



Are Some People Just Plain Evil?

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

The name of Edwin J. Alemany is forever etched in the minds of South Bostonians. Among the crimes that have infected this neighborhood that have targeted women of different ages and have put

residents and the police on high alert, the Amy Lord tragedy is different because of what we learned had happened before and after her murder on July 23 this year. The added burden of knowing that a wonderful young woman from rural Massachusetts, who brought her personality, values and trusting nature to our close knit and friendly community so she could get the experience of working and living in a big city makes it that much more tragic. That is not to suggest that the other recent deaths are less important, it is just that the behavior of the alleged murderer of Ms. Lord, revealed in court this past Wednesday, defies the boundaries of a civilized society.

New information about Alemany's behavior was disclosed in Suffolk Superior Court as he plead not guilty to a charge of first degree murder for killing Lord on July 23 and a host of other charges stemming from attacks on three other women, including

a 2012 assault, the investigation of which caused a shake-up in the Boston Police Department. Alemany, whose attorney has said he has a long history of mental illness, answered "not guilty" to the 20 charges he now faces. He remains held without bail and was returned to Bridgewater State Hospital. His trial is scheduled for December 2014.

According to court documents and news report, Assistant District Attorney John Pappas told the court in chilling detail how Lord, 24, was opening the door of her Dorchester Street apartment building in South Boston shortly before 6 a.m. July 23 when Alemany pushed her back inside, savagely beat her, abducted her at knifepoint, and forced her to drive her Jeep Cherokee to several banks and make ATM withdrawals, starting in South Boston and ending in Dorchester, before taking her to Stony Brook Reservation in Hyde

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Poll On
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EDITORIAL *Take Away the Give Away – A Good Place to Start*

Activists and ordinary citizens are lobbying city hall to stop corporate giveaways that have mounted under the Menino administration. The evidence that they are needed or stimulate development is sketchy. The process for such awards is even sketchier. Buzzwords abound. Sweetheart Deals. Blighted Properties. As Of Right. In Lieu Of. Mitigation. What was intended to stimulate affordable housing has become a tax haven for developers who among other means, syndicate the benefits of tax breaks to wealthy investors who help finance their projects. Property owners in Boston and in particular the South Boston and surrounding neighborhoods are fielding bidding wars from local, national and international buyers, who know how valuable real estate is here, even at a straightforward transaction with no sweeteners.

With at least a \$50 million deficit staring the city in the face, instead of insatiable developers

exacerbating the burden by trying to ram through their developments before a new administration takes over, they should be asking the Mayor how they can help pay for the police, fire and EMT services or help create more affordable housing. One activist is calling upon the City Council to conduct an independent audit of every single 121A to find out how much money the City is losing, because nobody knows.

The details of the 121A tax breaks are hidden from public view and the BRA is not obliged to justify their decisions on tax giveaways to anyone. There is essentially no public accountability. The time has come to Take Away the Giveaway, at least until the citizens of Boston know how they will benefit. Won't it be nice for a change, if the public actually benefits from its taxes, rather than be just a tax shelter for someone from God knows where?



*“Happiness isn't getting what you want, it's wanting what you've got”
-Garth Brooks*

Last Week's Poll

Do you believe Boston's Police Officers Are Getting Too Much Compensation?

Yes 42%
No 58%

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Deadlines

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Press Copy - Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. - Advertisements - Space Reservation - Monday at 5:00 P.M. Ad Material - Tuesday at 3:00 P.M. Camera Ready Ads - Wednesday at 9:00 A.M.

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Are Laws Made for Everyone? Maybe not.

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

Laws are meant to be obeyed. Unless of course you live in Massachusetts, hold a position of authority and don't like the law in question. Then –Maybe you don't obey. It's being reported that officials on the federal level are angry, because many young people are openly saying that they don't care what the law says, they will not sign up for Obamacare. Wow! Could this be the beginning of the predicted rebellion? Many area college students and non-students too in their 20's ,and people in their 30's are just saying No. But, government officials say, it's the law of the land, so it must be obeyed. Yet, what kind of example are these officials setting? Pretty poor examples as they are themselves selective of what rules to obey and enforce. Can we ever forget the Massachusetts state rep from the North Shore who pushed through a new sales tax for booze several years ago, then was photographed a few weeks later loading up the trunk of his official state car with tax free wine at a New Hampshire liquor store?

The Secure Communities law is a federal rule that mandates the finger printing of illegal aliens in an effort to deport those among that group who are violent criminals over and above being just criminals for sneaking into the country. Yet, we have Governor Patrick of Massachusetts declining to enforce the program because HE doesn't like that particular law. Just like HE is in favor of giving discount tuition to 'illegals' even though by definition, they broke the law just by being here. Another

law he does not like, so he will not follow. We have Mr. Onyango Obama, the president's uncle here illegally, who has been ignoring court deportation orders for years. He was even caught drinking and driving without having a valid driver's license. Not a problem. The Massachusetts judge who heard the court case recently didn't seem to think the law applied to Uncle Onyango, so he gets to stay and apply for legal citizenship to boot. Let's not forget the 'special' driver's license he was issued. The federal government itself is pretty much throwing open this country's southern border allowing a flood of others to swarm into the United States illegally, because the President does not particularly like America's immigration laws, therefore he won't follow them. This President has also been ignoring the US Constitution because here again, he doesn't like what's written in the document.

Now, seeing how these officials are ignoring laws they don't like, is it any wonder these young people feel that if the big guys can do it, so can they. They don't like the Obamacare Law; it's been exposed as a terrible plan conceived in lies and deceit, so they just aren't going to obey it. It's as simple as that. I can't say as I blame them. Personally, I wouldn't sign up for it either.

But the implementation of Obamacare is not without its satisfying consequences too. US Senate leader Harry Reid, one of the plan's biggest advocates was reportedly furious when he learned last week that under this plan, his

own healthcare premiums will increase by \$4,500. That's what I call a bit of justice.

Recent polls have shown that young people, one of Obama's biggest support groups, are deserting him by the millions. They no longer trust him. It's difficult to trust someone who does not tell the truth. You can keep your doctor and your health plan, he won't raise taxes on the middle class, he knows nothing about Benghazi, The fast and

furious gun running scheme, IRS targeting of Conservative groups and Churches, and countless other lies – yes, lies. The White House even insisted that Obama never even met his Uncle Onyango, until of course it was admitted a few days ago, after a bit of research by a reporter, that Barack the nephew stayed on Uncle Onyango's couch for three weeks, while he was attending college. But this is the guy who insisted he did not hear

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Neighborhood Alert

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

A Warning to all neighborhood residents: Reports are coming in to South Boston today that there has been a rash of thefts in different parts of South Boston. Items are being taken from unlocked hallways, door steps and even from home mail boxes. Reports of packages and delivered boxes that have been left in plain sight by delivery companies are also reported missing. If you are expecting one or more packages, Christmas Gifts or items you ordered through shopping on line to be dropped off at your home and you cannot be there to receive those items, it is suggested that you

make arrangements with the delivery companies to pick them up at their offices, or perhaps have them delivered to a neighbor's home that you know will be at home when the items come.

These incidents seem to increase with the approach of Christmas each year as potential thieves become more active anticipating more opportunities to commit these types of crimes. It is advised that you keep doors to hallways locked and keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in your immediate neighborhood. Report any unusual occurrences to police as soon as you see it.

Some Facts about Secure Communities Program:

The Secure Communities Program of the Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been activated as a pilot program in Boston since 2006. Under the Program, fingerprints of anyone booked by the local or state police are sent through the F.B.I. to be checked in databases of the Department of Homeland Security which include immigration records. If there is a match, officials at the immigration agency decide whether to issue a detainer, asking the police to hold the person to be picked up by federal agents for further immigration action, if appropriate.

- Secure Communities was piloted in 2006. It was formally started in 2008 as a voluntary program. That changed in 2011 when officials at ICE said they had determined that they did not require consent from states to start the program. Citing antiterrorism legislation that Congress passed in 2002, the officials canceled agreements they had signed in 40 states and said they would extend the program nationwide.

