolly of this year’s race. He got out early and made no bones about the fact that he was in the race whether or not Kevin White ran. In fact his slogan was “It’s Finnegan or him again.” Well, him again didn’t run and Finnegan filmed his first campaign commercial on the wrong side of the Charles River. He filmed his commercial in Cambridge instead of Boston and he had to re-tool his whole campaign message, which he never did. Little mistakes can turn into catastrophic mistakes in politics. Finnegan, the man nobody could beat, lost some of his luster and the field began to catch him.

Dennis Kearney and Larry DiCara, had two things going for them. They both graduated from Boston Latin and they both graduated from Harvard University within a year of each other. Kearney and DiCara also had two things going against them. They both graduated from Boston Latin and Harvard University a year from each other. Kearney was a state rep from East Boston who was appointed Sheriff after Thomas Eisenstadt left under dubious circumstances. He was young, handsome, well liked and a candidate right out of central casting. DiCara, the wiz kid was the youngest person ever elected to the Boston City Council. He left the Council in 1981 to raise money to run for Mayor in 1983. It was a huge mistake. In just two short years, a lot of people forgot about DiCara who had no way to get his name in the paper from 81 to 83. DiCara and Kearney had all the same friends who were all the same age and they killed each other. If either one had dropped out the 1983 results might have been a lot different. Today I see a slew of candidates, all from the Hyde Park, Roslindale, and the West Roxbury area (Robbie Consalvo, Dan Conley, John Connolly, and Steve Murphy?) who look alike and who could cannibalize each other’s vote much like Kearney and DiCara did some thirty years ago.

Is Marty Walsh the next Ray Flynn? Could be. Marty has a distinguished Legislative career, is the darling of labor and the Irish, has strong support from his State House pals, and is running from a section of Dorchester where he usually gets about 90% of the vote. If there is no candidate from South Boston or Wards 13, 16, 2, 22 and South Boston. Count Marty as one of the two finalists.

Who will be Mel King? That is the sixty four thousand dollar question. Who will fill the Bob Kiley role as the Mayor’s candidate? Might not matter! It didn’t in 1983 and probably won’t now. The big question is who can mobilize the minority, Latino, immigrant, more liberal voters in the city? Will it be Felix Arroyo or Ayanna Pressley, Sonya Chang Diaz or Tito Jackson or someone else? Andrea Cabral is out. Will there be an Italian candidate, like Fred Langone who did well in 1983 in the North End and East Boston?

It’s all about the pie. There are only so many votes that make up that pie. Each of the people whom I mentioned above has their own slice of that pie. They are all good candidates with proven track records and field organizations. What it ultimately comes down to is recognizing your vote and being able to get your voters to the polls, doing well in the debates and candidate nights, working your tail off, and getting lucky. Let’s get it on! Oh yeah, a few bucks won’t hurt either!
Talking with a friend on Broadway last Saturday, he asked my weekend plans. I answered Easter of course and mentioned my 30th year Boston Police Class Reunion that night where, as a class president, I would have to make some “stupid remarks”. An off-handed and poor choice of words for a couple of reasons. The first reason was that my friend immediately responded, “Great. You won’t even have to practice. Just open your mouth”. The second reason is that the occasion for me to make remarks was anything but “stupid”. It was an occasion to reunite with some of the most important people of my life.

It’s risky, if you have a spouse or children, to describe anything but marriage or birth as a “highlight”, but being in Rookie Class 283 of the Boston Police with these men and women was a highlight of my life.

I actually did put some remarks together, worked on a couple of points and recognitions I wanted to make. However, between the time I handed in my ticket at the front door and the time, later on, I spoke at the podium, life and reality and memories rushed over me. Moving among faces and people a bit older, but instantly recognizable, keys in a most important part of not just my life, but the life of the City of Boston.

Boston Police Class 283 of 118 members began March 31, 1983. A smaller class of 22, class 183, for logistical reasons began a few weeks earlier in February forever linking the two classes resulting in both classes reunifying at Florian Hall Saturday night.

This class had several distinctions. It was the largest Boston Police Recruit Class since 1970, mostly composed of people who, as Boston students, had been subjected to the error of busing. It was, at the same time, the last class containing veterans who served during the Viet-Nam War. It was, for better or worse, the first and only class ever given a surprise drug test. The test, largely considered illegal, nevertheless led to the negotiated testing policy in place today. By the way, over 98% of Class 283 tested clean, a figure unmatched on any test since. Class 283 is the class responsible for a Standardized Detectives Test.

Prior to this, many detectives were appointed based on political connections rather than knowledge or ability. Finally 283, up to that time, was the most diverse regarding race and sex.

It’s over the last 30 years of great change where these officers mattered and made a difference. Any military vet will tell you officers made decisions, but the sergeants carry them out. Over 78% of Class 283 are Sergeants. Another 13% are between the rank of Lieutenant and Superintendent. Eight officers are Community Service Officers or CSO’s. These are the officers who actually work with community organizations, speaking at public meetings, organizing children’s events and become the face of the Police Force.

For the last 30 years they’ve carried the cares and protection of this city. In that time, eleven of our classmates have been laid to rest. Each one, in their own way, fallen in the line of duty. Others received injuries leading to retirement others with prior city service have reached that happy retirement age. More than half, however, remain active and look forward to more service. On all of them, the years have gone by, in a nice way, of course, bringing a “mature look”.

When I first heard of the reunion and told my wife Kellie, she said “you’re going of course” and of course I was. These were people I went through life and death situations with, as well as some of the funniest moments of my life. Some memories cause a lump in my throat today. I talked to an old partner, Tommy Settapani, before my turn at the mike. His black Italian hair is mostly gray now and a cane, “just in case”, by his side. He reminded me that when we worked together in Southie we sometimes would go by my mother’s house where she would make us sandwiches and explain to Tommy the Mahoney Coat of Arms on the wall in which he had absolutely no interest, but would Listen like the gentleman he always was.

When I did finally speak it was after the “World Famous” Sgt. Jim Driscoll which was like following the Rolling Stones. So maybe it was coming after Jimmy that caused my words to be short and disjointed. Could have been. I tend to think, however, looking out at Tommy and all those other faces that started out as strangers, but turned into my greatest and dearest friends was the emotion that limited my words. I was able to say I would never regret and never forget. I have them as friends and the City has them as protectors.

