

South Boston Today Christmas Issue

New Boston Has Many Faces - Political Courage Has A New Face

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

Believe it or not, many 'true' progressive liberals in South Boston helped Bill Linehan win re-election to the City Council. He is considered an effective advocate for the important city services that improve the quality of life in his district. At the city level, issues like better public schools, economic development, and public safety

are the priorities. True progressive liberals want these basic services, as well as a city councilor with the experience and know how to deliver on what Bostonians need. People still want their streets plowed, trash picked up and neighborhoods safe.

Contrary to Hollywood's crude dramatization on the big screen, South Boston is a community made up of a cross-section of citizens with various social networks, who are attracted to it because it provides the essential ingredients necessary to enjoy life in an urban neighborhood, without being manhattanized. Where else can you have easy access to an international airport, clean beaches, churches of all denominations, good restaurants, multi-modal transportation, friendly neighbors, children having fun, history all around, and quality

housing stock with no skyscrapers blocking out the sun?

When it comes to politics, it has differed from several other wards in Boston. South Boston has been made up of average Americans that respect traditions first, and convert to new ideas and trends gradually. South Boston has garnered a reputation as 'not progressive', because it has historically not given in to being socially engineered in the interest of another's political agenda, nor to the fear of falling victim to an odious label, because it believes that attending a good school in your own neighborhood benefits everyone, as most in Boston do. Even the Boston Globe agrees.

Michelle Wu's support of Bill Linehan's hopeful candidacy as the 2014 president of the Boston City

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EDITORIAL *MERRY CHRISTMAS*

We here at SBT have received a number of gifts. Over one year in publication, a growing readership across all economic, political and age demographics, advertisers happy with the resulting business and young sports columnists vying for the scoop. The quality and dedication of our writers, staff and contributors is a gift, that as publisher and editors, we are extremely grateful for. Those people who encouraged and urged us not to let a South Boston Newspaper die we feel have been rewarded for their encouragement. Above all, it is a gift to all of us at SBT to be able to live, work and report in a town that is all of these things. When we go to sleep tonight it will be a sound sleep. We've already received our gift. Our wish is that we all get what we're hoping for and that the greatest gift of being with family and friends is enjoyed by everyone on Christmas Day.

Merry Christmas!



"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone"
-Jesus Christ

Last Week's Poll

Last Week's Poll Asked South Boston Today Readers How They Felt About The Federal Secure Communities Program – Here's How You Answered.

— Good	28%
— Bad	3%
— Good but needs work	55%
— Get rid of it entirely	14%

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Merry Christmas To All/ Gifts For Many

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

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

To Paraphrase the words from an old song: "It really IS beginning to look a lot like Christmas." We got our first snow storm scare of the season and it had all the weather forecasters jumping out of their shoes in turbo charged adrenaline rushes. They really do live for this. The scarier they can make a storm sound, the happier they seem to be. It's ok though. Most people have learned not to panic any longer. Christmas trees are being decorated as usual, as well as people's homes all around town with some pretty darn creative lighting arrangements. Parties are being held and some of our Churches have their bells set to playing Christmas carols to the delight of most.

There are of course those who are starting to get that desperate feeling as the big day is closing in because they find themselves way behind schedule for gift shopping and making all the preparations for those traditional plans with family and friends. The lucky ones, rare that they are, have learned how to kick back and pace themselves and really spend time enjoying this magical time of the year as it should be; taking in all the sights, sounds and smells of the season.

As this column does each year we make a list of gifts we'd like to be able to give to various people and organizations; some famous and well known, some not so much. We make this list each season in the spirit of fun. Though, some might get their socks all tied up in a knot because of the political incorrectness of some of the gifts, that's not the intent. Here are the presents for the Christmas list of 2013.

To Mayor Elect Marty Walsh: Best of luck when your new job starts with

the hope that you will be able to keep the big developers and other special interests groups inline and hopefully stop the feeding frenzy.

To outgoing Mayor Menino: We would have wished for you the same as Mayor Walsh, but alas, it's too late. What's done is done.

To Governor Deval Patrick: To one day look upon a tax hike that he doesn't fall head over heels in love with.

To so many of the Democrats in the Massachusetts Legislature: The same as Governor Patrick.

To Barack Obama: A mandatory in depth course on the US Constitution and how presidents are supposed to uphold it, not ignore it.

To Vice President Joe Biden: Same as Barack Obama but he also gets a roll of duct tape to put over his lips for whenever he gets the urge to speak.

To Michelle Obama: To one day realize that parents know much better than she does how to feed and take care of their own kids and that the majority of them really do not appreciate being scolded, lectured and nagged..

To Nancy Pelosi: Special congressional parking spots, lower insurance rates and a tax credit for purchasing more fuel efficient and eco-friendly broom sticks.

To Senator Elizabeth Warren: A portrait of Chief Sitting Bull.

To Texas Senator Cruz: A plaque of appreciation for never backing down from doing what's right for America. Would he please consider swapping places with Senator Warren? One moonbat in the senate from this state is more than enough.

To our District City Councilor Bill Linehan: Congratulations on your easy reelection and for causing disappointment among the South

Boston detractors who were hoping to write your political obituary as well as this town's.

To City Councilor Elect Michael Flaherty: Welcome back and congratulations. This neighborhood is rebuilding its political muscle and not a minute too soon.

To State Representative Nick Collins: You put in long hours working days and nights on behalf of all of your constituents and do not back down from developers. For that you get a heartfelt thank you.

To Jim Fallon: Owner of PS Gourmet Coffee (Home of the Bucket): 10 more stores just as great as the 2 he has.

To Ken Turner: He got his present early this year. A beautiful 7-point buck.

To Secretary of State John Kerry: To someday reattach his head after the Iranians handed it to him.

To The NSA: Originally they were going to get the gift of someone new to spy on. But there's really no one left.

CONTINUED ON page 4



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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.

Courtesy - STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Secretary Bill Galvin Sends 7 Petitions to House Clerk for 2014

When the Legislature returns to formal sessions in January, lawmakers will have four months to consider seven initiative petitions certified by Secretary of State William Galvin and referred to the House clerk on Monday. Galvin forwarded to the clerk the seven petitions whose backers gathered in excess of the 68,911 signatures required to initially qualify for the November 2014 ballot. According to Galvin's official tally, the petition to expand the 5-cent bottle redemption law to water bottles, juices and other drinks turned in the most signatures with 94,950,

followed closely by a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$10.50 an hour, which had 94,316 signatures. The other petitions that qualified include the Patient Safety Act limiting the number of patients a nurse can care for at one time (90,826); earned sick time (84,682); limiting excessive hospital operating margins and CEO compensation through financial transparency (80,076); unchaining future gas tax increases from inflation (77,383); and repealing the 2011 legalization of casino gambling (72,901). The Legislature has until May 6, 2014 to act on the petitions, according to Galvin. If not action is taken, petitioners must gather an additional

11,485 signatures by July 2 to qualify for the ballot. Several of the topics covered by the petitions, such as the minimum wage, are pending before the House and Senate in similar, if not identical bills. The Senate voted in November to raise the minimum wage to \$11 an hour by 2016 and House leaders have suggested they could take up the matter in early 2014, but petitioners could still pursue their ballot question as they wait for resolution, or if a final minimum wage bill does not satisfy their interests. — M. Murphy/SHNS

DPH Names Marijuana Dispensary Selection Committee

The state Department of Public Health announced the members of a committee that will help review 100 applicants for up to 35 medical marijuana dispensary licenses. The members of the Registered Marijuana Dispensary Selection Committee are Madeleine Biondolillo, associate commissioner and bureau director for health care safety and quality at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Todd Brown, vice chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practices at Northeastern University and executive director of the Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association; John Carmichael Jr., deputy Walpole police chief; Suzanne Cray, deputy chief of staff for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Georgia Simpson May, director of the office of health equity at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; Louise Rice, public health consultant and former senior director of public health nursing and school health services for the Cambridge Public Health Department; and Cheryl Anne Sbarra, senior staff attorney at the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards. The committee will be charged with evaluating and scoring 100 applications submitted for up to 35 medical marijuana dispensary licenses..

— M. Norton/SHNS

Marty Walsh to Appear Monthly on WGBH

As Gov. Deval Patrick already does, Boston mayor-elect Marty Walsh plans to appear in studio each month on WGBH's Boston Public Radio with Jim Braude and Margery Eagan, WGBH announced. Walsh plans to take calls on the program. Listeners can submit questions on Twitter using #AskMarty and to Boston Public Radio on Facebook. — M. Norton/SHNS

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To US Atty. General Eric Holder: An estimated number of how many guns he let get shipped to the Mexican drug cartels since he seems to know nothing about that — or much else.

To Tom McDonough: A new radio show called the South Boston/Florida/New Hampshire Connection.

To The US Justice Department: A new policy which mandates that they harass the bad guys trying to take down our country at least as much as they've been harassing the TEA party and other patriotic Americans.