- Under the administration of George W. Bush, ICE recruited a total of 14 jurisdictions.

- By March 2011, under President Barack Obama, the program was expanded to over 1,210 jurisdictions.

- From inception through March 2011, 140,396 convicted criminal aliens have been booked into

ICE custody resulting in 72,445 deportations.

- An ICE report to Congress in 2009 stated its purpose to be:

"1. Identify criminal aliens through modernized information sharing 2. Prioritize enforcement actions to ensure apprehension and removal of dangerous criminal aliens and 3. Transform criminal alien enforcement processes and systems to achieve lasting results."

- August 2011, the Department of Homeland Security announced a new deportation policy, according to which the immigration enforcement authorities would concentrate on deporting individuals deemed to be threatening to public safety.

- By end of summer 2011, the Obama administration had deported about one million "illegal aliens", mostly indigent Mexican nationals.

Facts taken from http://www.ice.gov/secure_communities/

Surely, the program is not perfect, and like any endeavor or venture requires constant evaluation, scrutiny and oversight. But if we assume ICE's information is truthful, what part of the Secure Communities program, accelerated by President Obama, is detrimental to society? Focusing on those who are deemed a threat to society? The sharing of information between cities, states and federal agencies? The Deportation period?

CONTINUED FROM front page 1

Park and murdering her.

Alemany then drove Lord's Jeep back to South Boston and set it on fire at about 8:30 a.m. before using Lord's money to buy lottery tickets and a new cell phone, Pappas said. Alemany is also charged with the attempted murder and assault and battery in connection with an attack on a 22-year-old woman before 5 a.m. July 23, just before Lord was abducted from her apartment building. "He allegedly told her that he wasn't going to rob her, that he was going to kill her," Pappas said, "and he then proceeded to choke her as she fought to get away."

After these brutal attacks, Alemany ate and drank with friends and then when dropped off at his girlfriend's apartment in Old Colony Housing, he had an argument with her and left. Alemany then attacked another woman the next day on Gates Street near the same neighborhood as Amy Lord. For this he is also charged with armed assault with intent to murder and aggravated assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. This victim was a 21-year-old woman whom he approached near her Gate Street apartment and then began stabbing her, Pappas told the judge. She suffered serious injuries to her torso, face and neck, but managed to scream for help, and neighbors called 911, he said. Alemany fled, and the victim was rushed by ambulance to Tufts Medical Center. During the attack, Alemany cut his hand badly, and by chance he admitted himself to the same hospital, where the victim gave a description of her attacker that matched him, Pappas said. Paramedics spotted Alemany and notified police, who arrested him at the hospital.

He is also charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and assault and battery for a fourth attack on a 22-year-old woman Sept. 28, 2012. The woman in that assault fought back and before she lost consciousness, she was able to grab Alemany's wallet. Alemany has prior felony convictions for assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and numerous defaults as a result of his failure to show up in court, Pappas stated. Defense Attorney Jeffrey Denner said Alemany has a lengthy history of hospitalizations due to mental illness "and should never have been out walking the streets."

In a statement issued by his office, Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley said, "This crime shocked our city in a way that few crimes do. Amy Lord was a true innocent young woman who came to our city with great hope and the promise of starting a new life here, a new opportunity. The thought that Edwin Alemany would so savagely attack her and beat her shocks our sensibilities as citizens....We have had one single-minded purpose, and that is to hold her killer accountable."



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In this week's poll South Boston Today asks you:

*Do you think
the Secure
Communities
program is*

- **Good**
- **Bad**
- **Good but needs work**
- **Get rid of it entirely**



Reading Between The Lines

“Turn On the Lights”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

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

The first results of this year's Christmas light inspection were not too encouraging. Hopefully by the time you read this, the lights have come on. Every year this column tries to locate and report on outstanding Christmas light displays, so that readers might take a stroll or drive by to take in the spirit of the season.

To be honest this wasn't an “official” inspection. I happened to go along Farragut Road and noticed, as usual, the folks living there had their always brilliant celebration on display. Their presence made the absence of lights, mostly everywhere else, stark by comparison.

Hopefully, like myself, most people need the reminder of seeing their neighbor's lights for their own light switch to go on, and, combined with the light dusting of snow on Monday, will get in the spirit and start switching on. It's hard to understand those who rail against Christmas lights and decorations. For a brief season, they create an atmosphere of peace and good deeds. Is that so bad?

Do Christmas carols really brainwash atheists into becoming believers? Are other religions fearful that their congregation will be converted by hearing or singing “White Christmas”? In this season of peace, it's probably not nice to label those anti-Christmas fanatics as evil. Perhaps ignorant is a better word. They must be completely ignorant of what the celebration of Christmas means to hundreds of millions of people. They must be ignorant of the pain that their hurtful, self-centered actions cause.

Take the candle lights people put in their window at this time of year. Songs and poems have been written about, “putting a candle in the window”. For hundreds of years, in an attempt

to eradicate Irish culture, the ruling English made it illegal to speak, write, read or teach the Gaelic language or practice Catholicism. Masses were held deep in the woods. Schools and classes were held in hollowed bushes that line roads called “Hedgerow Schools”. Priests and teachers, who were caught, were often hanged.

Christmas to many the world over is the holiest and most sacred of all days, so important that the sacrament of Mass is imperative. It was impractical for a large gathering to steal away in the middle of a Christmas night in winter. Instead a custom was created. On Christmas a candle in the window was a signal to priests, largely living and hiding in the woods, that the presence of God was in this house and it was safe for the priest to come in. While the specific reason or meaning has been muddled through time and perhaps commercialism, the symbols have become part of the fabric of overall celebration just like the gifts of the Wise Men or the Christmas Tree have also become part of that fabric.

Where is the harm in any one of these symbols? Yet, for some reason, other people's joy and happiness seems to inexplicably move people to destructive rage. Walking on East Broadway on Monday, I saw the shattered remains of a large candy cane that resembled one I saw in the front yard display further down the block. Sure enough, the one I had seen was now missing.

A candy cane? Are you kidding? Perhaps it was a typical late night drunk staggering down the street. Still, a candy cane? Drunk or sober anyone with that much anger to attack a candy cane is in need of some serious mental help. Or perhaps it's

just the darkness that seems to be more and more a part of our everyday discourse. Whatever the reason, the solution is simple and takes no heavy lifting. Decorate, put up some lights, and fight the forces of darkness with the sweet force of the light. Smother

the haters with kindness and blot out the darkness with revealing light. Hey, it's Christmas. Chill out; especially this year. The numbers 1614 will give us the best present in years. We'll give you the answer why in three weeks.

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Window Into The State House

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Andy Metzger

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education. We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state government activity, as well as links to other news.

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS - STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

QUEBEC AND MASS. TO SIGN AGREEMENT

Lawmakers in Massachusetts and Quebec will convene in Boston Wednesday to sign a cooperative agreement between the province and Commonwealth, establishing the framework of the Massachusetts-Quebec Cooperation Conference. "Franco-Americans, especially those of French Canadian descent, are the third largest ethnic group in Massachusetts (after Irish and Italians), and many live in the area I serve," Sen. Richard Moore, an Uxbridge Democrat, said in a statement. Gov. Deval Patrick has

visited Quebec with the hopes of bringing more hydroelectric power down to Massachusetts, and the Portland Press Herald reported earlier this month that Montreal entrepreneur Francois Rebello is attempting to establish an overnight train to Boston from Montreal. The train would make stops in Maine and could begin rolling as soon as next summer, according to the paper. - A. Metzger/SHNS
ACTIVISTS ASK FOR \$5 MIL TO CLOSE SKILLS GAP

Citing long waiting lists with implications for workforce development, adult education program representatives tried Tuesday to

convince lawmakers to increase state funding by \$5 million next fiscal year. During an event at the State House, officials from the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education said the waiting lists grow every year for English, basic adult education and GED course classes. More than 100 programs around the state receive approximately \$30 million as part of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education budget. Steve Reuys, who runs an adult education program at UMass Boston, said there is an enormous need for immigrants to learn English and for others to improve basic skills so they can get better paying jobs. Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) told event attendees that his grandfather, who was born in Italy, dropped out of school after the second grade to work to help his family. "He made sure all of his kids, and all of his grandchildren, had opportunities that he didn't have," DiDomenico said. - C. Quinn/SHNS