Finally, if this column seems to be too personal, well there’s no sense in being the editor if you can’t write what you want once in a while. Take care ‘til next week.

Note: talk back to Brian by email at bmahoney@southbostontoday.com
Candidates start lining up to succeed Menino

Long time mayor Thomas M. Menino announced last week that he will not seek re-election. Let the games begin. State Representative Martin J. Walsh announced his candidacy on Monday. Walsh, who won a previous SBT poll in a landslide, appears to be the South Boston favorite. He will be a serious city-wide candidate. His blue collar working class background, along with his nuts and bolts hands on approach will no doubt be an asset to his campaign. Word is that Walsh had been on a fundraising tear as of late.

Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley, who has also decided to run, and has a war chest of upwards of $800,000, will no doubt wage a serious campaign. City Councillor John Connolly will be battling for the West Roxbury base with the DA. Will Conley’s position as the city’s top prosecutor help or hurt him?

Rob Consalvo, the Hyde Park district councilor is also a threat with a strong base of support from his hometown. Consalvo intends on making a decision to run in the coming days. Consalvo was thought of as the favorite of Mayor Menino, but that remains to be seen.

City Council President Stephen Murphy is also considering a run. His deep ties to long time city families could make him a contender.

Other candidates mulling a run include City Councilor Tito Jackson, City Councilor Felix Arroyo, and City Councilor Mike Ross.

Two questions remain unanswered and will likely be the case for a while:
1. Who will Mayor Menino’s political operation support?
2. Do they have the clout they used to have?

Many people think that Menino’s political supporters will start to splinter soon. Either way signature papers will be ready on April 17.

NRA Puts Forth Common Sense Plan In School Safety Debate

What’s the most important thing when it comes to protecting our nation’s most precious resource, namely our school children? Is it feel good, unworkable plans and wishful thinking fantasy or is it proven, common sense reality based solutions? The National Rifle Association, which has neither the time nor the tolerance for hollow rhetoric that never brings results, came to the table with a solid plan this week. It’s a 225 page report named ‘The School Shield Program’ developed and created using the professional talents and experience of members of law enforcement, members of the medical profession, school and education experts and even former members of Congress. This report and plan has been in the development stages since December, following the Newtown, CT shooting and was officially released this past Tuesday, April 2nd.

It lists a number of actions the NRA says should be approved by individual states, not controlled by the federal government and that when used in the past and in a number of locations nationwide today, have led to a noticeable increase in safety for students attending schools and helps provide the safe environment that America’s school children deserve and give parents the peace of mind that they seek so desperately.

As the NRA stated when they released the plan on Tuesday which they funded at cost of over a million dollars, it advocates for basic common sense safety measures that are so simple to understand yet are also very effective in how to deal with the very serious job of keeping kids safe in their schools. While knee jerk reactions advocating grabbing guns from lawful citizens, pushed by media sources and some politicians, make for good sound bytes, NRA is determined to deal with real solutions. Among the recommendations are proven measures like securing doors; with not only locks but also manned security, sign in sheets and video cameras and other workable methods of keeping a tab on and record of every person attempting to enter a school building. And yes, the much heralded and controversial plan to deploy professionally trained and armed personnel to guard against an.

School districts all over the country are now doing this and it’s working. NRA officials find it frustrating that some of the more simple and least expensive actions like securing entrance doors and keeping track of who enters and leaves a school building are not routine at many schools around the nation. These are things they believe should be automatic at every school, bar none. And broadcasting to everyone intent on doing harm that the school is a ‘Gun Free’ zone is the worst thing possible. Here again, reality eludes so many with good intentions.

Present and showing support at the NRA’s press conference and release of the report were parents of victims of the Newtown, Connecticut shooting. Mark Mattioli, whose child was shot during the Newtown attack, said he applauds and supports the NRA plan.

The NRA, more than 135 years in existence, is the largest pro Second Amendment Civil Rights Group in the world boasting more than five million members and growing fast, from all walks of life, including members of Congress and thousands of law enforcement personnel. Past members throughout history include Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan and John F Kennedy. The organization is a fierce defender of the rights of law abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms and has taken cases all the way to the US Supreme Court and won.

On the issue of School safety, NRA has refused to take a back seat. A statement released by NRA states as follows: “The only way to stop a monster from killing our kids is to be permanently involved and invested in a plan of absolute protection” By their actions and determination, it would seem they mean to do just that.
Here we go again. For political junkies, like me, the upcoming next few months are going to be wild and will shape the future of Boston and Boston politics for a long time. I am getting calls from people, especially the press, about my thoughts on the upcoming United States Senate race, the State Senate race and the Mayor of Boston’s race. Let me first say that I am finding it amazing how many people, especially journalists, who have no institutional memory of the past when it comes to who ran, who lost, and even who were those who got elected. It is too bad that great reporters like John Henning, David Brudnoy, George Frazier, Dick Flavin, and a few more have left the business or have died. There is something to be said for longevity and institutional memory.

When I was leaving the State House, a few years ago, the Globe sent a reporter in to interview me. A young kid straight out of Columbia School of Journalism asked me what I did before I became an elected official. I told him that I had worked for Ray Flynn for twenty years. He looked at me, his face a complete blank. “Ray Flynn?” he asked. “Could you refresh my memory?” “You obviously have no memory of Boston politics,” I laughed as I got up and left. I hope to bring you some of the inside info during the next few months and believe me you will only read it here.

Before there was Ray Flynn, Tom Menino, Deval Patrick and Mitt Romney, there was one of the most talented politicians I have ever met who ran the city of Boston, as Mayor, for sixteen years His name was Kevin White. Rule One in Boston politics was that you didn’t cross Kevin White. He had a memory like an elephant and he was as powerful as he was talented. During his last term, Kevin’s finances began to come into question. The charge was led by a Boston Herald reporter named Peter Lucas, who, like Kevin, had some pretty good credentials, but he wanted to bring down Kevin. He called White “Mayor of the World”, “Mayor Deluxe”, “The China Clipper” for a trip White made to China, which Lucas disapproved of. He called him “Kevin from Heaven” and a few more things, none of which were complimentary. White did not like Lucas and Lucas did not like White. The first thing you learn in politics is that you don’t pick a fight with the press. Former Rep. Jim Hart told me, “The press buys ink by the barrelful,” one night at the Victoria Diner. “You can’t beat the press,” Jim told me. He obviously never told Kevin White that.