The IRS: Same as the US Justice Department:

The Department of Homeland Security: To learn how to let the US Border Patrol Agents do their jobs.

To Sarah Palin: A US Senate seat or an appointment to the US Supreme Court. Whichever she prefers. That should send the liberals or progressives or whatever they are calling themselves this month into orbit and cause the people who work at MSNBC heads to explode.

To Jimmy Allen: An entire fleet of Harley Davidsons — all of them orange.

To the busy body activists in the Moonbat Sanctuaries of Brookline and Cambridge: Their long desired

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Reading Between The Lines

“Merry Christmas Forever”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

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

The awkward fall of this year’s calendar creates the scenario of offering Merry Christmas wishes almost a week early. The wishes, none the less, are as heartfelt as if we were sitting around the tree with eggnog and brandy.

The time delay provides an opportunity to offer some thoughts or insight to shoppers who are still at it. If we list them by names we’ll probably be sued, so just your common sense can be your guide. I personally do not trust a retailer who will use this season for their biggest profit cycle of the year but, because of a small, noisy, politically correct society of miserable malcontents, doesn’t have the gumption to use the word “Christmas” as they sell you Christmas gifts. Do I really believe a store with that policy just for profit will stand by their product? Absolutely not. Actually a company like that will probably put you through the wringer when trying to return a non fitting or malfunctioning gift. Just a quick peek at the store’s newspaper advertising or the store itself tells you who is bending over backwards to avoid saying Christmas and who still maintains the spirit of the Christmas season and Christmas gift giving.

The time frame also provides a final “lights tour” and a final chance to join in the spirit. Beginning on East Broadway and traveling west, locations began to stand out. M Street Park’s Christmas tree and abutting brownstones was one; “little” Broadway to I Street was awash in light. With a few exceptions it was fairly dark until “big” Broadway, which could use a little more “light” spirit although

throughout the tour a number of decorative wreaths were displayed. Darkness, unfortunately, dims their Christmas beauty. Shenanigans and The Clock Tavern, “Boston Register” and Pizza 260 were decked out with lights as was “Foodies” with wreaths. From A Street down to Broadway Station were Amrheins, Stephi’s and The Station restaurants finalizing Broadway’s light enchantment. It was nice to see 9 West Broadway take advantage of their commanding glassed in view by placing a lighted tree on the fifth floor.

Coming up on my own West Third Street was underwhelming. Folks living in the recent developments should consider taking advantage of their good fortune with their neighbors. The old reliables the rest of the way up West Third were in place as was that sense of tradition.

If the decorating trend is not your passion, how about a card? Not a ton, just pick one person you know who probably won’t be with any family. If you’re feeling adventurous, perhaps there’s a shut-in or maybe someone you’ve been putting off seeing in a nursing home. It may be tough, but you would be giving of your time and even of your comfort. There’s probably any place you’d rather be. The one you’re visiting might like to be someplace else too so you, the fortunate one, must sacrifice your time. You must give your time.

Sad is probably the most appropriate word for those who are blind and deaf to this season and who somehow see in the words “season of giving, peace on Earth, goodwill toward men” a philosophy to be derided and

discarded, who think the mere mention of the birth of a baby Jesus is a threat to the Republic and must be Constitutionally forbidden.

It is not religious indoctrination to wish for these things. It’s simple common humanity. To see the joy and light in a child’s eyes is not worth it? The happiness and excitement they experience is not a worthy goal of a parent? The acts of kindness and giving on display throughout the community and city should be abolished? Those

brief moments of simple joy and friendship are what sustain us. We replay them to remind us what family, friends and life are really about. Don’t let it go. Don’t let the sad unhappy grinch drag you down to their nest of negativity.

Take all of your Christmases, roll them into one and make this the best Christmas ever at least till next Christmas and we build new memories. Christmas now. Christmas forever. Merry Christmas

Take care till next week



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Rep. Collins Announces Fares for MBTA's The Ride To Drop In January

The Massachusetts state transportation board voted unanimously to decrease fares for MBTA's The Ride. As a result of the decision, fares for The Ride will drop from \$4 to \$3.

"During last year's debate on transportation financing, my colleagues and I in the Legislature,

particularly those representing part of Boston and Greater Boston, whose constituents rely heavily on MBTA services, heard loud and clear that The Ride was just too expensive", said Representative Nick Collins who applauded the fare reduction.

In 2012, the MBTA raised fares with the goal of closing the state's

budget deficit. As part of this increase, fares for The Ride doubled to \$ with a new \$5 charge for late-scheduled trips or visits to premium service areas. "After much advocacy from the Legislature, senior citizens coalitions and disability advocates, I am pleased that the MBTA board voted to reduce The

Ride's fare to \$3. Though our work to improve transportation services and affordability is not done, this is a great step in the right direction," Collins added.

The reduced fares will go into effect on January 6 2014. It is estimated that the fare reduction saves riders \$6 million per year.

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secession from the United States. They could call their new nation Fantasyland.

To outgoing NY mayor Michael Bloomberg: We couldn't really think of anything to give him since he has pretty much banned everything during his time in office.

To all the coaches who help make South Boston's youth sports leagues some of the finest in the nation: Good citizen's awards in appreciation for the great work they do.

To this neighborhood's clergy,

volunteers and in general, the good Samaritans who are always on the front lines to extend a helping hand to all who need one: A sincere thank you for all the lives you have touched over the years.

And to all of our other South Boston neighbors; whether you've been here for generations or a few months, may the blessings of the season bring you much happiness. Merry Christmas to all.

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



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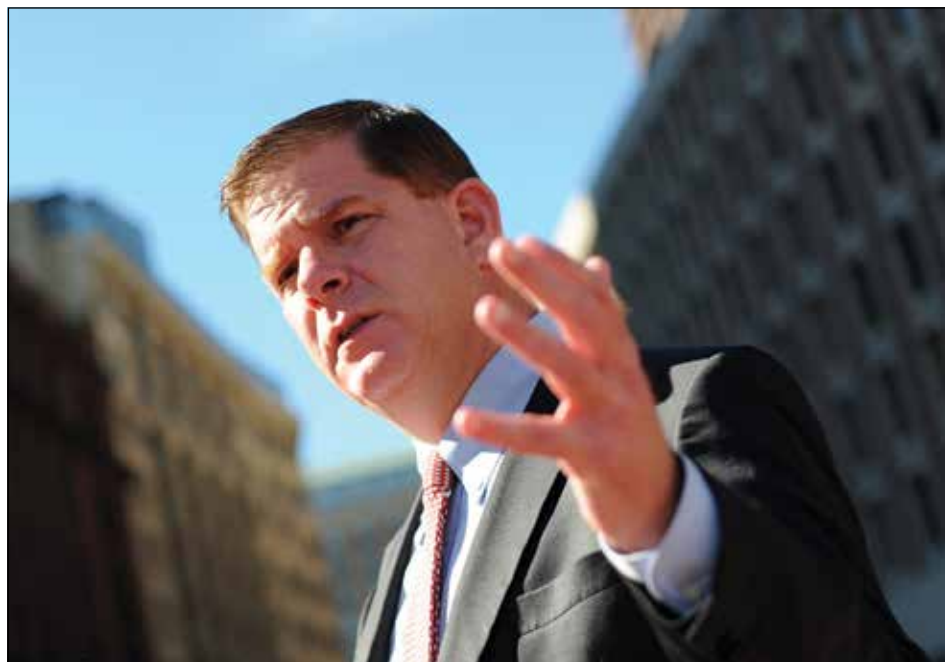
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Mayor-elect Marty Walsh Has His Hands Full

Town Hall Meetings Indicate That Citizens are Expecting A Lot

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

Mayor-elect Marty Walsh has been conducting “town hall” style meetings across the city, seeking input on issues that his new administration should address. This past week, the Boston Globe reported on some of the meetings. Each of these meetings

has been attended by standing room only crowds.

One of the issues discussed was the Boston Redevelopment Authority. During the campaign, Walsh criticized the BRA. At a meeting of businesses executives, who expressed concerns with Walsh’s position, Walsh significantly toned down his original stance to ‘dismantle’ the BRA. Walsh said he would appoint a temporary head and make changes gradually. This was to presumably alleviate concerns of any kind of stoppage of projects coming in front of the BRA for approval.

At a meeting held at Roxbury Community College, another question asked was whether or not the St. Patrick’s Day Parade would be taken over by the city. Walsh said no and pointed out that the parade is run and organized by veterans. He further stated to the questioner that the parade should be inclusive, like other parades across the city, and that he intends to sit down with parade organizers to broker a deal. Parade organizers have always contended that gays and lesbians and others have never been

excluded, just those groups that push an agenda that is not in concert with the theme of the parade.

On the matters of managing the city, many of Mayor Menino’s department heads have announced their resignations. As a result, when asked earlier in the week, Mayor-elect Walsh stated that for those who plan to exit, he will make interim appointments, while conducting a full-fledged search for permanent leadership.