MOST STATE SPENDING PACKED INTO FEW BIG AREAS

As state officials prepare to gauge revenue trends ahead of the next budget cycle, a member of Gov. Deval Patrick's Cabinet is outlining some of the pressures on the spending side. In a budget presentation he plans to deliver Monday night in Natick and again in Boston on Friday, Administration and Finance Secretary Glen Shor notes that half the roughly \$34 billion budget is consumed by spending on subsidized health care (35 percent) and local aid and education aid (15 percent). About 75 percent of the state budget supports health care, human services and education alone, with another 12 percent allocated for fixed debt service and pension costs. According to Shor's budget presentation, outlays in those large categories leave 13 percent of revenue

for all other purposes, including transportation, public safety, housing, labor programs, environmental protection and economic development. Experts are scheduled to testify Wednesday on likely tax collections and economic trends. A graphic in Shor's presentation shows tax receipts hitting record highs and exceeding pre-recession peaks, after recovering from a steep drop in fiscal 2009 during the Great Recession. In the presentation, state budget officials also note one-time revenues totaled \$752 million in the fiscal 2014 budget, down from \$903 million in fiscal 2013. - M. Norton/SHNS

GAS PRICES CREEPING BACK UP

Gas prices kicked up in Massachusetts over the past week. AAA reported Monday that the price of a gallon of regular unleaded rose 3 cents to an average of \$3.41 per gallon. The average price of a gallon of gas has risen 13 cents over the past month but is still lower than the \$3.47 per gallon average that motorists in Massachusetts were paying a year ago at this time. - M. Norton/SHNS

US UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TUMBLES TO 7 PERCENT

The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 7 percent in November, from 7.3 percent, hitting a five-year low and dipping beneath the 7.2 percent jobless rate recorded in Massachusetts in October. "The American economy continues its broad and steady job growth heading into the New Year, adding 203,000 jobs in November," Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez said in a statement. Perez reported that 8.1 million private sector jobs had been added over 45 months, including 2.3 million in the past year. The Massachusetts unemployment rate for November is scheduled to be released on Dec. 19. - M. Norton/SHNS

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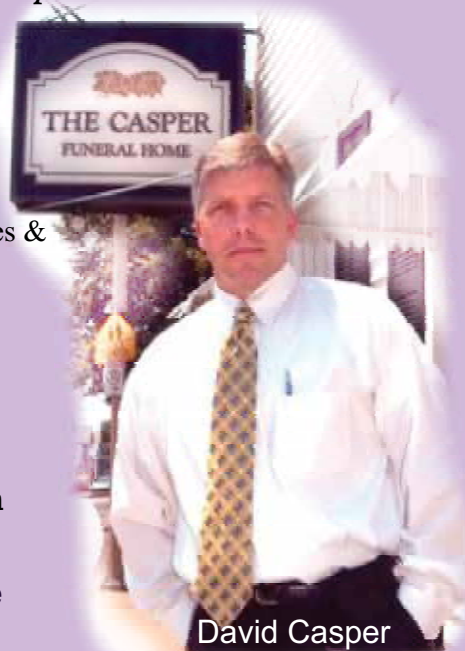
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Congress Cuts It Close – Unemployment Insurance Issue Unresolved

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

A Bi-partisan Congressional Budget Committee reached a deal that would prevent a government shutdown in January and avoid some of the looming sequestration mandated across-the-board spending cuts. Now all Congress has to do is actually pass it, which is no sure thing, especially in the House.

The deal was announced Tuesday evening by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Rep. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who chair the budget committees in each of their chambers. It would set overall discretionary spending for this fiscal year at \$1.012 trillion, about halfway between the House budget's level of \$967 billion and the Senate's \$1.058 trillion. That spending level would increase to \$1.14 trillion in fiscal 2015. The agreement would replace \$63 billion in sequestration cuts with savings such as asking federal employees and members of the military to contribute more to their pensions. Those savings,

combined with additional revenue gained from increased fees would total \$85 billion. That means the deal would reduce federal deficits by around \$22 billion, Ryan said.

In a joint news conference, Ryan and Murray said they decided to look for areas where they could agree instead of continuing the knockdown, drag out fights that have resulted in gridlock on Capitol Hill. Ryan said he was "proud of this agreement" because "it reduces the deficit -- without raising taxes. And it cuts spending in a smarter way." It's a "clear improvement on the status quo," he said.

According to a report in the Washington Business Journal, It avoids some defense cuts that many Republicans fear could hurt national security. It's not the budget agreement he really wants, but "in a divided government, we don't always get what we want," Ryan said. Murray, meanwhile, said she was glad the deal continued the

precedent set in the fiscal cliff deal that sequestration shouldn't be replaced by spending cuts alone. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, quickly issued a statement saying he was "grateful for the work done by Chairmen Ryan and Murray." House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., called it a "step forward consistent with prior Republican attempts to replace the sequester's indiscriminate across-

the-board cuts."

Many conservative groups were not pleased. Americans for Prosperity immediately called it "bad politics" as well as "bad policy." "The American people remember hard-won bipartisan spending limits set by the sequester, and are not pleased to see their conservative representatives so easily go back on their word to rein in government overspending," said AFP President Tim Phillips. Sequestration set spending levels for this year at \$967 billion, he said.

Exceeding those levels by billions of dollars "takes us in the wrong direction," he added.

Liberal groups, meanwhile, were upset the budget deal did not include an extension of unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed. "Negotiators have declared War on Christmas and potentially sentenced millions of struggling Americans to a very bleak New Year," said Jim Dean, chair of Democracy for America. President Barack Obama, however, welcomed the budget agreement. "It's balanced, and includes targeted fee increases and spending cuts designed in a way that doesn't hurt our economy or break the ironclad promises we've made to our seniors," Obama said. "It does all this while slightly reducing our deficits over time." Obama also repeated his call for Congress to extend unemployment insurance "so more than a million Americans looking for work don't lose a vital economic lifeline right after Christmas, and our economy doesn't take a hit."

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SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Ray Flynn

Kathy and I were leaving a movie theatre on 42nd Street in New York City on Saturday where we had seen a great movie, "The Book Thief." Three young women, who also saw the movie, were looking over in our direction as we were walking out of the theatre. One of the women approached me and said, "I'm from Boston. You're Mayor Flynn, aren't you? I saw you on TV yesterday. You were in Washington with Hilary Clinton talking about Nelson Mandela. Why was he so popular?" I explained to them that he was willing to sacrifice for what he believed in, even if that meant going to jail for many years. His life was about a cause he believed in. He lived his life with humility and courage. That's what makes great people, not power or money. We just saw a movie based on the Holocaust period in Germany. Who were the heroes? They were the

people of courage and the people who suffered the most. They were not the Nazi politicians, who sought power and ruled through hate and corruption.

I also told them that tomorrow I will be on NBC talking about another great man, Pope Francis. Why is he loved by people of all races and faiths? Why are politicians so unpopular today? And why are Mandela and Pope Francis admired and respected throughout the world? It's because they fought for a cause more important than themselves. They both talk about love and forgiveness. As I said on the national TV program, the Pope is the only major public figure in the world speaking out against economic and social inequality, the protection of all human life, and the defense of the traditional family. Unfortunately, these are not politically popular positions in today's declining culture. If you do hold these positions, you will pay a political and personal price in the media and with well financed

political organizations.

I think all the media attention these two men are receiving is making it clear what people are longing for in a leader. They want people with the courage of their conviction. Leaders who will tell the truth and not just what's expedient. Weak men make for weak political leaders. As I said on television, the people are speaking out in their admiration for Nelson Mandela and Pope Francis. Two very different kinds of men, no doubt. But when given the choice of weak, indecisive two-bit politicians, or people of strength and courage, the people of the world are making their choice loud and clear.