As the deadline approached to file papers, much like today, nobody knew if Kevin was going to run for a fifth term. David Finnegan, like John Connolly present day, was running no matter what the Mayor did. He was the first out of the box, others would follow. But the 800 pound elephant in the room was, “What is Kevin doing?” Not a word came out of City Hall, but a telephone call did. George Regan, who was the Mayor’s Press Secretary called Peter Lucas and offered him an exclusive on the biggest story of the political century. Regan told Lucas that Kevin wanted to make up with Lucas. He said that he was tired of Lucas continually bashing him and his wife in the Herald. And then Regan gave Lucas what every reporter in Boston was seeking. “Kevin will give you the exclusive, if you promise to back off a little for the next four years,” Regan said to an obviously stunned Lucas. There was silence on the other end of the receiver. “You’re telling me that Kevin is running for a fifth term and I am the only one who has that story?” Lucas asked dumbfounded. “That is what I am telling you,” Regan confirmed. “When can I run with the story?” Lucas asked the young press secretary. “We bought time on all three Boston channels tomorrow night at 7:30PM. What you do with this information is up to you,” Regan said. “Is it a deal?” “It’s a deal,” Lucas replied as he tried to figure out in which room he was going to place his new Pulitzer Prize.

The next morning the Herald’s front page said only three words in huge print “White Will Run” by Peter Lucas. White took to the air at exactly 7:30PM that night and he
Thousands Flock To Churches in South Boston for Easter

South Boston’s churches were busy during Holy Week and Easter Sunday as thousands of the faithful turned out for Masses and Services. It was estimated that there were easily more than a thousand people who showed up just at Castle Island for the Sunrise Service and braved the cold Easter morning air (at 6:28 am).

Holy Thursday, also known as Maundy Thursday, saw crowds come out for this special service which highlights the washing of the feet as was written in the Bible. Good Friday followed with the solemn and somber Masses that take on a quiet and subdued air. As is a Good Friday tradition, hundreds of teenage students from Boston College High School, marched together in a procession that stretched for blocks as they carried a large cross and made stops at area churches to symbolize the Stations of the Cross. Holy Saturday brought more throngs of worshippers to Masses. Easter Sunday followed the next day with many of our churches nearly bursting at the seams with worshipers to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Easter Sunday smiled upon all with bright sun and mild temperatures to the delight of all.

The annual Easter Egg hunts complete with guest appearances by the Easter Bunny himself added much to the day and thrilled the throngs of children who turned out in huge numbers with their parents.

Easter came early this year but by the huge number of people that took part in the most holy of Christian traditions, everyone was more than prepared to be part of the observances and celebration.

The Easter Season is a very special time all across America and around the world as well. The people of South Boston too, consider it a very special time.

MASSPORT LOWELL L. RICHARDS III MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR $5,000

Graduating seniors of a Boston public high school interested in applying for the Lowell L. Richards III Memorial Scholarship must have community service experience and must submit a 1,000-word essay. To be considered, all academic and residency criteria must also be met.

Scholarship applications must be received by Massport no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013.

For more information on the Lowell L. Richards III Memorial Scholarship, including an application checklist, please visit www.massport.com/scholarships.
(Boston, MA) – Nick Collins is proud to accept the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) endorsement of his campaign for State Senator for the First Suffolk Senate District.

The MNA is the largest union and professional association of registered nurses and health professionals in the state, and the third largest in the nation. The MNA represents more than 23,000 members working in 85 health care facilities, including 51 acute care hospitals.

“Nick Collins has always been a strong advocate for the MNA, whether through his support of safe staffing legislation or standing with nurses to maintain essential services at area hospitals,” said Donna Kelly-Williams, RN, President of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. “We appreciate his support and want to help him bring the fight for quality patient care, as well as safe working conditions for nurses, to the Massachusetts Senate.”

“It is a true honor to have the support from the Massachusetts Nurses Association,” said Collins. “Nurses are on the front lines of healthcare delivery services in our community health centers and hospitals. I look forward to working with the MNA in the Senate to ensure that nurses have the working conditions they need to provide the best care possible.”

The overwhelming support for Collins by organized labor reflects his unwavering dedication to working-class families in the First Suffolk Senate District and his proven record of results on issues that matter to labor. Union leaders have cited Nick Collins’ demonstrated record of accomplishment on behalf of labor when making their endorsements.

Massachusetts Nurses Association Endorses Nick Collins for State Senate

Support continues to grow for Collins in advance of Special Election on April 30th

Congressman Stephen Lynch was a special guest at the recent Capitol Hill Reception sponsored by the New England Council. In photo (from left to right): Former Senator Jack Hart; Jim Brett, President and CEO of the New England Council; Congressman Stephen Lynch; and Braintree Mayor Joe Sullivan.
Councilor Linehan Files Order for Council Approval of School Committee

Councilor Linehan has filed an order calling for City Council approval of all Boston Public School Committee members. He has filed this order to provide a greater voice and greater access for parents and constituents to the school committee and who serves on it.

Currently the entire seven member School Committee is appointed by the Mayor. This proposed change will allow the current elected Councilors from the neighborhoods of Boston to play a greater role in who serves on this important board. The Boston City Council has a duty to protect the interests of their constituents and without this change they are currently unable to exercise that duty in choosing the School Committee members.

The referendum of 1989 that was approved by the voters of Boston led to the change of an elected school board to the current Mayoral appointment structure. There was language within that question that called for City Council approval but that language was not included in the act that became law. This order honors the original intent of the voters and allows for more accountability to the City Council on school matters.

“This order is for elected officials to give a voice for parents. With the changes in the transportation model of Boston Public Schools to shift back toward a neighborhood model, it is important that the neighborhood Councilors play an increased role in the makeup of the Committee,” added Councilor Linehan.