Kate Norton, a Walsh spokesperson, said this to the Boston Herald, “Mayor-elect Walsh has held a number of meetings with various employees in City Hall at many levels. We will have announcements about specific names and positions shortly. We have no further comment at this time.”

Civic engagement is double-edged. Not everyone’s agenda can be fulfilled and therein lays Walsh’s challenge. His transition team’s approach is to be applauded, because openness and transparency is clearly the better way. What a difference a day may make come January 6 2014.

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Metropolitan Beaches Commission Seeks Additional Input From Residents

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) announced that it has completed local public hearings in the region's waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities and is seeking additional input from residents and beachgoers before releasing its final report. The Commission, led and managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, was originally established in 2006 and reconvened in 2013 by the Massachusetts Legislature to assess the state of the Boston Harbor region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner and State Representative Nick Collins, and who represents the Fourth Suffolk District which includes Dorchester Bay, the beaches of South Boston and the Harbor Islands said. "Boston Harbor, our beaches in South Boston and throughout our seacoast deserve our attention, respect and resources.

They are a respite for residents, critical to commerce and jobs, and a recreational resource to all. I take my stewardship of these valuable resources very seriously and encourage our residents to be involved in their preservation and restoration. Special thanks to fellow Commissioner and South Bostonian Ken Ryan for his commitment and service this year."

According to David Spillane, Director of Planning and Urban Design at Goody Clancy, who has helped lead and manage the public hearings for Save The Harbor/Save the Bay, the Commission will seek additional community input through an online survey and host a regional meeting to review its findings and recommendations early in 2014, before issuing a final report in the spring. "More than 700 people have taken part in the process so far," said Spillane. "It is important to everyone that we get this right."

"The community hearings focused on the important contribution these

beaches make to the quality of life in our communities and the region," said Commission Co-Chair Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein, who represents Revere, home of America's first public beach. "Residents of our waterfront communities are deeply involved and committed to ensuring the long-term success of their beaches and it was important for the Commission to hear directly from each community."

"I was impressed with the turnout and level of engagement in each community," said The Boston Foundation President and CEO Paul Grogan. "The Boston Foundation is pleased to have been part of the process from the beginning."

Residents and community supporters that were not able to attend a community hearing are invited to share their feedback through an online survey found at <http://tinyurl.com/MBC2013SURVEY>. In the summer and fall of 2013 the Commission

held 10 public hearings at the Massachusetts State House and in the communities of Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and Hull, and heard from nearly 700 people.

For more information, visit www.savetheharbor.org or send an email to info@savetheharbor.org.

About the Metropolitan Beaches Commission

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission is led and managed by the non-profit Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. It was created in 2006 by the Massachusetts Legislature to take an in-depth look at the metropolitan region's public beaches in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull that are managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. You can download a copy of their 2007 report "Beaches We Can Be Proud Of" at <http://tinyurl.com/betterbeaches2007>



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Local Couple Saves Victim of Cardiac Arrest

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

South Boston Today usually doesn't report on an incident that happened a month earlier. We do our best to get the information out to our readers as soon as it happens; either by way of our print edition each Thursday or immediately upon learning of it and getting all the facts and details then posting them on our website, Facebook page or by 'Tweeting' the story out.

However, the story we report now had apparently somehow fallen through the cracks as some of our readers, who were on the scene when this particular accident happened all assumed that someone else would call it in to us. It often happens that they do, but this time no one did. SBT apologizes for writing about it so late. But late or not, we believe it's a story that needs telling.

It was this past Halloween Night at the annual 'Trick or Treat on Broadway' celebration when a local man, driving up L Street had what was said to be a heart attack while behind the wheel as he approached

the corner of L and E. Broadway. The pain was intense, causing him to lose control of his car. Those who have been in the area during this annual event know that there are literally hundreds of small children out having a great time; most of them with their parents or other family members caught up in all the fun. This was the case that night. It was a typical happy time for all the Trick or Treaters. But you can imagine the potential for tragedy with so many people crowded into the area and an out of control motor vehicle rolling up the street added to the mixed.

It was either luck or a Heavenly miracle; no one can be sure which, that the moving car did not hit anyone in the street but instead slammed into a street pole and a bus. No injuries were reported on the bus and no one walking in the street was hit either. Some people that SBT spoke with for this story who witnessed it all that night are convinced that it was a miracle in play.

So, everyone in the street was spared injury, which was a truly a wonderful

thing. But there was still the matter of the man having the heart attack in his car. As luck would have it, or was it another miracle, local residents Lisa Wellen, her husband Chris Wellen and their three kids were close by when the crash occurred. Lisa is a registered nurse who works at Mass General Hospital. She and her husband immediately rushed to the aid of the man and began CPR. They kept at it, nonstop and were soon joined by Boston Police officers. The Boston Fire Department also arrived on the scene and brought a defibrillator and put it right into use. EMS arrived soon after and rushed the man, while under their care, to Boston Medical Center. This was all an amazing team effort the effect of which probably saved the victim's life.

It's believed that if Lisa and Chris Wellen were not on the scene when the crash took place, the man would have died. They were in fact, the first to respond and it's a good thing they were. They are the heroes in this story as well as the police, firefighters and

EMS who came on the scene soon after and went right into action.

So how is the victim himself doing? Well, according to reports, he spent a week in the hospital where he got excellent care and is doing remarkably well. SBT is told he's up and about and has walked Castle Island at least once when he was released and may be doing so now on a regular schedule. It is also believed that had responders not acted so quickly, he probably would not have made it. This is a story that could have had a bad ending. But thanks to the concern and quick action of good neighbors who got involved; backed up by some of the finest First Responders in the city, things turned out well. So often we hear of incidents in places like New York City or other locations where people who see someone in need of help just walk on by because they WON'T get involved. But this is South Boston, where good neighbors have each other's backs and care about one another and are quick to step up when their help is needed. Amen to that.



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: Santa's Little Elves

South Boston just can't stop. Since moments after the clock struck 12 on Black Friday, we have been collecting toys and donations for families in need this holiday season. We have dropped off warm clothes and bedding, volunteered time to gift-wrap and decorate to spread holiday cheer, lived vicariously through others and bought that Barbie corvette Santa decided against in 1991, ten times over. Sure, it hasn't hurt that a little fun for us goes along with it. Face it, as South Bostonians, we cannot resist a good time AT a time, and have encouraged our new neighbors to partake in this tradition. With under a week to go till the Big Guy is in town, there are still a few ways you can do some good and do for others. So get out there and deck someone's hall, trim their tree and fill their stocking.

I Love Toys, Toys, Toys

There is still a week left in the mall scramble, and time for you to pick up something for someone else (not YOU) while you are there. The Toys for Tots drop off location at 23 Drydock Ave is open Monday-Friday, 6am-2pm, and is

still accepting nonviolent, unwrapped playthings; I, myself, have dropped off gifts up until the 23rd before, so I know that you are still good for another 5 days. If you cannot get there, Toys for Tots accepts monetary aid online. St. Peter's Academy, which can be found at 371 W. 4th St, is gathering trinkets for St. Vincent's, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, through 12/20. Globe Santa, which solely accepts financial contributions via their website, mailing address and the purchase of wrapping paper, is also still collecting. This one's for the children.

toysfortots.org globesanta.org

Big Kids

There is no age limit on Christmas. Just because you are over 12 doesn't mean you don't love to celebrate, give AND receive. So let's not forget about the big kids too. Every Christmas Eve, the Pine Street Inn presents their residents with a gift, but their need our help. If you can, gift cards in \$20 denominations, are still being accepted to put a smile on someone's face next week. This time of the year is especially tough for those at Pine Street: their situation, compacted

with the weather and loneliness, would be made a little lighter with our help. You can also assist by buying this year's Pine Street Christmas cards or impart upon Pine Street a gift that goes to the cause. They will know Santa Claus came to town.

pinestreetinn.org

Giving the Gift of Warmth

This year, who wouldn't want the new Furby (I know, I know) or the latest Xbox/Wii/etc.? But some kids just want warm clothes. Cradles to Crayons, which serves homeless and low-income families in Boston, dresses children, aged infant through 12 years old, in warm clothing and good shoes. The “Outfit Pack” program allows you to pick a child from the list and purchase much needed warm clothing, through December 20th. Old Navy also offers a coupon for you to use towards your gift. If you cannot do so in time, afford someone the same chance at a warm winter by sharing what you can through their website. Wrap yourself up in that warmth.

cradlestocrayons.org/boston/givebackoutfitpack

Want to do something different this year but can't think of what to do? Share with your loved ones something greater than a certificate for a manicure or a bottle of wine. Make the donations suggested here or to other great charities and causes you may support and do so in their name. Buy/make a card and share with your fam that instead of buying them something they didn't need, you gave something to someone who did. Even if it isn't specifically done with their name on it, convey to them that the gifts you donated and the clothes you bought, were in honor of them. Can't be with loved ones this Christmas? Neither can the women and men overseas fighting for our freedom. In honor of your (somewhat) common bond, check out operationcarepacakes.com, and share some Christmas spirit.