Maybe the people are finally waking up and sending a message. Character and integrity is more important than pettiness and personal self interest.

Ray Flynn is the former Mayor of Boston, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican and knew both Nelson Mandela and Pope Francis.

CONTINUED FROM page 3

any of his Pastor's anti-American sermons, even though he was listening to the guy preach at the same church for 20 years. So maybe he forgot he knew his uncle and slept on his couch for 3 weeks. Ok...

So yes, the incentive to obey written laws diminishes more with each passing day and with every new example of "law makers" themselves refusing to follow the rules they impose on the rest of us. This is most likely only the beginning.

We have had quite a bit of feedback and thumbs up from our 'If it's a decorated, lit up evergreen in December, it's a Christmas Tree' column of two weeks ago. On a related issue, the ultra liberal Governor of Rhode Island, one Lincoln Chafee, for the last several years has refused to call the State House tree there what it is – a Christmas tree. Instead he opted for the cowardly generic term of 'holiday tree' and adamantly ignored the public outcry against his part in ignoring the true meaning of Christmas. But as has been reported, nationwide, the backlash against the anti-Christmas moonbats is spreading, as people have had enough of this. This year the outcry became so loud that even Governor Chafee could ignore it no longer. He has backed down, admittedly, because of all the pressure and has decided that the beautiful decorated, lit up evergreen at the Rhode Island state house, will from here on be called a Christmas tree – not a holiday tree. Could the fact that his bid for reelection is getting closer and the public has promised to make this an issue? This is happening all over the country. Here in South Boston, we still have a couple of our own still holding on to this discredited PC mentality. But they really aren't taken seriously any longer. Perhaps one day even they might actually be able to understand.

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

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SBT




www.southbostontoday.com



Some Reds from “Down Under”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Jamie Driscoll

With the recent snap of cold weather we’ve had recently, lots of wine drinkers will tend to reach for a good bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon to ward off the chill and while many people will almost reflexively pick a bottle from Napa, Sonoma or even Margaux or Pauillac from France’s Bordeaux region, I’d like to point out some really great options from Australia.

This country, which has been producing wines for over 150 years, really came onto the U.S. wine scene in the beginning of this century, but not with Cabernet. Shiraz wines, from Adelaide to the Yarra Valley and everywhere in between caught the eye-and palate-of the American market and names like Yellowtail and Hardy’s began vying for mass market share with Woodbridge and Beringer. At the high end, “Grange”, by Penfolds, consistently ranks among the world’s best wines and while it’s predominantly a Shiraz, there is a percentage of Cabernet in every vintage, usually 3-4%, sometimes as

much as 11%, that give Grange both a greater smoothness and complexity.

Like American and French Cabs, the style and cost of Australia’s “overshadowed red” runs the gamut, but there are definitely values to be had and here are some that I think you’ll find to be great with dinner or just to “ward off” the many cold nights to come:

-2010 Amelia Park “Mishmash” Cabernet Sauvignon, Margaret River, Western Australia, (~\$15.00).

In the southwestern corner of Western Australia, the warm maritime climate and gravelly soils make ideal conditions for the production of intense and structured wines from Bordeaux varietals. This red is classic Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon, with upfront ripe berry, currant, and plum aromas and flavors accented by subtle oak spice. It’s medium/full bodied with a nice core of fruit and smooth tannins and was fermented in stainless steel and aged in French oak. Fruit-driven, balanced, and full of finesse, you can drink this tonight and keep some in your cellar for even better drinking over the next 2-3 years.

-2011 Thomas Goss McLaren Vale, Australia Cabernet Sauvignon, (~\$19.00). There may not be a McLaren Vale growing region today were it not for Thomas Goss.

In 1849, Goss and wife Mary moved from Devonshire to South Australia. After experiencing success in the Victorian gold fields, Goss established what would become an iconic farming operation in McLaren Vale, including a number of vineyards devoted to wine grapes. This wine presents hints of black cherry, blackberry and cassis, with aromas of pepper, leather, chocolate and wood spice, both on the palate

and in a surprisingly long finish. Try it with lamb, steak or a Sunday roast.

-2008 Mollydooker “The Maitre D” Cabernet Sauvignon South Australia, (~\$19.00). Rich and big, this wine is one of South Australia’s most consistent cabs. The Maitre D’ has an enticing, perfumed nose of blackberry, plum, cigar box and a touch of cinnamon. Strong flavors of blackcurrant and dark cherry carry over into mouth-filling layers of mocha, spice and vanilla. This is a wine that was made for filets, ribeyes and porterhouse steaks.

Next week - The best wine you’ve never heard of, so please check in!



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For reservations call 617.269.0900 or email info@local149.com

Holiday Hours

December 24th - 4pm-10pm

December 25th - CLOSED

New Years Eve - 4pm-2am

New Years Day - 10am-1am

149 P Street | South Boston, MA | 02127





Stepping Up and Stepping Out:

Your Guide to the Southie Scene and the “Southie Senses”

South Boston Today begins a regular series about life in South Boston and all that it has to offer. Southie is a vibrant and growing community and there are so many ways for residents to become connected and involved. Here are some of the best ways to see, hear, taste, touch and smell all that is Southie. From City Point to Fort Point to the South Boston Waterfront, there are so many opportunities to put your senses to good use!

Stepping Up: So This is Christmas and What Have You Done?...

Santa Claus, St. Nick, “THE” Jolly Old Elf, The Fat One, Father Christmas. However you make reference to him, he is the man. I will never forget the year I found out that there was no such “guy”. Every Xmas Eve, my siblings, parents and various pets would read a Christmas story from our extra large book collection; well read is an understatement- we would basically knock each other out to be selected to recite the Christmas prose, and the same went for the selecting of the tree, putting the angel on top, checking to see if Santa came- you get the drift. Anywho, after the story was heard and ice packs placed upon the bumps and bruises of the victorious declaimer, out went the cookies and milk for Santa, the carrots for his reindeer and the letters we had written to thank him for all his kindness and generosity. We would pray for the safe arrival of S.C., Rudolph & the gang, and of course, Baby Jesus. As any other year, we fell asleep, exhausted from fighting the Sandman and awoke to sing Baby Jesus a Happy Birthday. We ran into the room where my parents always looked a little more exhausted than usual, something I attributed to them having a hard time sleeping waiting for Santa as well. Tearing through wrap, squealing with joy and actually getting along for five consecutive minutes, my father announced the Big Guy had left a note in response to our Thank Yous. I elbowed my

way across the room and politely ripped the note from Daddy-o, sharing aloud. About half way through the pleasantries, I noticed an important fact that momentarily choked me up, but like any good gal, I carried on. Everyone took 3 seconds to come up for air and clap, then continued to make the Christmas mom mess. I faked a smile, excused myself and went to the bathroom to let it all out. What had given me pause was something I noticed in the memo- my father’s handwriting- so bad it could NEVER be mistaken for anyone else’s- not even someone in a rush like St. Nick. All things considered, I was 11. But it wasn’t leaving the fake believing behind because I thought I was going to be gifted less as a result: I had mere babies behind me- I was good for another 10 years. It was the idea that something so noble, so magical, so generous- was all a facade. My mom came into the restroom and I confessed my discovery. After I stopped hyperventilating, my momma shared with me the most important fact I have ever learned and try to live as an example of every day of my life. Of course Santa is real: he lives in all of us. Santa is only a physical representation of all that is good in this world; there were plenty of times my parents could stay awake to build the Barbie dream house, and would leave it as is. But an uncle would sneak in when they went to bed and up it went. Or how many times there wasn’t enough time, money or

energy to get gifts and packages would be found in the mail, on the doorstep or the back porch.

I share this story not only because it is pretty funny and gets me in the Christmas spirit, but also as a call to arms. Take some time out of your busy holiday-ing and cocktail-ing and buy a gift or two. Be what those gifts and Santa represent: kindness and compassion. In last week’s column, I referred to an important fact of life: acknowledging people, and making them feel like they matter through that recognition is so powerful. Manifesting it in a tangible way through giving things people need and want is the icing on the cake. Take those \$20 extra dollars you were going to spend at Target on ELF cosmetics, and use it for someone else. Keep the magic alive.