If you have questions about this or any other issue you can call Councilor Linehan’s Office at 617-635-3203 or email him at Bill.Linehan@cityofboston.gov. You can also follow him on Facebook, Bill Linehan, and Twitter @Linehanbill.
James Collins was born in Ireland in 1824. He emigrated in the 1830s, settling first in St. John’s, New Brunswick, before coming to Boston. After a brief time in New York he returned to Boston in 1855, now married to Hannah, also an Irish immigrant. By 1855 they and their two children, James (born 1851) and Mary (born 1853) were living at 84 South Street in Boston, which was also James’s grocery store. By 1860 James had gone into the liquor trade, and by 1865 was operating two stores, and was president of the Boston Beer Company. By this time the family lived on Oxford Street.

Hannah’s health failed in crowded confines of Oxford Street. After her death James married another Irish immigrant, Catherine (born about 1831). Over the next decade they had five children: three boys—John J., Arthur G., and William—and two girls, Ellen and Catherine. By 1867 they left the congestion of Oxford Street for the sea breezes and open spaces of South Boston’s City Point. James and Catherine bought the property from Benjamin Bayley, who had purchased it from Samuel Blake, whose family had been among Dorchester’s original settlers.

When James Collins built this house, the future of City Point was very much in doubt. Nearby the City still had its prison, workhouse, and home for the mentally-handicapped; New England’s largest manufacturer of railroad tracks was at K and First; Boston’s only oil refinery just west of that; Harrison Loring’s shipyard at first between L and M streets; a granite-polishing yard just north of that; the United States government had its gun yard at O and the harbor, and Cyrus Alger’s gun wharf; for shipping out artillery, stood roughly where Kelly’s Landing is today.

James Collins, an Irish liquor dealer, could not establish his family home in Nahant or Wellesley. Had Collins not built this mansion in 1867, quite likely the area would have developed like South Boston’s Lower End. Who else would have built a mansion like this, with an iron works and a prison for neighbors? Collins changed the neighborhood’s direction with this elegant showplace, staking a claim to being one of Boston’s new leaders. Having escaped Oxford Street, Toomey and Rankin noted that most of the houses in South Boston were occupied by their owners, and that the City Point area “looks like a thickly settled town in the interior of New England.” Builders like Collins gave this urban neighborhood a distinctively small-town feel, a South Boston characteristic that persists. Locals still refer to it as “the town.” Collins helped to create this identity, first by building his own estate in City Point, and then by his careful development of City Point. The Collins House, with its ample lawn, provided an open space long before Frederick Law Olmstead envisioned Marine Park on the next block. Would Marine Park have been possible if Collins had not bought this area of the waterfront to build a family home? Or would City Point’s few remaining parcels of farmland have become factories? Without the Collins mansion, City Point’s development likely would have proceeded in a way similar to the lands proposed to be filled, though the project would not come to fruition until the early 20th century. Preserving the tip of South Boston as a residential area, and actually building housing too expensive to seize by eminent domain, helped to preserve City Point and make possible South Boston’s survival as a residential neighborhood.

Collins was active in forming the Union Institution for Savings, a bank established by a group of Catholic businessmen in the early 1860s. During his time in the South End, James Collins was the first president of the Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in St. James Parish. In South Boston he was a generous benefactor to Gate of Heaven Church, being built on East Fourth and 1 Streets in the 1890s. In 1896 Gate of Heaven awarded Collins the “golden trowel,” for having contributed the most financial resources to the construction of Gate of Heaven Church.

James and Catherine’s son, John J. Collins, who grew up in the house at 928 East Broadway, became one of Boston’s most prominent lawyers. A graduate of Holy Cross and B.U. Law School, John J. Collins practiced law in the office of Patrick A. Collins (no relation), who served as a Congressman, and as Mayor of Boston. Most extraordinary for Patrick Collins, sometime resident of City Point, and in the 1860s a supporter of the Fenian rebellion against the British, was his appointment by President Cleveland to be American consul in London. John J. Collins served as his vice consul. Forty years before Joseph Kennedy represented the United States as American ambassador to Britain, these two Collinses—one an Irish immigrant, and a former Fenian supporter, the other the son...
Kevin White. Never get mad, just get even. Rest in Peace Kevin. was the best political payback in history. That was Boston politics. That was of himself and his writing lacked confidence, no wonder, and conviction. It after that night. He lasted a few more years at the Herald, but he was a shadow and offered to resign. His boss declined his offer but he was never the same set up before and on the front page to boot. He immediately called his boss like he was going to faint. White had set him up like nobody had ever been Mayor of Boston.” Years later, Lucas told me that he spit out his drink and felt White said, “For all of those reasons I will not be a candidate for reelection as around was the one that Lucas felt landed on his head. At exactly 7:56PM talked about all that he had accomplished in the past sixteen years. It sounded, to Peter Lucas and everyone else, like a stump speech, but the only stump around was the one that Lucas felt landed on his head. At exactly 7:56PM White said, “For all of those reasons I will not be a candidate for reelection as Mayor of Boston.” Years later, Lucas told me that he spit out his drink and felt like he was going to faint. White had set him up like nobody had ever been set up before and on the front page to boot. He immediately called his boss and offered to resign. His boss declined his offer but he was never the same after that night. He lasted a few more years at the Herald, but he was a shadow of himself and his writing lacked confidence, no wonder, and conviction. It was the best political payback in history. That was Boston politics. That was Kevin White. Never get mad, just get even. Rest in Peace Kevin.
## Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Baths</th>
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</tbody>
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**Thinking About Selling or Buying in 2013?**

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

Maryann Crush, President

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mcmproperties.com

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Go to our facebook page to vote on our weekly poll.
www.southbostontoday.com
Your Best Health

Finally, we’re in the 50’s! It has been a long winter to say the least and I know I can’t be the only one relieved to hear the birds chirping in the morning. As the weather changes why not take the time to change your health and lifestyle. It was too easy to make excuses and not keep up with the New Year’s resolutions during January, and February. Not losing my parking spot is one that I used anyways. As we round the corner into April this article will highlight a few ways to transition into a healthier you this spring.