Stepping Out: One For Me, One For You

We are all guilty of it. You head to the mall with a list, your coupons, credit cards and an Olympic champion-like strategy on getting it all done. You find the perfect spot near Nordstrom's; you park there because it is easier to maneuver and escape from than the dreaded Lord & Taylor cluster-*\$&#. But five minutes into the mall, the heat, the smells and the lighting hit you, and your focus goes from Kris Kringle to Greedy Gretchen. You end up \$400 in debt, but dressed in the finest Christmas gear, plus that new iPhone you had to have, and not one person crossed off that list. I had have made this mistake and repeated it at least three times already this holiday season. Solution: check out these places where you are rewarded for buying for others or where others can benefit from you recompensing yourself.

Two Christmas Doves, One Beautifully Wrapped Gift.

Authorized Purchase

Here are some Southie spots where you can grab a gift card for someone special in hopes they will wine and dine you, and feel a little less guilty when they do by presenting them with your lil present you received when they did.

Del Frisco's: For every \$100 g/c, receive an additional \$10 g/c with purchase, up to \$500; spend \$500, and receive a \$75 g/c (through 12/31) **delfriscos.com**

Morton's: For every \$100 g/c, receive a \$20 reward card (through 12/24) **mortons.com**

Legal Seafoods/LTK: For every \$200 of g/c's, Legal gives a Lobster Dinner, and a portion of g/c sales goes to Boston Children's Hospital; Legal has donated \$1 million so far. **legalseafoods.com**

Rosa Mexicano: For every \$100 g/c, receive a \$20 gift for you. **rosamexicano.com**

Lucky's Lounge: For every \$50 g/c, receive a \$10 g/c. **luckyslounge.com**

The Paramount Southie: For every \$100 g/c, receive a \$20 g/c. **paramountboston.com/southboston**

Buy One, Get One

Give the gift of culture this year. Whether it's an individual, dual or family membership, the ICA allows for the gifted membership to be used as a tax deduction AND invites its members to share that present by inviting a guest for free. And why wouldn't that special someone you gave this dignified and enlightened pass not take you as their +1?

icaboston.org

The Boston Children's Museum membership is a great way to get

something for the whole family, be it your brother/sister/cousin/best friend. There are varying memberships/rates depending upon the size of the family, with an additional “adult care provider” to be added to the price for \$10/each. Ya know that rainy day when you are watching those kids and don't know what to do? Or you just need an excuse to be a kid for a day? Grab the kids and the card, and you as their fun-provider will be included at no additional monetary (can't promise no physical) cost to you. And just a few doors down is the Boston Fire Museum, located at 344 Congress Street. Admission is free (though donations are kindly accepted) and the kids get to sit on the fire engine. They may even let you too! **bostonchildrensmuseum.org** **bostonfiremuseum.com**



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

www.southbostontoday.com



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



Touch: *You'll Wanna Run Your Finger Through That Hair*

For your frazzled, older sister-mom: Nurture Salon is graciously selling \$50 g/c and giving back a \$10 g/c with that procurement; put together a gift basket and receive that magical little wonder too. With the salon now open 7 days a week, and retail products discounted 20% through 12/31, get your gurl ready for a new year with a new and improved look.

Nurturesalonandspa.com



See: *What A Sight*

For your highfalutin godmother with the exquisite taste and penchant for fancy giving: This Friday, 12/20, the Distillery is hosting another day of "Christmas at the Loft". At 8pm, you will be able to peruse and acquire some of Southie's most talented artists wares while enjoying food, drink and music. You are sure to impress your fairy godmother.

distilleryboston.com



Taste: *That's Palatable*

For your hard-to-buy-for-bro who loves anything "craft": American Provisions has a 3 or 6 month Beer and Wine of the Month Club. Each month 3 wines or beers are chosen with pairings for the recipient of this awesome gift. If you want more of a one stop/shop, there are amazing gift baskets to choose from. Or check out three local breweries/distilleries: Trillium, Harpoon and GrandTen; great places to pick up that unique bestowment. That's one lucky guy.

americanprovisions.com

trilliumbrewing.com

harpoonbrewery.com

grandten.com



Smell: *I Smell a Fresh Start*

For your fitness buff bestie: Ultimate Boot Camp is now holding their indoor boot camps in South Boston Yoga during the cold weather months. Starting January 6th, which gives enough time for recovery from the holiday bonanza, while not losing motivation, there is a chance to workout 2-4x a week. In addition to the traditional boot camp, UBC is also holding a Barefoot version, which strengthens and stabilizes. BONUS: Gilt.com is selling a discounted package that can be applied to this upcoming session. And while you are there, check out some of South Boston Yoga's classes as well. Yes please!!

ultimatebootcamp.com

southbostonyoga.net

gilt.com



Hear: *Jokes on Him*

For your uncle with poor humor and bad punch lines: LAUGH Boston has plenty of shows Wednesday through Saturday nights to teach Uncle Bob a thing or two. Whether it's checking out Beantown comedians on a casual Wednesday PM at the "Boston Accents" show or taking in one of the local kings of comedy, Steve Sweeney, on a Friday night, there are plenty of options to choose from. All jokes aside, it's a wise lesson to teach.

laughboston.com



Embrace All Of The Southie Senses: *The Wonder of it All*

Whether or not the sky is clear or cloudy, the stars will shine bright and give light to Santa's way in Southie. This Saturday, 12/21, at 5pm, a "Starry Night in Fort Point" an LED light installation will be unveiled for all under the Summer Street Bridge at A Street, in Fort Point. With lots of help from Boston Public Works and funding by the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, this amazing display will get your holiday spirit in high gear. There will also be a small get together at Lucky's Lounge immediately following the presentation. Kick off your weekend of celebrating brightly!



Saving Your Spot- Tradition Only? or Practical Neighborhood Practice?

After every snow storm, people all over the city share in an age old practice of “spot saving”. Let’s break down exactly what happens.

1. Snow falls
2. Person parked on street and spends hours and burns many calories shoveling out car, often times hurting their back, given the nature of the activity.

3. Person marks their spot with a chair, trash barrel, ironing board, or more creative item to recognize their hard work and claim the spot “temporarily”.

Now the key word is “temporarily”. The debate over how long someone can claim the spot is a legitimate one. It should depend on the severity of the snow storm, so it should vary. The funny thing is that it happens all

over the city. Drive through Jamaica Plain, East Boston, the South End, Brighton, Charlestown, you name it...you will see “spot savers” up and down the streets. While South Boston may be considered the pioneering neighborhood in this activity, we can’t claim exclusivity on the practice.

The main reason for such a practice to continue is that the challenge of finding a parking spot is daunting after a snow storm. Thankfully our elected officials are constantly trying to find access to more parking. But after a snow storm many would-be available spots turn into snow piles.

So the question really is how long should one be able to “save” their spots?

CONTINUED FROM front page 1

Council is testimony to her personal integrity and her conception of a “New Boston” that bridges the traditions of the past with the hopes of the future. She has recognized that Linehan has grown politically, perhaps not as quickly as the militant progressive wing of the Democratic Party apparatus would like. She knows Linehan personally, has worked with him directly to improve her own South End neighborhood, and believes that he is the best person to work with the new Mayor’s administration. Linehan also pledged to de-centralize the council’s power by giving more autonomy to committee chairpersons.

It appears, based on the seemingly rabid public comments about her decision, being reported by those apparently obsessed with Linehan’s race, heritage and gender, that unless she does what she is told by some

“progressive leaders” and abandons her own political judgment, she is marked for extinction by these circumstantial supporters. Such is the case with Rev. Pastor James Hills of Jamaica Plain who was quoted saying as much in a recent Boston Globe article. Rev. Hills even seemed to tread on the precipice of race-baiting should Councilor Tito Jackson and Linehan end up competing for the presidency. Another activist from Jamaica Plain was quoted, “If she (Wu) doesn’t change her mind, moving forward, we will find a true progressive who can run and represent the city.”

If the New Boston being sought by some is that of intolerance, excessive and single-minded zeal, or absolutism, then Michelle Wu has just seen that version of New Boston in its ugly form. Lucky for her she did. Those in the camp of moderate, classic liberal and true progressive should applaud her for standing tall with the gale wind in her face.

Please respond to this week’s South Boston Today’s poll:

How long should people be able to save their spot?