Santa Claus is Out on the Town

•M.J. O’Connor’s and Toys For Tots are teaming up and giving something back to those that do the same. Drop off any toy at the M.J.’s at the Westin Waterfront by 12/18 and receive free admission to the Harpoon Holiday Party at the Harp, 12/19, as well as a \$10 gift card and voucher for a Harpoon Tour. If you cannot get there before the night of the party, stop by the Harp with your tour and you can still get into the soiree for no cost.

waterfront.mjoconnors.com

All I Want for Christmas

•The Boston Children’s Museum and CB

Richard Ellis/New England are accepting non-violent, unwrapped gifts for the Toys for Tots program through 12/15 during regular Museum hours. If you don’t have time to stop and grab something, BCM will do the work for you. Donate \$20 and a sweet, stuffed elephant will be donated to the cause.

bostonchildrensmuseum.org

Reindeer Crossing

•After the long holiday of Thanksgiving, there were still plenty of people celebrating through Sunday and beyond, and many cars were parked a little longer than usual. The City of Boston is celebrating its 20th year of the Toys for Tickets program (with Toys for Tots). If you received a non-public safety parking ticket between 12/04-12/06, you can present the ticket and a toy of equal or greater value as an exchange, through 12/13. Drop off locations include Office of the Parking Clerk, City Hall To Go and the tow lot on 200 Frontage Road.

cityofboston.gov/parking/toystickets.asp

Right Down Santa Claus Lane

•Only have a few minutes to spare but want to do some good? The Seaport in conjunction with Christmas in the City, is accepting toy donations at the valet service. Any time through 12/20, drop at gift off to the valet and drive away happy.

seaportboston.com/promotions/Christmas-in-the-City-Toy-Drive.aspx

christmasinthecity.org

Stepping Out: Holly Jolly Folly

The countdown is on: 13 days until Christmas. That’s almost two weeks before the holiday hangover sets in. And not the “I-drunk-too-much-spiked-eggnog” and “my diet-starts- 01/02/14” kind, though I am sure it adds to the stress of it all. That means we need to jam in as much holiday cheer as our wallets and livers can handle and spread ourselves as thin as possible, all in the name of Christmas Cheer. Here in South Boston, there are plenty of places to rock around the Christmas tree. But this should be about the kiddos. After our parent/auntie/uncle/grandparent duties are complete,

we can partake in our own revelries! Our extended family on the Waterfront has caught the festive fever and is partaking in our great tradition of celebrating. I’d call that “Miracle on Seaport Boulevard”! **Cruisin’ Around in Santa’s Vessel** This Saturday 12/14, dock the Spirit of Boston and party on the harbor with Santa himself. Children under 12 are free with one paying adult (1 kid per), get your picture taken and decorate some holiday cookies. There are sure to be some adult treats available too! Santa’s sea sleigh docks at 11:30am. **spiritofboston.com**

Mom and Dad Can Hardly Wait for School to Start Again

The troops are getting restless and the 2 weeks of school vacation hasn’t even begun! Occupy some of that family frenzy with a trip to the Urban Art Bar for Holiday Family Paint on Sunday 12/15 from 3-6pm. Teach them to create and tire them out at the same time!

theurbanartbar.com

Edible Arrangements

The BSA, CDRC Boston and Leading by Design MA, have teamed up to put on the 2nd Annual Gingerbread House competition, located in the BSA space.

Submissions were put on display 12/09, with viewing available through 12/22. The homes are put to auction and proceeds benefit CRDC (which offers pro-bono services to many communities that go underserved). Also on Saturday 12/14, LBDMA will host a family competition from 10:30-12:30. The price of admission, which includes a tour and gingerbread house materials, will be donated to LBDMA, which facilitates in teaching grades K-12 about architecture and design. **bsaspace.org/exhibitions** **crdcboston.org/gingerbread** **lbdma.org**



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

www.southbostontoday.com



Southie Senses:

Things to touch, see, taste, smell and hear in Southie



Touch: Wrap It Up!

This weekend, head on down to Social Wines and let some neighbors from the SB Boys & Girls Club do the work for you. From 1-4, Saturday and Sunday, representatives from the Club will be wrapping gifts for donations. Browse and buy from Social Wines for your seasonal sips while you are at it!

socialwinesbos.com



See: Seafood Diet

At last, another amazing addition to the Fort Point family has arrived! Row 34, located at 383 Congress Street, offers up amazing oysters paired with some local libations. A nice way to take a break from all the madness, and shoot a couple back. Oysters, that is!

row34.com



Taste: Sip WHILE You Shop

This Monday, stop on by after work and celebrate two things: friends AND getting your shopping done at the same time! From 6:30-9, Lincoln will be having a whole host of local shops offer goodies for sale in one place. That my friends is a win-win.

eventbrite.com/e/holiday-shopping-at-lincoln-tickets-9692551683



Smell: I Smell a Winner!

Manes and Mistletoe is the theme of this great event put on by Salon Mario Russo. True, this Friday is the 13th day of the month, but you will get lucky at this gathering. Complimentary hot chocolate will be served, trial size samples of Oribe's amazing hair products will be awarded and a blow dry (\$40) to start the weekend looking gorge! Winning!

mariorusso.com



Hear: Loud and Clear

Fort Point is getting in the spirit with its annual Holiday Stroll this Friday 12/13. The event will have many local businesses participating to get you in the spirit. Saturday and Sunday (11-4), there will be a holiday art market at 30 Channel Center, as well as an exhibit opening. And on Sunday (1-6) at 369 Congress, 7th floor, there will be the Boston Artist & Burner Bazaar. The holiday bells are ringing loud and clear for all of us to get down there!

facebook.com/events/217398691772871/



Who is Laela?

Born and raised in this town, Laela believes that contributing to your neighborhood through volunteer work and socializing within the community are inborn in the people of South Boston. Those innate characteristics are interwoven into every fiber of a South Bostonian's being. Continuing the traditions that the South Boston community has always practiced, the features Stepping Up and Stepping Out are two ways in which old AND new residents can find opportunities to do what Southie has always done: give back. Both "born and raised" and the new Southie generation will be able to carry on these practices.

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL KEEPS RESIDENTIAL TAXES AFFORDABLE

The Boston City Council unanimously approved a measure introduced by Council President Stephen J. Murphy that determines property tax classifications and maximum exemptions for Boston residents, contributing to the affordability of Boston as a place to live.

The City Council, together with approval of the Mayor, determines the percentages of the tax levy to be borne by each class of property every fiscal year. Each class of property pays a different tax rate. In the City of Boston, class one residential properties have less of a tax burden than class three commercial properties. This classification allows residents to also get the maximum amount of discount available. Every year the City must also determine whether to establish an exemption for owner occupied residential properties. This year, as has happened every year since 2000, the Council approved a residential exemption of 30% of the average assessed value of residential properties in the City. Most municipalities in the state only

receive a 20% residential exemption. According to testimony provided by Ron Rakow, Commissioner of Assessing, the maximum residential exemption saves homeowners over \$1,700 on their tax bill.

This classification policy and the City Council's annual action to declare a residential exemption in the greatest amount permitted by the law has resulted in substantial protections and savings for both homeowners and tenants from the effects of revaluation. Council President Murphy is confident this system has worked in the past and continues to work for Boston residents. Recognizing the need to protect and encourage homeownership in the City, he is also working on a solution to skyrocketing property taxes for longtime homeowners in rapidly developing neighborhoods.

Council President Murphy also introduced a measure that provides a tax exemption of up to 100% for active members of the National Guard or reservists serving in foreign countries. The Council unanimously approved that measure as well.