With any new exercise program participants should begin slowly and work their way towards a measurable goal. For true beginners we highly advocate a program called Couch to 5k. This program aims to take individuals from a sedentary lifestyle to running a 3 mile or 5k race following an 8 week training schedule. The schedule involves participants alternating walking with jogging 3x a week slowly building time and distance. You might be surprised how easy and effective it is once you make a commitment to the program. Our suggestion is that you team with a friend or 2 or 3 that will hold you accountable to your training and help you get through the first couple times out. An excellent resource for this program is www.coolrunning.com which offers a training guideline and can help you find a race in your area. We recommend the 26th annual Jim Kane Sugar Bowl 5k along Carson beach on June 18th. It is hosted by the legendary L St. Running Club and the race is flat!

We have such a great resource in South Boston in Castle Island and its circumferential path the sugar bowl. The sugar bowl measures approximately 3.18 miles long and offers a view of Boston that is pretty hard to beat. Southie newcomers might be surprised how many of your neighbors you’ll run into down there walking or jogging. It offers a nice opportunity to get to know these members of your community that you might otherwise be too busy to talk to. For those with smart phones Nike+ is a great app to help you get started on the sidewalk. It records your time and distance each time you go providing a nice measuring tool for your goals. You can even listen to your tunes while it is on.

For those of you who have been in and out of a routine all winter we suggest shaking it up. Finding something new can be a great way to get passionate about your fitness and health. South Boston has no shortage of popular gyms and studios to discover. This author highly suggests two programs that will definitely provide a challenge to your routine and might even get you in the best shape of your life. Regan’s Motivated Fitness offers morning boot camp classes each month from 6-7 a.m. at the stadium in Moakley Park. Each class is different from the next offering a challenging and varied workout. The hardest part is getting up and going because once you are there you will no doubt be motivated and start your day off with energy. Peter Welch’s gym is another local gem that offers boxing inspired fighter conditioning classes. These classes include core strengthening, weight training, and of course hitting the heavy bag in a very friendly environment. Not a bad stress reliever either hitting those bags. Bring a towel, you’ll need it.

If you are of a more competitive type Crossfit Southie might be what you are looking for. This gym offers high intensity workouts incorporating a number of exercise principles that challenge individuals to achieve their personal best records. Weight and gloves not your thing? Ok what about yoga then. We are huge proponents of the ancient Indian art that uses postures to achieve muscle and ligament strength and flexibility. South Boston Yoga and B Yoga Center are two facilities right here in our own backyard that will help both your body and mind.

No matter what you do to get healthy this spring, make a commitment. We are nothing without our health and besides who doesn’t want to look good on the beach. In a few short months bikinis, board shorts, and Grammy White’s slush will be out on M St. Stay healthy Southie and enjoy your community resources this spring!

Tim Kiley is a Doctor of Physical Therapy. He is Managing Partner and Director of Treatment at Baystate Physical Therapy, South Boston

Did You Know... CONTINUED FROM page 11 of an Irish immigrant and liquor merchant, represented the United States in the capital of the British Empire.

James Collins exemplifies a South Boston ethic—he rose from poverty through hard work, and raised a large family comfortably. His children went on to successful careers. He took into his home his own extended family and children and dependents of his business partners, and he built a series of houses adjoining his own to house his children and his employees. His rise from the congestion of Boston Neck to the greener pastures of City Point was echoed by a similar migration of generations of South Bostonians. Born in the Lower End, success was measured by the move to the Point.

In recent memory, John Joseph Moakley, born on Dorchester Street, ultimately bought a house on Columbia Road; William Bulger, having spent his childhood in the Mary Ellen McCormack Projects, in 1960 was able to buy a house on East Third Street; Ray Flynn, born in the “Polish Triangle” of Andrew Square in the 1930s, moved to City Point as an adult. In Boston’s other neighborhoods—and in most neighborhoods of the country—upward mobility within a neighborhood is impossible. Successful citizens flee to the suburbs. But City Point allows citizens of South Boston to stay within their neighborhood, making South Boston a unique urban community. The demographic segregation which became the hallmark of American cities did not take hold in South Boston. Instead, the neighborhood is home, as its song says, to “lawyers and teachers, flappers and preachers, and men from the old County Down.” The Collins Mansion on East Broadway was built as a symbol of James Collins’ success; it remains a symbol of a neighborhood connected to its past and future.

Robert J. Allison is President of the South Boston Historical Society and Chair of the History Department at Suffolk University.
The Artist’s Studio

Southie kids ‘painting outside the box’

For the past three years, the South Boston Arts Association has been partnering with the South Boston Community Health Center in holding free painting classes for local kids from 7 to 12 years of age. The group has been painting in acrylics on canvas boards since the beginning … but have now have stepped it up a notch entering a new phase called Painting Outside the Box’ … on the bottom ‘Outside Pizza Boxes’ … that is.

It has been a typical South Boston cooperative effort. The Health Center arranged for the art supplies … the Arts Association has supplied the instructors … Fr. Joe White has given us the venue (St. Vincent Parish Room) and Pat McDonough of Pat’s Trattoria on West Broadway has supplied the pizza boxes. And many local parents are supplying the kids. Mayra Rodriguez Howard, director of the Health Center’s Institute for a Healthier Community, shepherds over three or four of the Young Ambassadors from her group, each Monday afternoon, to monitor the setups…the cleanups and the foul-ups. Among them are: Maria Castillo, Roshawna Grant, Brenda Nyamunda, Phyllis Nyamunda, Jamil Quinones and Liz Sheehan. Ann Marie Collins, Lorie Walsh, Joanne Miller, Bill Frew and Dan McCole from the Arts Association give up their time to instruct, keep the paint tubes on hand to squish in more color, as needed, to the pie-plate palettes, and hold hands, and wipe away a tear or two.

Ann Marie Collins is a painter who takes time away from her Awaken Therapeutic Massage business to work with the youngsters. Joanne Miller is an accomplished painter and Lorie Walsh is a singer formerly with the San Francisco Opera Company. Bill Frew is a retired U.S. Air Force and former airlines pilot and now a very accomplished oil painter. Dan McCole is a watercolor painter and president of the Arts Association.