- One day
- Two days
- Three days
- Depends on the storm
- Not at all

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Merry Christmas South Boston

2013

South Boston

Today





Christmas in South Boston 2013

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
John Ciccone

Well, there's no doubt now, Christmas is nearly upon us and as is the case every season at this time, it brings with it a feeling different than any other. To most people, it holds a mix of sensations. It's hectic, yet there is a feeling of peace in the air. The rush of shopping, perhaps one or more special events and gatherings that tradition dictates we must attend. Yet in the middle of it all, if we're lucky, we are able to bring the rapid pace to a welcome slow down, even if just for a short time to savor the good feelings, as we walk by a Nativity Scene or catch a children's choir singing carols at a school or church pageant, which gives us a chance to catch our breath and bask in the warmth and the true meaning of what Christmas is all about.

For over 2000 years since the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, much of the world has considered Christmastime to be very special. Yes, there is also Santa Claus, reindeer and elves to

entertain and fascinate the kids. Huge displays of bright and colorful lights bring smiles to the faces of most and all of it; the religious and non-religious combine to make it wonderful.

Here in South Boston, like most places, tradition continues especially at Christmas. Homes are lit up and decorated, our schools are festive and churches are hubs of activity with caroling, Masses and Services featuring beautifully decorated altars. It may be cold outside, but there's always a warm glow and welcoming atmosphere inside.

Like most, we here at South Boston Today cannot help but be impressed with all the special happenings that go on in our wonderful community at Christmas time. From the concert at the St. Augustine's Chapel, to the caroling at Marian Manor, to the children singing like Angels with all their hearts and Souls during their plays and pageants heralding the birth of Jesus.

There is not just one 'Toys for Tots' event, where people are happy

to drop off brand new toys for kids and families who otherwise might not have any; but many drop off points hosted by several groups in cooperation with the US Marines. We have Christmas tree lightings in our public squares. The lamp posts along East and West Broadway display the wreaths that have been hung with great care on them to add even more spirit to the season. And who can forget the annual Christmas Day Dinner held each year at St. Monica's Church where hundreds gather for a delicious home cooked meal served by dozens of dedicated neighborhood volunteers happy to donate their time to bring pleasure and great food to make sure that no one need spend Christmas alone?

South Boston at Christmastime is such a special place that not only are long time traditions passed on from generation to generation, but we even add new ones such as the magnificent Live Nativity which had its third successful year last Saturday

and the upcoming concert featuring Maeve; both put on by the New Covenant Church of South Boston. The Maeve Concert will take place This Friday, December 20th at the South Baptist Church location at 80 L Street starting at 7pm. Few places actually add new events with so many longtime favorites that take place but we do in this neighborhood.

The happenings listed above are just some of the ways South Bostonians celebrate the Christmas Season together. Where everyone; no matter what our faith, is invited to enjoy. When you add to all of this, intimate gatherings all across our community of family and good friends to enjoy the closeness of one another's company at parties and dinner it really does explain why most people look forward to this time of year. As we said, Christmas is a very special season of the year in nearly every part of the world and that can certainly be said for Christmas in South Boston 2013.



2013 CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ST. BRIGID, GATE OF HEAVEN AND ST. MONICA-ST. AUGUSTINE



CHRISTMAS EVE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 PM at St. Augustine Chapel

4:00 PM at Gate of Heaven (with Christmas Pageant)

4:00 PM at St. Brigid Church

6:00 PM at St. Brigid (with Christmas Pageant)

10:00 PM at Gate of Heaven Church

CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

8:00 AM at St. Brigid Church

9:00 AM at Gate of Heaven Church

9:30 AM at St. Monica Church

10:30 AM at St. Brigid Church

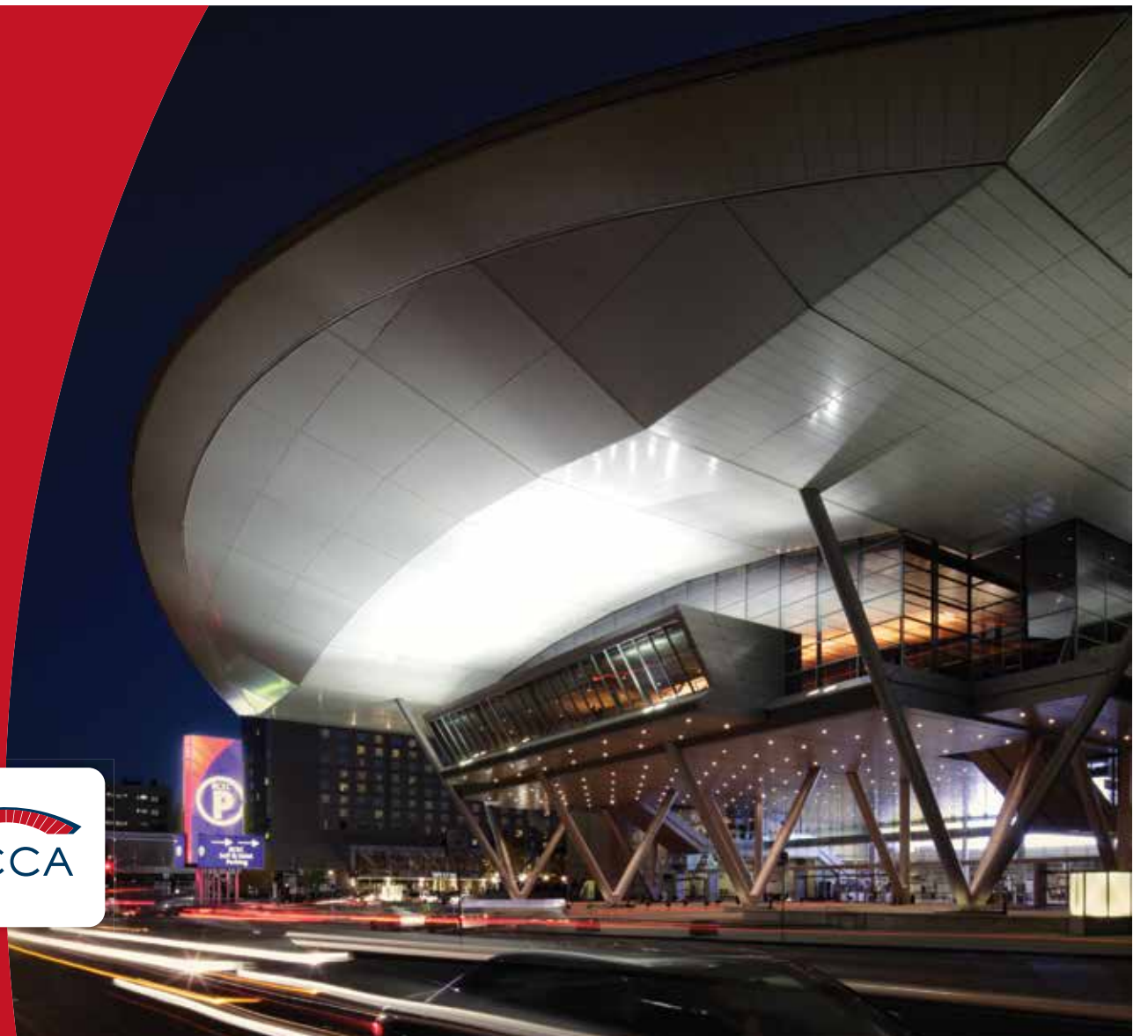
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Happy holidays!

From our house to yours.

JAMES E. ROONEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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South Boston Catholic Academy Christmas Concert

Once again South Boston Catholic Academy gym was transformed into a winter wonderland and music filled the school. The Christmas concert was held on December 11th with all our great students performing along with the school choir.

Congratulations to Mr. Chris Weigel, our Music teacher, for making the evening and closing sing a long, a wonderful night to remember. From all of us at South Boston Catholic Academy, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



Wishing You a
Merry Christmas

from the staff



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Salvation Army Bell Ringers: Helping Others

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
SBT Staff Report

There are several ways to tell that Christmas is fast approaching. Christmas Carols are being sung at Church. Christmas music is on the radio and once again is even returning to the public square after a few years of almost being banned. Those old familiar and beloved Yuletide movie classics on TV, along with some brand new ones, are being shown round the clock on some channels. Light displays, Christmas Trees and a sort of magic in the air as the date draws close lets us know that it's that special time of year again. Ah, but let's not forget that other telltale sign of the season: The Salvation Army bell ringers on street corners, at the entrance to our favorite stores and pretty much everywhere that shoppers flock to.

The Salvation Army, as described by Wikipedia, is a Christian denominational Church and charitable organization structured in a quasi-military fashion. It has more than 1.5 million members.

But one of its primary goals is to help relieve poverty as best it can for any and all people; no matter who they are where ever there is a need; a noble goal by any standards.

The Salvation Army was established in 1865 by William Booth and has been going and growing ever since. But its activities, as most know are not limited to raising money for the poor during the Christmas Season. Where ever and whenever there is a need, they rush to the scene of that need and swing right into action. Whether it is an earthquake, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and any number of other natural disasters, 'The Army' is always one of the first to respond bringing with it whatever is required to assist. Their volunteers and staff have in every case proven to be competent, professional and above all compassionate with the will, the energy and the ability to help ease the pain and trauma of the victims. But even more

than that, they help lay the foundation for long term and permanent recovery so that the victims can get their lives back together and get back on their feet as soon as possible.