Rep. Nick Collins Announces State Income Tax To Drop in January

As reported by the State House News Service, economic triggers have been met to force a reduction in the state income tax in 2014 from 5.25 percent to 5.2 percent in January, according to Administration and Finance Secretary Glen Shor. The Department of Revenue estimates the tax cut will reduce state revenues by about \$65 million in fiscal 2014. The tax cut will take between \$125 million and \$140

million off the table for the fiscal 2015 budget, with Gov. Deval Patrick set to outline his fiscal 2015 spending plan next month.

Rep. Collins stated, "The expected state income tax cut is welcome news and evidence of a healthy and growing economy here is the Commonwealth. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to push

CONTINUED ON page 13

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South Boston



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49378

Offered by Councilor Stephen J. Murphy



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN

ORDER RELATIVE TO THE
ADOPTION OF
CLASSIFICATION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON IN FY2014

ORDER OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEPHEN J. MURPHY

- WHEREAS: The residents of Boston led the successful effort to amend our state Constitution to allow Classification for the purpose of taxation; and
- WHEREAS: Boston was again at the forefront of the Legislature's enactment of Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2007, providing further relief to residential taxpayers; and
- WHEREAS: Since adoption of the Constitutional Amendment, this Council has established a policy of utilizing Classification to tax residential properties at the lowest level permitted by state statute; and
- WHEREAS: The Legislature enacted Chapter 403 of the Acts of 2000, the City's home rule petition to increase the residential exemption to a maximum of thirty percent (30%) of the average assessed value of all Class One-Residential parcels in the City of Boston; and
- WHEREAS: The Classification policy, and the Boston City Council's annual action to declare a residential exemption in the greatest amount permitted by the General Laws has resulted in substantial protection and substantial savings for both homeowners and tenants from the effects of revaluation; and
- WHEREAS: Action in this regard for Fiscal Year 2014 must be taken prior to certification of the tax rate by the Department of Revenue; **therefore be it**
- ORDERED: That pursuant to the General Laws, Chapter 40, section 56, the residential factor in the City of Boston for Fiscal Year 2013 shall be the minimum residential factor as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 58, Section 1A and; **be it further**
- ORDERED: That pursuant to Chapter 403 of the Acts of 2000, a residential exemption in the amount of value equal to thirty percent (30%) of the average assessed value of all Class One-Residential parcels in the City of Boston be, and hereby is, approved for Fiscal Year 2014.

Filed on: November 20, 2013

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
689 East Fourth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$780,000	11/22/13	5	3	1955
694 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$756,700	11/26/13	6	2.5	1900
36 A St UNIT 3C Condo	\$692,000	11/26/13	6	2	1370
685 East Fifth St UNIT D Condo	\$619,000	11/20/13	7	3	1856
279 West Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$599,000	11/22/13	4	2	975
279 West Third St UNIT 1 Condo	\$575,000	11/27/13	4	2	1000
36 A St UNIT 2B Condo	\$547,000	11/26/13	5	1	1002
56 Story St UNIT 2 Condo	\$544,000	11/22/13	8	2.5	1200
724 East Third St UNIT 2 Condo	\$540,000	11/20/13	5	2	1052
276 Bowen St UNIT 2 Condo	\$529,000	11/24/13	4	2	956
790 East Fourth St UNIT 1 Condo	\$519,000	11/29/13	3	2	1238
271 K St UNIT 2 Condo	\$485,000	11/29/13	5	2	1091
587 East Eighth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$480,000	11/20/13	4	1	1058
45 Vinton St UNIT B Condo	\$479,000	11/27/13	4	2	1207
7 Peters St UNIT 2 Condo	\$475,000	11/21/13	4	2	950
638 East Eighth St UNIT 638 Condo	\$473,000	11/26/13	4	2	915
48 Thomas Park UNIT 1 Condo	\$460,000	11/27/13	4	1.5	1230
18-20 Knowlton St UNIT 7 Condo	\$458,000	11/27/13	5	2	1016
256 Athens St UNIT 1 Condo	\$439,000	11/27/13	4	1	748
292-294 D St UNIT 3 Condo	\$395,000	11/26/13	7	1.5	861
126 Tudor St UNIT B Condo	\$367,500	11/27/13	4	1	875
366 K St UNIT 1 Condo	\$319,000	11/27/13	3	1	611
539 East Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$315,000	11/27/13	4	1	561
252 E St UNIT 2 Condo	\$313,000	11/26/13	5	1	760

CONTINUED FROM page 12

policies that create jobs and further grow the economy.”

Tax receipts are running \$359 million above fiscal 2014 benchmark through November. The Department of Revenue reported that November tax collections surged 10.6 percent, or \$151 million above collections in November 2012. Tax collections are up 9.7 percent over the first five months of fiscal 2014, compared to the same period in fiscal 2013. Massachusetts voters in 2000

approved an initiative petition calling to reduce the income tax rate from 5.95 percent to 5 percent by 2003. In 2002, in order to raise \$215 million as part of a larger tax package, the state Legislature froze the income tax rate at 5.3 percent and conditioned further reductions on economic growth triggers. Tax collections had been running above benchmark in early fiscal 2013, but fell just short of meeting the triggers for an income tax reduction this past January.

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house

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Sunday
12/15/2013
12-1pm



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Condos With All
The Latest
Amenities &
Garage Parking!



MCM PROPERTIES

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The Artists' Studio



Who Likes Gingerbread?

South Boston Arts Association Sponsors Two Gingerbread House Events

Take 30 kids, 10 pounds of sugar, 5 boxes of graham crackers, and assorted candies and sweets and what do you get? Christmas cheer for everyone! This past week members of the South Boston Arts Association led a gingerbread house building event for kids 6 and up at the South Boston Library. The resulting creations were awesome! It was quite a mystery

however that much of the candy intended for the houses ended up instead in everyone's belly! Adding to the holiday spirit, Lorie Walsh provided live music for the children to build by.

We have our winners! The 1st Annual South Boston Gingerbread House Contest, sponsored by the South Boston Arts Association was held on Thursday, December 5th at the

South Boston Library and everyone is already planning their entries for next year's event. Designed as an event to spread Christmas cheer and to gather donations for Toys for Tots it was a perfect addition to the Chamber of Commerce's Holiday Stroll. Outside the library, Mrs. Claus sang and the tree was lit. Inside the library families paraded by the intricate gingerbread masterpieces while expressing their

delight with oohs and aahs.

Our judges, Billy and Bobby, (The Wonder Twins, who will be performing live in What The Dickens at the BU Dance Theater, 915 Comm. Ave. December 13-15.) Glenn, baker and owner of Sweet Tooth, and Kathy Flynn, (who kindly stood in for husband Ray at the last minute) took their jobs seriously and labored over their decisions.



In the individual category the winners were: 1st place- Brooke Spaulding – Island of Misfit Toys, 2nd place – Allison Putnam – Mid-Century Modern and 3rd place – Sue Russell – Southie Scene. In the Business/ Non-profit division the trophy was awarded to the South Boston Neighborhood Development Corp but not until the judges had to go back and review two houses because of a tie between SBNDNC and Social Wines.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, first Lorie Walsh and then Peter Golemme played Christmas songs at the piano while Ray Flynn took the opportunity to gather some folks and lead a sing-a-long. Donna Brown of the SBNDNC kindly offered to display some of the houses for the next two weeks in her front window at 365 West Broadway so stop by to see them. In addition you can see photographs of the winners and other entries on-line at www.southbostonartsassoc.org.

The South Boston Arts Association is very pleased to have delivered two giant boxes of unwrapped, new toys to the Toys for Tots program thanks to the generosity of the gingerbread participants and our friends and neighbors. The Arts Association looks forward to repeating and adding to the collection of toys next year along with the sponsorship of the 2nd Annual Gingerbread Contest!





1

1. Dan Manning, Congressman Lynch, and Rep Collins

2. Councilor Linehan introducing the co-hosts.....Clerk Mike Donovan, Congressman Lynch, and Councilor Flaherty

3. Jake Bombard and friend

4. Rep Collins, Kathy Flynn and City Councilor Michael Flaherty

5. Mark Iannaco, Rep Collins, Robert Pacitti, Maryann Crush, James Baker

6. Rep Collins and Mark McGonagle - Chief of Staff to Bill Linehan

7. Kristen Perullo, Ellen McDonough, Anne Marie Collins

8. Congressman Lynch introducing Rep. Collins



2



Hundreds of supporters filled the Cornerstone Restaurant this past Monday night to honor State Rep. Nick Collins at his Holiday Reception. The event was co-hosted by Congressman Steve Lynch, Councilor Bill Linehan, Councilor-Elect Mike Flaherty, and Clerk Mike Donovan.