The kids are given the three basic colors … red, yellow and blue … plus black and white and they mix their own colors … under tears, giggles, and cries of, ‘I’m all outta white!’ … and “How do you make brown?” They have learned to make green out of yellow and blue … and purple out of red and blue … and orange out of yellow and red. But brown is the real killer … and requires mixing everything and demands the complete attention of the instructors. For Easter week they did chickens … and found out that one little girl didn’t like chicken and wanted to do a rabbit. Luckily the staff found pictures of rabbits left over from the week before and the child was pleased.

Of course, on St. Patrick’s week it was all-Ireland. The green was mixed with absolute care. The arts association has also teamed up with the Young Ambassadors in environmental works. Teams of the young men and women have been cleaning up street refuse in Southie for the past few years and have been travelling to weather stricken areas such as Mississippi and Louisiana to help clean up after the disastrous Katrina hurricane and to Alabama to help homeowners with tornado damage. This year, the youth are giving up their spring breaks to do Sandy hurricane Relief Work on Staten Island, New York.

A fund-raising Bowling Party to benefit the clean-up expenses will be held at the South Boston Bowlarama, 543 East Broadway, Friday night from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. And will feature raffles and silent auctions and great prizes. Proceeds will benefit the South Boston Youth Ambassadors Community Service Trip.

For fund-raising info: Mayra Howard, (mailto:MaHoward@sbcchc.org), (617) 464-7423. Learn more about the Youth Ambassadors by following them on Facebook. www.facebook.com/SBYouthambassadors.

Engaged and vital, the South Boston Arts Community has proved to be the silk lining within the fabric of South Boston. South Boston Today is pleased to present the Artists’ Studio series as our way of supporting our friends and neighbors in community building.
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT
This event blends memory and hope with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and children’s choirs. Produced by Terezín Music Foundation, Temple Israel of Boston, and Brookline’s Temple Sinai.

Holocaust Remembrance Day candle-lighting and concert with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and children’s choirs.

April 7, 2013, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. Terezín Music Foundation, Temple Israel of Boston, and Brookline’s Temple Sinai jointly present a candle-lighting memorial service with Cantors Roy Einhorn and Rosalie Toubes and local Holocaust survivors; music from Terezín performed by Boston Symphony Orchestra members; songs performed by the children’s choirs of both synagogues; and a short video about remembrance by students of the synagogues’ religious schools. Temple Israel, Levi Auditorium. 477 Longwood Ave., Boston. 617-566-3960. Free. Parking is free at 375 Longwood Garage with validation at the event. Ages 12+, 60 minutes.

Voices from the Holocaust join young voices of today to observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on Sunday, April 7, 2013, in a program presented by the Terezín Music Foundation (TMF), Temple Israel of Boston, and Brookline’s Temple Sinai. The free 2:00 PM event includes a candle-lighting memorial with survivors, a live concert of music from Terezín with members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and song and video presentations by children of both synagogues.

Presented in Temple Israel’s Levi Auditorium, the program opens with the candle-lighting, to be led by Temple Israel Cantor Roy Einhorn and Temple Sinai Cantor Rosalie Toubes accompanied by Boston-area Holocaust survivors and their families. Immediately following will be a concert of music from Terezín by noted composer Gideon Klein, performed by members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and songs from Terezín performed by the children’s choirs of the two synagogues. Among the children’s songs is one whose text is the famous poem “I Never Saw Another Butterfly” from Terezín. Also on the program are two short videos about remembrance, created for the occasion by children of the synagogues’ religious schools.

“It is always a privilege to perform the music of Gideon Klein, one of the great musical voices lost in the Holocaust, and sharing it on a program that joins the memories of survivors with the voices of children is especially meaningful,” says Mr. Ludwig, Executive Director of the Terezín Music Foundation. “The afternoon will offer the Boston community a stirring blend of history, memory, and hope for a future of tolerance and peace. And who better to ask for this than children?”

The BSO artists on the program are Si-Jung Huang, violin; Mark Ludwig, viola; and Sato Knudsen, cello. As members of the Hawthorne String Quartet, they have worked around the world with the Terezín Music Foundation to perform and record music by artists lost in the Holocaust— as well as the new music TMF has commissioned to honor the legacy of the lost composers.

Temple Israel of Boston is located at 477 Longwood Ave. Admission is free. Parking is free at 375 Longwood Garage, next door, with validation at the event. Best for ages 12+. 60 minutes. For additional information on attending the event, please contact Laurena Rosenberg, Temple Israel of Boston, lrosenberg@tisrael.org. tel. 617-566-3960.

The Terezín Music Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring the legacy of the Terezín artists and victims of the Holocaust by preserving and performing their works internationally, and by sponsoring new compositions by emerging composers. In this way, the Foundation carries on the unrealized mentoring role or the Terezín artists and fills the world with music that stands as a memorial and tribute to them. Temple Israel of Boston is the metropolitan area’s largest Reform synagogue. Temple Sinai is a small and diverse Reform synagogue in Brookline’s Coolidge Corner. Yom HaShoah begins Sunday, April 7, at sunset and continues through Monday, April 8, at sunset.

Why Not Visit the New England Holocaust Memorial During the Coming Week

“Look at these towers, passerby, and try to imagine what they really meant what they symbolize what they evoke. They evoke an era of incommensurate darkness, an era in history when civilization lost its humanity and humanity its soul. We must look at these towers of memory and say to ourselves, No one should ever deprive a human being of his or her right to dignity. No one should ever deprive anyone of his or her right to be a sovereign human being. No one should ever speak again about racial superiority. We cannot give evil another chance”.

Elie Wiesel

• New England Holocaust Memorial
• Located in Carmen Park, on Congress Street near Faneuil Hall, on Boston’s historic Freedom Trail.
• The Memorial is walking distance (about 5-10 minutes) from the following MBTA Subway Stations: Haymarket on the Green & Orange line, Government Center on the Blue and Green Line, and State Street on the Blue and Orange Lines.
Big Brother Big Sister Foundation would like to thank South Boston Today and the residents of South Boston for their contributions and generous donations on Saturday March 23rd. The drive was a huge success! Over 3,000 lbs of clothing and small household items were collected. Donations benefit Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programs in your community and throughout Greater Boston. The Foundation would also like to thank State Representative Nick Collins and the Boston Fire Department for their continued support. They will be back in the fall for another drive.