One of the most impressive aspects of the Salvation Army is the fact that, much like every religious organization and church, a much larger percentage of funds raised goes directly to those people who need it. Unlike many other charities which have CEO's and directors that draw huge salaries and pay out much to staffing and plush office accommodations etc., The Salvation Army by comparison has very low administrative costs allowing it to give just about all the funds and donations it collects directly to those requiring it. To say the work its members do is a labor of love would seem to describe the work they do accurately.

So the next time you walk into Stop and Shop on E. Broadway or into a Walmart

or your favorite store at the mall and hear those bells ringing and see the volunteers shivering in the cold air wishing all a Merry Christmas, it's important to remember that the work these dedicated volunteers are doing comes from the heart and the money you might choose to drop into their festive red containers is sure to go right to someone who truly needs it this Christmas Season. And if you think of it, why not take a little time to thank the manager of the business or store for allowing the Salvation Army to set up at their location. It will mean a lot to everyone involved and help allow a wonderful tradition to continue forever or for as long as it is needed.

If you want more information about the Salvation Army or how to make a donation, you can call one of the local locations here in Boston at 617-547-3400 or go online and type Salvation Army into any search engine to learn all about them.



Annual Christmas Dinner to be held on Christmas Day

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
SBT Staff Report

Wonderful traditions in South Boston continue uninterrupted year after year. And true to form, the annual Christmas Dinner held at St. Monica's Church will be right on schedule next Wednesday, Christmas Day from 11am -1pm. Coming after a successful Thanksgiving Dinner, the Christmas Dinner promises to be at least as festive and with roasted turkey and all the great side dishes that go with it that would make even the pickiest food critic's mouth water. The word feast could be used to describe it all.

For Christmas Dinner, volunteers are asked to arrive between 10:15 and 10:30. As always, meals will be delivered to homes of people who would like a dinner but are not able to get to the Church. Folks who need home deliveries are asked to call 617-

268-1230 prior to December 23rd or 617-590-992 after December 23rd.

The event is officially titled the 'Msgr. Thomas J McDonnell and Frank Kelley Christmas Dinner'. It is being sponsored by the Catholic Parishes of South Boston and South Boston's elected officials: Cong. Stephen Lynch, Sen. Linda Forry, Rep. Nick Collins, City Councilor Bill Linehan, City Councilor Elect Michael Flaherty and Clerk of Court Mike Donovan. The chairman for this year's dinner is Thomas Butler Jr. As always, everyone is invited to and welcomed at the Christmas Dinner. It's a time to meet friends and neighbors and be part of this most festive season. And to add even more to the spirit, Christmas Carols will be sung. Now, how can you top that?

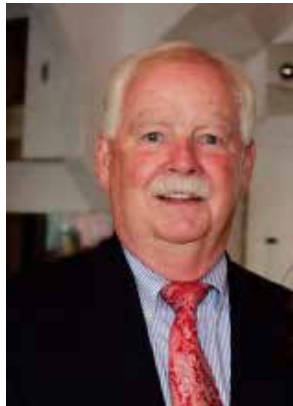




Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

May the joy of the Christmas
Season always be in your heart!



Michael J. Donovan
Clerk Magistrate
Suffolk Superior Civil Court

Season's Greetings

Wishing you and your family
a Happy Holiday and
a Blessed New Year!

- Michael F. Flaherty
Boston City Councilor-elect



www.MichaelFlaherty.com
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Happy Holidays



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May the peace of God
be in your hearts, always.

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*



NICK COLLINS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE





*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from my family to yours.*



City Councilor Bill Linehan





peace on earth



Connecting with our communities. massport.com

Lots of good old Southie images



TREE OF G
ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
CLYDESDALES ON BROADWAY
AMRHEIN'S
CITY POINT STREET CAR
ANDREW SQUARE
FARRAGUT'S WATCH
THE AQUARIUM
THE HEAD HOUSE
KELLY'S LANDING
GATE OF HEAVEN CHURCH
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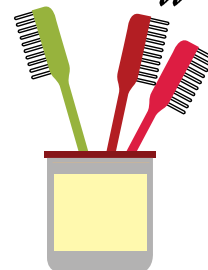


Wishing you happy holidays and the best of health for 2014.

South Boston Community Health Center
409 West Broadway • 617-464-7500 • www.sbchc.org

Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

From
Michael F. Arcieri, D.M.D
and Staff



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Massachusetts 02127
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**Wishing You
A Very
Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year!**

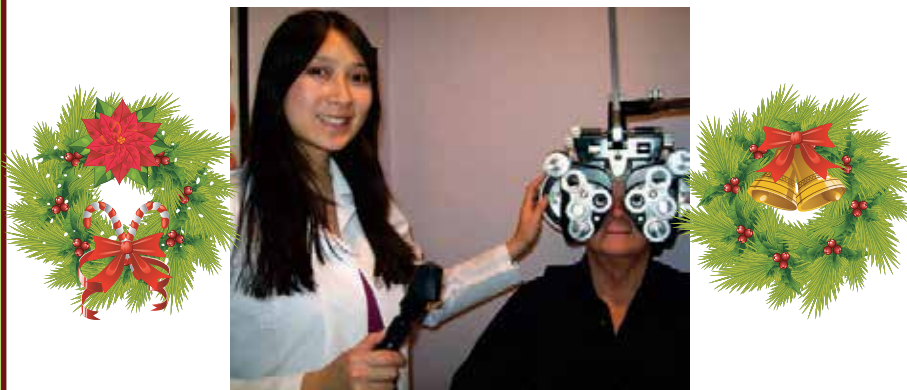


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SBT



Christmas Cosmo

Ingredients

Original recipe

makes 1 cocktail

2 fluid ounces vodka
1 fluid ounce cranberry juice
1 fluid ounce triple sec
(orange-flavored liqueur)
2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
1 lime wedge
2 cranberries

Directions

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice; add vodka, cranberry juice, triple sec, and lime juice. Cover and shake. Strain cocktail into a martini glass. Garnish with a lime wedge and cranberries.



White Christmas Cocktail

Ingredients

Original recipe makes 2 cocktails

1 fluid ounce heavy cream
1 fluid ounce vodka
1 fluid ounce peppermint schnapps
1 fluid ounce white creme de cacao
1 cup ice cubes
1 small candy cane (optional)

Directions

Pour the heavy cream, vodka, schnapps, and white creme de cacao into a cocktail shaker over ice. Cover, and shake until the outside of the shaker has frosted. Strain into a chilled glass, and garnish with a mini candy cane to serve.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

from
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Grandma's Gingerbread Pancakes

Ingredients

*Original recipe makes 10
pancakes*

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground dried ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 1/2 cups water

Directions

Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, ginger, and cinnamon in a bowl; set aside. Beat the egg in a separate mixing bowl with the vanilla and molasses until smooth. Whisk in the water until completely incorporated. Stir the flour mixture into the molasses mixture until just combined -- a few lumps are okay.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle over medium-high heat. Drop batter by large spoonfuls onto the griddle, and cook until bubbles form and the edges are dry. Flip, and cook until browned on the other side. Repeat with remaining batter.



Soft Christmas Cookies

Ingredients

*Original recipe makes
4 dozen*

- 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Directions

Sift flour, baking powder, and salt together, set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the vanilla. Gradually blend in the sifted ingredients until fully absorbed. Cover dough, and chill for 2 hours. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Grease cookie sheets. On a clean floured surface, roll out small portions of chilled dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut out shapes using cookie cutters.

Bake 6 to 8 minutes in the preheated oven, or until edges are barely brown. Remove from cookie sheets to cool on wire racks.



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Harpoon helps volunteer committee



co-founder and owner Dan Kenary having a pint with volunteers



Dan Kenary giving the Holiday Toast



Harpoon helps spreads Holiday Cheer

On Saturday December 7th over 400 Harpoon Helps volunteers spread holiday cheer by decorating 25 locations that need it the most throughout Boston. After the teams visited their assigned organizations, all returned to the Harpoon Brewery for lunch and celebrated by raising a pint. In addition to Boston, Harpoon helps decorated in 45 other locations throughout the country. Co-founder and owner Dan

Kenary gave the holiday toast and said, looking at the crowd, that it really says something about our customers when so many volunteers come out to help those in need and how quickly the volunteer list fills up. Harpoon Helps is the philanthropic arm of Harpoon Brewery. Its mission is to support local charities with donations of fresh beer, volunteer time and direct contributions. For more information on Harpoon helps or to become a friend of Harpoon please go to www.harpoonhelps.com.