3rd Annual Celtic Christmas Concert in St. Augustine's Chapel ~ not to be missed!!

The 3rd annual Celtic Christmas Concert will be held in St. Augustine's Chapel, to benefit the South Boston Youth Ambassadors 'Young art Arts' programs, on Saturday evening December 21, 2013, at 7:00pm.

The historic 192-year-old gothic revival styled St. Augustine Chapel is located in South Boston, on Dorchester Street between West Sixth and Tudor streets. Katie McD and her Cross-County Band perform an upbeat Irish flavored variety show with a mixture of traditional Celtic, Christmas and popular Irish music and song. The talented trio journey through Christmas in Ireland with ballads from the lilting vocals of Katie McD, poems and 'stories from home' told by the ever-witty bodhran player, Martin Butler and the foot stomping Irish fiddle tunes of Dan Kellar.

A native of Galway city, Katie McD is steeped in the tradition of sean nós singing (old style Irish singing). Her mother won the All-Ireland championship for piano and Katie learned piano with her great Aunt Mary, a renowned poet and avid choral singer. She later picked up the guitar and started writing self-penned songs. She moved to Boston after obtaining a scholarship to study voice at the Berklee College of Music and later attained a B.A in Sociology at Tufts University. Katie has performed with the orchestras such as the Cross Border Orchestra and was a featured soloist at the United Nations Gala Ball.

This unique Irish and beloved Christmas concert is a presentation by the South Boston Youth Ambassadors to raise funds for their activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to get



into the spirit of Christmas and give to a worthy community event. The proceeds for this concert will help fund their community service program that annually sends a team of working youth to volunteer during their school vacation break in an area of America devastated by a natural disaster. The group is noted for its paintings and street exhibits of the 'Lighthouses on Broadway', the 'Painted Adirondack Chairs' and 'Street Cleanup and Tree

Plantings' on West Broadway, in South Boston.

Young at Arts is co-sponsored by the South Boston Community Health Center and the South Boston Arts Association. Tickets for the concert are \$20 adults and \$10.00 children. There is a special family rate of \$50.00 for a family of five (two adults and up to three children). Limited seating at the Chapel suggests

CONTINUED ON page 19

Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell & Frank Kelley

Christmas Dinner

Tis the Season!

ALL ARE WELCOME

Wednesday, December 25st

11am – 1pm

If you are unable to get out and would like a meal delivered to your home please call 617-268-1230 before Monday, December 23rd, after December 23rd please call 617-590-9922

St. Monica Church Hall

331 Old Colony Avenue

(the corner of Old Colony Avenue & Prebble Street)

Hosted by: The South Boston Catholic Parishes & Our Elected Officials





Live Christmas Nativity At Medal of Honor Park

In what has become a new tradition, The New Covenant Church of South Boston has announce that for the 3rd year in a row, it will hold its 'Live Nativity' at Medal of Honor Park at M Street this coming Saturday, December 14th from 12 noon till 3pm.

This has become a big attraction as people of all ages have flocked each year to witness and be part of a beautiful event that signifies and shows the true meaning of Christmas. Real people of all ages will be dressed in authentic looking costumes portraying Joseph, Mary, the Three Wise men, the shepherds and of course the Baby Jesus. As in the two previous years, there will be

live animals on site at the park. Free refreshments will be served to all, there will be music and there will also be a gift given out to every child.

The authentic looking stable and manger will be set up that morning; the stable is erected by Church members to look much like it must have looked on that special First Christmas Night more than 2000 years ago, complete with straw beds and manger. It will all begin promptly at noon with performances to continue until 3pm. The Live Nativity is a perfect way to get into the true Christmas spirit in a positive and uplifting way. Bring the kids. All are invited and welcome.



South Boston Catholic Academy Cooking Club News

One of the many after school clubs offered by South Boston Catholic Academy has been going strong this semester. Cookshop offers students the opportunity to learn how to make healthy snacks in a hands on way. Recently the students made kale

chips and loved and ate every bite!

The students also enjoyed making an artistically creative Thanksgiving dessert. We used teepee and turkey craft ideas along with a few supplies and some waffle cones, candy corn, pretzels, cookies and chocolate fudge to make this great dessert.

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A Live Nativity

December 14th @ M Street Park
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12 to 3 p.m.

Come ... Let us adore Him.

Live Animals
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Music

A Gift for Each Child

CONTINUED FROM page 18

advance purchases and early arrival at the chapel. Celtic Christmas in the Chapel will be held at 7.00pm, December 21, 2013 at the St. Augustine's Chapel, 181 Dorchester

Street, South Boston. Tickets may be reserved by calling: Mayra Rodriguez-Howard at 617 484-7423, Linda Doran at 617 464-7463 or Dan McCole at 617 464-4237.



Doug Smith (of the movie "the Goon") won at the reunion.

Doug Smith is presented with a check for \$10,000 for having the winning ticket @ the Southie Reunion to benefit the SBYHL

Pictured left to right:

Teddy Cunniff, John Gilmartin, winner Doug Smith, Tommy McGrath (president of SBYHL) Mark Medico and Bobby McGarrell



Bruins and Penguins Bad Blood Brewing

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com

The hockey game between the Boston Bruins and the Pittsburgh Penguins got a little ugly this past Saturday. What was touted as a match between two teams fighting for the top spot in the Eastern Conference turned into a display of dirty plays, multiple injuries and, ultimately, suspensions.

The play that makes Bruins fans cringe the most should be the sight of Shawn Thornton knocking Brooks Orpik unconscious while Orpik was in a highly vulnerable position underneath Thornton in a scrum. It's made all the more cringe-worthy because of Thornton's prior impeccable reputation as a respected tough guy in the NHL.

What lead to the scrum between Thornton and Orpik became an afterthought when the medical staff at the TD Garden had to wheel Orpik off the ice on a stretcher. After play had stopped at 11:06 of the first period, a scrum ensued between the two teams. During the scrum Shawn Thornton sought out Brooks Orpik, kicked his leg out from under him, grabbed his collar and delivered three jabs to a defensively Orpik, knocking him out. The medical staff was called on almost immediately.

For Thornton, it's not the type of tough guy Bruins fans are used to seeing, and it's not the kind they should be looking for. Throughout his career, Thornton has represented the standard for fighting the right way, and living by a certain code that is meant to keep players safe, while keeping fights in the game.

"Listen I feel awful. It wasn't my intention for that outcome," Thornton said after the game. "It definitely was not I wanted to see or anybody wanted to see." Thornton was assessed a match penalty on the play. Further disciplinary action will be taken by Brendan Shanahan and the NHL Department of Player



Safety. For Shawn, it's not if he will be suspended, but how long - he will have an in-person hearing sometime this week; the minimum suspension for an in-person hearing is 5-games. "Obviously I made a mistake. I'm aware of it," Thornton added. "I've been told that I'll be having a hearing. And it's hard for me to say much more than... it was not my intention, I feel awful, I felt sick all game."

It appeared as though he simply lost his cool. This could have been the result of several other incidents that occurred prior to the incident. The game began getting a bit out of control on the very first shift, when Orpik lined up Loui Eriksson as the B's were breaking out of their own end. Eriksson was in a vulnerable position - the puck was... close to his stick, although it didn't appear as though he ever had a chance at gaining possession of the puck.

Orpik delivered a crushing hit while Eriksson was looking the other way - Eriksson left the game and did not return, he has been diagnosed with a concussion (his second of the season) and will be out indefinitely.