Anti-Bullying Workshop

Thursday at Tynan, 5pm

This Thursday, April 4 join BPD Station 6 Community Service Officer Jack Boyle at the BCYF Tynan Community Center gymnasium as he discusses the importance of standing up to bullying and getting help.

Learn about bullying, the different forms it can take, its hurtful impact, and effective strategies to prevent and stop it in your schools, neighborhood and online.

Take the Anti-Bullying Pledge! And, be a part of the millions who have already joined the fight to “Stand Strong Against Bullying”. All ages welcome!

Let’s win this one together!

For more information please contact Youth Workers Katie O’Connell or Barbara Kelly.
Kinetic Katie from High Touch High Tech NE visited last week for two science programs. In the morning Grades K1 and K2 came together and enjoyed a presentation called “Something Fishy”. Kinetic Katie told the children all about fish. They learned how fish breathe through their gills and that they need oxygen to live. She performed an experiment demonstrating how a school of fish uses a fear factor substance when danger is near allowing the fish to scatter. The children handled objects found in the ocean like starfish, seahorses and sand dollars. They also created a “rainbow fish”. In the afternoon, Grades 1 & 2 enjoyed the presentation called “Our Living Planet”. The students learned about different types of clouds and got to feel what a cloud feels like. They also learned about UV rays and how to protect themselves from the sun. They used UV bracelets! After Kinetic Katie talked about plants and what they need to grow, each child planted a lima bean seed to take home.

St Peter Academy is an independent private school with a Catholic focus offering unique programs enhancing the educational experience for all of its students in grades Pre K through 8.

Chloe feels a “cloud”.

Mia plants her lima Bean seed.

Thomas, Colin and Morgan work on their projects.

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

www.southbostontoday.com
Grade 1 uses their UV bracelets.

Molly creates her "Rainbow Fish".

Sarah, Gisele, Dimitri and Logan experiment with the "Fear Factor".

Rocco, Dimitri and Logan go "fishing".

Reading "Rainbow Fish".
SB Little League Baseball Tryouts

Major Leagues- born between May 1, 2000 & April 30, 2003(10-12 year olds)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 4/7</td>
<td>12:00p.m.</td>
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South Boston Little League is now holding registration this month for the 2013 season. ALL children must re-register each year regardless of whether or not he/she played the 2012 season. Registration for the 2013 season is open to all players born between May 1, 2000-April 30, 2009, 4-12 yr olds for all divisions (Tee Ball, Rookie Ball, “A”, “AA”, “AAA” and Major League).

If you need more than one registration form, you may print it from the “Forms & Info” link on the website at www.southbostonlittleleague.com.

Kindly return your registration form, appropriate fee and copy of birth certificate(s) by April 11th, 2013, in order to guarantee your child a roster spot for a team in 2013. Any registrations received after April 11th, 2013, may require your child to be placed on a waiting list. You may mail your registration, fee and copy of birth certificate to South Boston Little League, P.O. Box 143, South Boston, MA 02127-0143 or you may complete the registration in person at the registration locations listed below.

Registration Locations & Dates:

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Boys &amp; Girls Club</td>
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<td>Tynan School</td>
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</table>

The fee schedule for the 2013 SBLL season shall be: $55 for the 1st child; $40 for the 2nd child; and, family maximum of $125.00. An additional fee will also be required for participation on any travel teams, summer leagues, fall leagues and tournament teams. These fees will be determined at a later date by the Board of Directors.

Finally, please return all house league issued MLB uniform shirts and pants from previous years that you may have to the registration locations listed above.

SB Sports Hall of Fame Announces Scholarship Program

The South Boston Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Trust Fund announces their program for the year 2013. The fund will award up to ten (10) fifteen hundred dollar degree scholarship grants and one (1) non-degree scholarship grant for one thousand dollars. Of the ten academic grants, one will be funded by Massport, one by the “L” Street Brownies, one by Folan Waterproofing and Construction of Easton in memory of deceased members of the Folan family, one by the South Boston Youth Hockey Association in memory of John Cunniff and one in memory of attorney William McDermott Jr.

Up to five additional grants will be funded by the Hall of Fame Trust Fund, one in memory of Bob Nichols. The non-degree grant will be funded by Massport. The academic grants are for those students who reside in South Boston (02127), will graduate from high school in 2013 or have received a GED certificate since January, 2013 and plan to attend a school of advanced education or training in 2013. The non-degree scholarship grant is for those students who reside in South Boston (02127), who will graduate from high school in 2013 or have earned a GED certificate since January 1, 2013, and plan to attend a school of advanced education or training in 2013. Examples of non-degree programs are computer training, cosmetology, nursing, culinary arts, auto mechanics or other technical or professional training programs approved by the board of trustees of the “FUND”.

Complete details of each program are described on the scholarship application, which may be picked up at school, the South Boston Library, the Boys & Girls Club, the Tynan Community Center, or the Curley Community Center. Applications must be received by May 10, 2013 and must be forwarded to:

Fred Ahern • South Boston SHOF Scholarship Trust Fund
Curley Community Center • 1663 Columbia Road • South Boston, MA 02127

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9PM - Midnight

Thursday Thirsty Thursdays
Live Music with Seamus
8PM - Midnight

Sunday Presenting MARKiSS
Happy Birthday Josh!
9PM - Midnight

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617-269-6667

617-269-6667
Tech Tourney and the NCAA Tournament

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian Wallace

A nyone who knows me knows that I grew up in South Boston playing basketball. I was fortunate enough to meet a guy like John Injun Horan who coached me from the time I was 7 until I was 15. I was fortunate to have two local basketball heroes teach me how to play basketball. One was Mike Pane, who played basketball for Boston University and was Captain of the famous “Shrimp Boat” team from Southie High. The Shrimp Boats had one player who was over six feet tall and he would later play for the World Champion Philadelphia Eagles in the NFL. His name was Dick Lucas and he was one of the best athletes ever to play for Southie. They stole the heart of the basketball world back in 1952 and had everyone cheering them on to the finals of the Tech Tourney. They lost in the final round and got a two minute standing ovation from the 13,909 who packed the Garden that night.