Christmas in Southie Today and Yesterday

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Brian P. Wallace (re-printed with permission)

"There are places I remember, some have gone but some remain"

For those of you who don't know those lyrics, they are from one of my favorite Beatle songs, which I think about a lot when reminiscing about things in my past. One of those memories is shopping with my mother on West Broadway when I was a kid. It certainly was a much different time back then. There were no malls and a trip in town meant Jordan Marsh, Filene's Basement, Kennedy's or City Mart (The store with a heart) Back on West Broadway, I remember sitting on the stool at the lunch counter in Woolworth's and ordering a hot dog from an old rotary cooking machine and a coke from the waitress. Even though I was eight or nine years old, I thought I was pretty grown up. I enjoyed feeling that way even if it was just for a few minutes. I remember accompanying my mother into Kennedy's Butter & Egg Store and running to the ice cream cooler as my mother ordered our eggs, cheese, butter and milk and then into the Manhattan Market, where we got our meat for the week. We would get our fruit next door at the outdoor fruit stand and directly across the street my mother would do her banking at the South Boston Savings Bank and then into the Supreme Market next door to get the rest of our weekly order. I remember my mother paying her gas, electric and phone bills on West Broadway.

When I needed shoes I got them at

Sullivan's Shoes, Petchell's or Thom McCann's next to Sands. A new shirt brought me into Gorin's next to Liggett's Drug Store. There was also a Grant's and Stukas' Photography studio next to Dr Levitan's. We sometimes got our fruit at Mignosa's and would go next door into Taylor's Market (Where Your Grandmother Shopped) the sign said. Taylor's Market was located on the corner of E and Broadway. A weekend was never complete without a trip to the Broadway Show (aka the Bug House) and some popcorn from Mrs. Gagin. We mailed our letters at the Post Office next to the Broadway Show and put air in our tires at Charlie & Chris gas station, where the public parking lot is now on West Broadway. And I will never forget the bowling alley on the second floor next to the gas station. There was a donut shop and a Brigham's on that block of West Broadway as well.

Pober's was the only place for first communion outfits and the Bay View Men's shop was always the place my father got his new hats. Carey's furniture store was at the corner of F & Broadway across from Mary Anne's. Broadway Tile and Linoleum was a few doors down the street and Mike's Lunch was directly across the street where the Community Health Center is now located, as was Ellis Furniture. Joe's Spa, Cantor's and Cabot's Drug store were all located at Dorchester and Broadway across

from the Bay View Pub. There was also another small butcher shop on that corner where we got our skirt steak. My father was known to join some of his friends at the Car Stop, The Heights Tavern, or The Bright Star. The Colonial Room was above The Elite Restaurant.

WorldFamousBlinstrub's anchored the corner at D & Broadway across from Rosengards Drug Store. Fini's Drug Store was on the other side of D & Broadway near the First Tavern, which was just up the street from the old Station 6. Also just up from D & Broadway was the Penn Tavern. The Italian Villa, the Carmen's Post and the International were all next to the Penn Tavern at one time or another. The McDonough Post moved down Broadway after a tragic fire and was above Irving's tailor shop. And I always wondered how that little Eliot typewriter repair shop stayed in business all those many years. Same with that little religious book store just up from E and Broadway near where Georgie Landers lived, I never saw anyone go in to that typewriter store or that religious book store my entire life. There was a barber shop, another cobbler shop and a Lithuanian market where Shenanigan's is now located.

Legendary Matty Landy's, which got most of its business after hours, was on the corner of B and Broadway and that went through a series of name changes like Barney Grogan's,

Street Lights and Patchessi's before settling on Sturgis Cleaners. Frank's Barber Shop was next door. The South Boston Supply company was between E and F on Broadway near Ketvirtis Jewelers. Billy Long had a florist shop at E and Broadway while Theresa Mullen's florist shop was located where Area C is now located. The Royal Café, The Transit and The Tunnel were on Broadway near Broadway Station across the street from PJ Cronin's.

What do all of those places have in common? They were all a major part of West Broadway once and nearly all are now gone. A few, however, still remain. The Lith Club which anchors E and Broadway and was once the site of the South Boston Savings Bank still remains. Broadway Lock is still in business, Mul's and Amrhein's are still very much alive, although the O'Donnell Funeral Home which occupied one half of what is now Amrhein's has long since been buried. Mt Washington Bank is still in the money. Schubert's is still in business and Perkins Supply is still supplying. A lot has been added in the past few years to West Broadway or "Big Broadway" as some called it. I wish them all luck and I hope they prosper. But some day, fifty years from now some guy will write about them too. I had some wonderful memories about growing up on West Broadway. I hope you did too.

"These are places I remember, some have gone but some remain."





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	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
861 East Second Street Commercial Property	\$1,100,000	12/05/13			
615 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$719,000	12/10/13	6	3	1850
720 East Eighth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$535,000	12/9/13	4	2	1040
335 West Second St UNIT 7 Condo	\$485,000	12/2/13	4	2	1039
9 Broadway UNIT 219 Condo	\$462,500	12/6/13	3	1	678
58 L St UNIT 1 Condo	\$460,000	12/02/13	4	2	1106
12 Mohawk St UNIT 3 Condo	\$459,000	12/6/13	4	2	863
12 Mohawk St UNIT 4 Condo	\$449,000	12/5/13	4	2	934
180 L St UNIT 1 Condo	\$435,000	12/6/13	5	1	1008
433 West Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$425,000	12/2/13	4	1.5	940
637-639 East Seventh St UNIT 2 Condo	\$423,000	12/6/13	5	1	855
12 Mohawk St UNIT 5 Condo	\$420,000	12/5/13	4	2	879
514 1/2 East Third St UNIT 3 Condo	\$410,000	12/4/13	5	1	783
111 West Eighth St UNIT A Condo	\$361,000	12/6/13	4	1	711
311 Emerson St UNIT 7 Condo	\$355,000	12/2/13	4	1	708
505 East Fifth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$355,000	12/10/13	4	1	669
291 West Third St UNIT 3 Condo	\$309,000	12/02/13	3	1	540
620-622 East Broadway UNIT 1 Commercial Property	\$300,000	12/05/13			



Merry Christmas



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Bring On The Sparklers!

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By the Wine Guy – Jamie Driscoll

In addition to Christmas gifts and decorations, one of the other things many of us do to “brighten up” the dark and dreary days of winter is to have a glass of

something sparkling.

What we know today as “Champagne” has been around since the 1400s and was originally consumed by Royalty; luckily,

things have loosened in the last few hundred years and now, “the drink of kings” is enjoyed the world over and is used to toast all of our special moments. When shopping for Champagne, you may notice the term, “Methode Champenoise” on many of the bottles you see, which means a couple of important things-first, it means that the sparkling wine in the bottle does not come from the Champagne region of France, as only sparkling wine made within that region following very specific winemaking protocols can be called Champagne; it also means that the wine has been made in the same way as champagne, which requires a second fermentation in the bottle to give it that unique carbonation or “sparkle”.

Here are some sparklers that will make your holidays even more festive:

Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin Brut, NV, Champagne, France (~\$50.00) is one of the world’s most recognized fine champagnes. Its quality and consistency are two of the reasons for its high price. Grapes from between 50-60 “crus” or “growing areas” within the Champagne region are blended together in a very labor-intensive fashion and the end result is always a pleasure to have.

The descriptive, “brut”, which

you’ll see on many labels, means “very dry” and is meant to let you know that a sparkling wine is less than the “Extra Dry” version. As for the “NV”, it’s seen on the majority of Champagne and sparkling wines bottles and means, “non-vintage”. The wine rules of the Champagne region are very strict about when a “Vintage Year” can be declared and they are pretty rare, not to mention much more costly.

Gruet Brut, NV, Engle, New Mexico (~\$15.00) would seem to be an unlikely candidate for great sparkling wine, but when the Gruet family of Bethon, France created their first sparkling wines from vineyards as high as 4300 feet above sea level, some of the highest in North America, they knew their gamble would pay off. Today, this label offers some of the most enjoyable sparkling wine made in the U.S. at a price point that can’t be beat. Surprise your guests and yourself with this wine’s floral and fruity bouquet, great balance and pleasant finish.

Santa Margherita Prosecco di Valdobbiadene, NV, Valdobbiadene, Italy (~\$18.00) is a sister wine to the very well-known Pinot Grigio and is made under the Italian process known as “Metodo Classico” and uses a process called “Charmat”, where the secondary fermentation occurs in stainless steel vats, not within the bottle. You’ll smell and taste scents of apricots, figs

and kiwi, followed by a mixture of lychee fruit, citrus and apples. Great for any part of your holidays, before, during or after a meal.