After the hit, Thornton approached Orpik, but Orpik would not oblige Thornton with a fight. Many might feel Orpik was obligated to fight after such a tone-setting hit, but the reality is that Orpik is not a fighter, in fact he hasn't dropped the gloves in nearly half a decade. In no way is Orpik obligated to fight a seasoned fighter like Shawn Thornton. Thornton took Orpik's number after he refused to go with him.

Just prior to the Orpik injury, Brad Marchand was tripped, and the play had stopped. James Neal was skating by Marchand on his hands and knees, and deliberately extended his knee contacting Marchand's head. This is what started the scrum, and the Orpik injury came next.

Neal has been suspended for 5 games by the Department of Player Safety for the knee to the head of Brad Marchand. Neal practically stammered through his postgame press conference when asked about the hit, saying "He's already going down and I guess I need to try to avoid him, but I have to look at it (on replay) again." He went on to say that he hit Marchand with his "knee, or foot, or shin", adding "I need to be more careful and I guess get my knee out of the way, but I'm not trying to hit him in the head or injure him or anything like that."

The hit that started the whole thing, for Eriksson, it's unfortunate that he has a concussion, but the hit was a solid to boarder-line hockey hit. Some of the responsibility has to be placed on Loui Eriksson for not obeying one of the primary safety tips for any hockey player - keep your head up. Still, it is Thornton's



role to defend his teammates.

“That’s always my job, I guess, to defend my teammates,” Thornton said. “But I’ve prided myself for a long time to stay within the lines. I said, it’s hard for me to talk about right now. I can’t say I’m sorry enough. And I’m sure I’ll be criticized for saying it, but it’s true. I just, I hope he’s doing all right.

I heard that he’s conscious and talking. I’m happy to hear that.”

Not to be lost on the evening was the Bruins epic comeback. Down 2-1 with less than 2 minutes to go, David Krecji and Zdeno Chara both scored to put the B’s up 3-2 just before the buzzer sounded to end what was a brutal and hard fought hockey game on Saturday night.

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Back Graphic



**Every week, we will run part of an interview from Danny Picard's daily sports-talk show "I'm Just Sayin'", which can be heard LIVE every weekday on the new DigRadio at DigBoston.com, and on the TuneIn app, with every show available on iTunes. He can also be heard hosting "The Danny Picard Show" weekends on WEEI-93.7 FM. This week, Danny talked Red Sox with Comcast SportsNet's Sean McAdam from the MLB Winter Meetings:*

DANNY PICARD: [On Monday], John Farrell talked about the lead-off spot with no Jacoby Ellsbury, and he said Shane Victorino and Daniel Nava are options to lead off. But who's the better option out of those two guys? Because Nava, what are we looking at with playing time for Nava this season?

SEAN MCADAM: Yeah, I think that's part of the issue, Danny. While Nava is the better on-base candidate of the two -- he had a .385 on-base percentage last year, which was second only to David Ortiz on the team -- in all likelihood, he's not going to be in the lineup everyday. He may be in the lineup most days, because, as part of an unofficial platoon in left field with Jonny Gomes, he's going to get the majority of the plate appearances and at-bats in games because he's left-handed. Even though he's a switch-hitter, they like him better from the left side. But what do you do on days in which Nava is not in the lineup? Do you move your whole lineup around? Do you have Victorino lead-off then, and then Gomes becomes more of a middle of the order guy? Knowing that Victorino is going to be in the lineup pretty much everyday, as long as he's healthy, which, obviously was an issue at times last year, that seems like the more logical choice, to have [Victorino] being as close to

an everyday lead-off hitter as you could get.

DP: Does it sound like the Red Sox are just set on Jackie Bradley Jr. everyday in center field? I think that makes the most sense. I think they're going to go with the kids. It seems to me like they think he's ready. Matt Kemp's name has been thrown out there, but is that realistic, Kemp to the Red Sox? Or do they feel comfortable with Jackie Bradley in center?

SM: I mean, I think they're in the position where they are willing to listen on just about anybody. And that's the smart position to take. They are a big-market team with a lot of resources that can absorb salary. They also are in a position where they have a very deep farm system with a lot of prospects that interest teams. So you'd be foolish not to explore what's out there, and there may be something that you can get done at a cost or player price that is far lower than you anticipated. But Kemp and his contract is exactly the kind of deal that they seem to be against these days. He's got six years and \$129 million left, and even though the Dodgers are rumored to be willing to take some of that back in order to facilitate a deal, they're not going to both reduce the contract and then take 50 cents on the dollar for Kemp. If they're going to take some money back, then they're going to expect, I imagine, at least two

very good prospects. And do you want to get back into that situation, where you're taking on close to a nine-figure deal? And you're doing so with a player who has battled enough injuries over the past year-and-a-half, that there's some question about his effectiveness. So, as I said, I think they're listening. I don't think they're shutting the door on anything. But Kemp does not seem like a viable option.

DP: That's nothing against Kemp. I think it has more to do with Jackie Bradley Jr. Because if you bring someone like Kemp in, you've got to think that Jackie Bradley isn't going to get the everyday playing time that I feel they should give him. Are the Red Sox comfortable with Jackie Bradley being the opening-day center fielder? They are comfortable with that, right?

SM: Yeah, I think they have some, there are still some questions as to what he can provide, offensively. That's why he's not being talked about as a lead-off guy. He is someone that has got on base, as Ben Cherington pointed out, both in college and in the minor leagues, but that's different from doing it in the Big Leagues on an everyday basis. So to take some of that additional pressure off him, I think you'll see him probably hitting in the bottom-third of the order. Could be eighth, or even ninth. So that he can kind of focus on getting acclimated. They have no doubt about his defensive ability right now.

They think he can play a very good center field in the Big Leagues. What they don't know is what they're going to get from him, offensively. Given that uncertainty, it doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to put him in a pressure spot of hitting lead-off for a while. I think the smarter course is waiting, and seeing how he develops, and finding someone to hit lead-off in the interim.

DP: Yeah, and you never know. I mean, if he does perform, maybe that changes. At some point, maybe we could see Jackie Bradley Jr. in the lead-off spot.

SM: Oh, I don't think there's any question about that, ultimately. In fact, I asked that question to Ben Cherington [on Monday] night. I asked, "Do you think that, in the long run, that Jackie Bradley Jr. is a lead-off hitter?" And he left little doubt that that's exactly how they see him, but they don't want to give him too much, too soon, right out of the shoot. So, he's not going to be [lead-off], I would guess, on Opening Day, but in time, they think he's going to evolve into that.

DP: How do you grade the Red Sox offseason [as of Tuesday]? It seems to me that they've made all their big moves already. Unless you think that they could make another big move here this offseason with a big trade. But I grade it pretty well. Especially if you look at David Price getting traded out of the division, the Yankees, I don't know what they're



doing with Ellsbury and Brian McCann and letting Robinson Cano go to Seattle. So, with the Red Sox, how do you grade it? Do you grade it like I do, which is a pretty good offseason so far?

SM: I think you have to take into account that they lost a very good player in Jacoby Ellsbury. I'm not suggesting that they should have matched what the Yankees paid him, but the end result is, you no longer have that Gold Glove center

fielder, base stealer, and elite on-base guy as part of your team. But I think most people, including the Red Sox, understood that it was a long shot to retain Ellsbury in the first place. So it wasn't like that surprised them. Replacing him is something they really haven't done. As good as Bradley is, and as well as he projects going forward as a young player, he is not the player now, and may never be as good as Jacoby Ellsbury. But at least they

have some sort of answer, in terms of who to replace Ellsbury with. I thought Mike Napoli was a good move. That's a good deal for them, two years at \$32 million sounds about right. And I think in the short term, A.J. Pierzynski will be every bit as good as Jarrod Saltalamacchia has been, without committing them to any long-term commitments to an older guy, and allowing the young catchers to develop. So, it's really not a huge change for this team,

if you hold open the possibility -- whether you like it or not -- that Stephen Drew could come back, they could field essentially the same team on Opening Day, except for Ellsbury and Saltalamacchia. The same starting rotation, essentially the same bullpen, which has been even arguably improved with the acquisition of both Burke Badenhop and Edward Mujica, I think they're in good shape to compete.

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