The Tech Tourney, back then, was the same as the NCAA today, without the television. They had huge bands and the whole towns would follow their hometown team into the Garden and sometime back home. When a Somerville team won, which was often, the team and all the fans walked from the Garden to Somerville together.

The other guy who taught me how to play was Ray Flynn, who would take what the Shrimp Boats did a step further. 1956 Flynn led his Southie High team to the Championship of the Tech Tourney. Ray went on to win the MVP in the NIT Tournament at Madison Square Garden in 1963 and came back home and taught a lot of kids how to play basketball. I was one of those kids.

The Tech Tourney has gone the way of a lot of great programs, like Park League football, basketball and baseball. The NBA is a joke with bloated salaries and bloated egos. The last time they called a violation for carrying the ball in the NBA, Bob Cousy was playing for the Celtics. It has gotten to be a show rather than a sport. I can’t remember the last time I sat down and watched an NBA game. It has lost its appeal.

March Madness, on the other hand, is the Tech Tourney on steroids and it is everything that is good and pure about basketball. Those college kids that play in the NCAA Tournament play for the right reason, which is not money. They play for the sport and they play for their school and their community, much like the old Tech Tourney. You will never find more enthusiasm at any sporting event than you will in the NCAA Tournament. When a #15 seed from the Florida Gulf Coast can will themselves to beat a highly favored Georgetown team and follow that up with a win against another highly favored team from San Diego State and be the first #15 seed ever to make it to the Sweet Sixteen. You will never see such pure joy and excitement when a huge underdog from Harvard, of all places, beats one of the tournament favorites from New Mexico, giving Harvard its first NCAA win in history. That is pure basketball and pure enjoyment. One of the Boston papers wrote the only good thing about the Florida Gulf Coast team is that the school is located in Fort Myers where the Red Sox play their spring training games. Tell that to those kids who showed a national audience how to win with class and how to play the game the way it was meant to be played. I can’t wait until next Saturday to see the best four teams in College basketball square off against each other. Great job Florida Gulf Coast. Whoever you are?
AL EAST: Tampa Bay Rays

--Behind the strong left arm of David Price, the Rays will be the toughest team to play in the division, mainly because their young rotation -- behind Price -- will cause problems for the rest of the division. The Yankees will be better than people think. So will the Red Sox. Toronto is the popular pick here. But I’m not sold on R.A. Dickey’s continued success with a knuckle ball, nor am I sold on Josh Johnson staying healthy for a full season. Baltimore might have another good season, but it’ll be the Rays who will just barely beat out Boston for the division.

AL Central: Detroit Tigers

--Out of all division winners in Major League Baseball last year, the Tigers had the least amount of wins, with 88. But with Justin
Verlander as your ace, all you have to do is get into the tournament. Expect the Tigers to win the division again on the arm of Verlander and the bats of Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder. The Cleveland Indians will be the Tigers’ biggest challenge, but they won’t have enough pitching to take it.

**AL West: Los Angeles Angels**

--Adding Josh Hamilton in the offseason gives the Angels a downright scary lineup. Don’t sleep on the Texas Rangers though. They lost Hamilton to free agency, but they can still have a dominant rotation. Oakland will be good, but certainly not 94-wins good like last year. Jered Weaver and C.J. Wilson will be the difference-makers for the Angels taking the West.

**AL Wild Cards: Texas Rangers, Boston Red Sox**

--The Rangers have enough pitching to deal with the loss of Hamilton. But his move to the Angels will be the only reason the Rangers won’t win the division and will get the top Wild Card spot. As for the Red Sox, Jon Lester won’t be as bad as he was in 2012, and with the emergence of Clay Buchholz as the team’s bonafide ace, Boston will -- to the surprise of many -- be a tough team to beat in 2013.

**NL East: Philadelphia Phillies**

--People are either sleeping on the Phillies or they are expecting huge things from the Washington Nationals and Atlanta Braves. The Nationals will be exciting to watch, for sure. But after an unusual .500 year from Philly, I’ll still take a rotation of Cole Hamels, Roy Halladay, and Cliff Lee to go along with a healthy Ryan Howard at the plate. Watch out for a focused Phillies club.

**NL Central: Cincinnati Reds**

--The Reds nearly won 100 games last year. Johnny Cueto is an absolute stud, and they have a rock-solid bullpen that will take them a long way this season after losing to the eventual World Series champion San Francisco Giants in last year’s NLDS. Cincy is also the pick here because the division still doesn’t have any other team that has the ability to dominate.

**NL West: Los Angeles Dodgers**

Clayton Kershaw is looking for a long-term contract, and he’ll be a man possessed on the mound for the Dodgers this season. And the trade they made with the Red Sox last year will actually benefit them greatly. The Dodgers are as advertised. They are one of two powerhouse ballclubs in L.A.

**NL Wild Cards: Washington Nationals, San Francisco Giants**

--The Nats will be in a dogfight for this spot, but Stephen Strasburg won’t be shut down at the end of the year like he was last season. And the Giants are the defending champs. They’ll get into the tournament once again for sure, as long as Pablo Sandoval can lay off the late-night snacks.

**POSTSEASON:**

**ALCS: Angels over Tigers**

--The Angels defeat the Rays, and the Tigers defeat the Red Sox in the ALDS. But in the ALCS, the Angels prove to be too overpowering for the Tigers, both at the plate and on the mound. Tigers got swept in the 2012 World Series, and they’ll get swept in the 2013 ALCS.

**NLCS: Phillies over Dodgers**

--The Phillies defeat the Nationals, and the Dodgers defeat the Reds in the NLDS. Philly is a team destined to get Halladay a championship, and they’ll go the distance, defeating the Dodgers in seven games in the NLCS.

**WORLD SERIES: Phillies over Angels**

-- In one of the more anticipated World Series in recent memory, the Phillies’ rotation continues its dominance in doing what most teams couldn’t do all season: slow down Mike Trout, Albert Pujols, and Hamilton. Jonathan Papelbon gets the MVP.
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