Roederer Estate Brut, NV, Central Coast, California, (~\$22.00) is made by the American branch of one of France’s oldest Champagne makers and the first to come to California and make Methode Champenoise-style wine. This sparkler has real structure, but is light and versatile, making it a great choice for any white meat dish, shellfish or heavy cheeses. Citrus overtones mingle with lemongrass and some caramel on the finish, making this wine one of my favorites any day of the year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please mail any questions you might have to: wineguy@southbostontoday.com

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Veggie Omelette
-Spinach, Tomatoes, Onions, Mushrooms, Mozzarella Cheese

High Protein Omelette
-Egg Whites, Bacon, Chicken, Feta Cheese

Western Omelette
-Ham, Peppers, Onions, Am. Cheese

Southie Omelette
-Tomatoes, Mushrooms, Garlic, Am. Cheese

Steak, Egg & Cheese Omelette
-Extra Lean Shaved Steak, Am. Cheese

Meat Lovers' Omelette
-Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Meatball, & Cheese

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Foodie's Market-The Place To Go For Your Holiday Needs

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

Foodie's is a full service market that features high quality produce, meats, seafood, prepared foods, gourmet cheeses, specialty products and grocery staples for everyday needs. Foodie's is constantly reviewing their products and revising their offerings to meet the needs and tastes of the Southie community.

Special for the Holiday season, Foodie's cheese manager Bill Salter has expanded their cheese section into something exceptional with artisan-made local cheeses, award-winning American cheeses and a variety of fine imported European cheeses. Their large olive selection and imported Italian salami and meats are only some of the foods that will make

holiday entertaining really special.

Also in their meat department, meat manager Orlando will take special pick up orders. All of Foodie's beef is certified Angus including boneless and semi boneless rib roasts, beef tenderloin, USA rack of lamb, and crown roasts of pork which are only some of what they have for you to order. Duck and game meats can also be special ordered.

And don't forget about Foodie's fabulous seafood section. Their seafood selection is fresh packaged daily and includes a full line of the most popular seasonal filets.

Basic or fancy, gourmet or economy, imported or local New England, Foodie's Market has a choice for you for your holiday dinner, party or get-together.



South Boston Around The Globe



Bo Cleary: From South Boston to Hollywood

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

There are probably very few people living in South Boston in 2013 who have not heard of Bo Cleary. But when it comes to this well known, South Boston man that so many have a good word for, it's not just the lifelong and longtime Southie residents that know who he is. Even the new arrivals know of him. While those residents who grew up here know Bo Cleary for all the good he has done over so many years, his work with the youth, the elderly and neighborhood organizations and on behalf of so many good causes and charities, people new to the neighborhood, have most likely seen him in some big name Hollywood films and popular TV Shows.

If movie titles like 'The Fighter', 'The Departed', 'Lift', 'What Doesn't Kill You' and so many others sound familiar, they also had something in common besides being box office successes with at least one nominated for an Oscar. They all had Bo Cleary playing prominent roles in them. In fact, Martin Scorsese himself made special mention, in an on film interview, of Bo's part in The Departed by saying "Bo Cleary did a wonderful job." Do you remember hit TV shows like Bay Watch and Married with Children? Bo Cleary again, was prominently featured in those shows and more. Bo has played good guys, bad guys, cops and a variety of other characters. He's versatile and he's a natural, without really even breaking a sweat trying. When you've got talent like he has, people who know what it takes to make great films sit up, take notice and send offers your way. And those offers are still coming in. In fact, this month, Bo Cleary can be seen playing an FBI agent in the upcoming potential blockbuster called 'American Hustle' which will be opening in theatres all over the country.

Bo keeps company with some pretty famous people, as well as

still keeping in touch with his South Boston family, friends and neighbors. He has worked closely with stars like Leonardo DiCaprio, The Wahlbergs, Christian Bale, Matt Damon, Kerry Washington, Ethan Hawke, Jack Nicholson and so many more, that to



mention them all here would take up most of the space for this story. A lot of these internationally known actors and actresses have formed close bonds and friendships with Bo over the years, which is not at all surprising. If you know him as most do, you know he works hard, puts his heart and soul into everything he does and most of all, just by the way he is. With his outgoing friendly personality, it would be difficult not to like the guy. He's just that kind of person.

South Boston Today had the pleasure of speaking with Bo Cleary recently. We wanted to get a sense of how he was handling his success in what is a pretty difficult business to succeed in. What we found is, even though he gets to travel a lot, meet and work with famous people and has quite a big following of fans, none of this has changed the really good guy he has always been. He's still the same friendly, humble, easy to talk to, generous and caring person he's always been. When asked to describe how he

sees himself and his success now, he thinks of himself as "A once in a blue moon actor from South Boston, looking to take his career to another level". He doesn't brag, he doesn't self-promote, in fact, he's modest almost to a fault and



seems not to really see what all the fuss is about. We're thinking there are at least a few Hollywood types who seem to believe that the world revolves around them and could benefit from an attitude like Bo's. When asked why he has so many friends locally, and also so many big name people who seem to like him so much, he stopped, pondered the question for a second and said that maybe it's because he tries always to treat others like he would want to be treated.

Bo Cleary says that some of his fondest memories are growing up in South Boston. He gives praise and credit to people like John 'Injun' Horan, coach Mark Thomas, Connie Linehan and a long list of other positive role models that guided him when he was a kid. These role models apparently had quite an effect on him, when you take a look at all the good he's done for people in his home town. He was a dedicated youth worker; one of the best, for many years here, working with kids at the

Boys and Girls Club, Gatey CYO, the Old Harbor area, The Curley Rec Center among other neighborhood locales. Where ever there was a need, he could often be found doing his part to help in whatever way was required of him. He never did any of this for praise or recognition. He did it because he cares about his community and just wanted to do his part to help make it better.

These days, when not travelling; working in Hollywood films, writing songs (yes, he does that too. He wrote 'Back Where I Belong', which was heard in 2 movies: 'Southie' and 'The Departed'), he spends as much time in South Boston as he can. Sometimes five days a week if possible. He's also a great dad who loves spending time with his 10 year daughter and pretty much just enjoys the good, meaningful things that life is sending his way. And why not, this is a good man who has always worked hard. He certainly has earned the recognition he's receiving.

If you want to see a very impressive video collage of some of Bo's work, you can catch it on YouTube. Just go onto You Tube and type in 'Bo Cleary Film Reel'. It shows scenes from some of the movies he was in and also has some great footage of the upcoming film 'American Hustle'. You can also go onto his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fitcoachbo and get more information as well as see the movie trailer for 'American Hustle'. Just from watching some of those scenes, American Hustle definitely looks like a film we won't want to miss.

From the entire team here at South Boston Today, his many friends and fans in South Boston and beyond, we wish Bo Cleary continued success. We cannot think of a nicer guy to root for. See Bo Cleary in the upcoming film 'American Hustle' opening This Month

Catherine M. (Kaveney) Casey

Casey, Catherine M. (Kaveney), of Quincy, formerly of Falmouth, Dorchester & Milton passed away on Gaudete Sunday, December 15 with her children surrounding her. Catherine was born in 1927 and raised in Hyde Park, the daughter of the late Francis and Madelyn (Donovan) Kaveney. Beloved wife of the late John F. Casey, who died in 1973. Following her husband Jack's death Catherine, for 20 years, owned and operated John F. Casey, Inc. a household appliance Trucking & Warehouse Company. She was the loving and dedicated mother to Dr. John F. Casey, Jr. and his wife Katya of Houston; Sr. Maureen Casey, SND of Newton; Jeannine and her husband Kenneth Josephson of Rochester; Catherine and her husband Christopher Staff of Dorchester; Paula and her husband Richard Cryan of Quincy; Very Rev. Robert E. Casey, VF, of South

Boston; and the late Patricia Casey Donovan of Dorchester. Loving grandmother of Brenna Casey, Caitlin Casey McGrath, Michael & John Donovan, Casey Staff, Jeremy & Emily Josephson. Loving sister of Madelyn "Pat" Kaveney and Maureen Dick. She will be missed by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Catherine's Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, December 20 at 11AM at St. Brigid Church, 841 East Broadway, South Boston. Visiting Hours Thursday from 3PM – 7PM at St. Joseph Chapel, Gate of Heaven Church 615 East 4th Street, South Boston. Interment: Blue Hills Cemetery, Braintree. Remembrances may be made in Catherine's memory to the Sisters of Notre Dame deNamur, Mission Office, 30 Jeffery's Neck Road, Ipswich, MA, 01938. Funeral arrangements made by Alfred D. Thomas Funeral Home, Milton.



South Boston Leadership Initiative Social Media Teen Trainings

South Boston Neighborhood House, "The Ollie", will be hosting a series of Teen Trainings in partnership with the South Boston Leadership Initiative. Trainings are scheduled to take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The 1st training: Wednesday, Dec. 18th from 6PM – 7:30PM @ the Ollie, 136 H Street

Topic: Using Social Media Wisely
Hosted by South Boston

Leadership Initiative/ facilitated by: Brendan Kelly, BPD, C-6

-Legal aspects of social media
-Using social media responsibly
-Pros and cons of social media in your lives

Additional Trainings will take place:

January 15th, February 19th,
March 19th, April 16th, May 21st

ALL TEENS ARE WELCOME
AND INVITED TO ATTEND!!!!



American Red Cross

Blood Drive Friday Dec. 20

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive at the South Boston Public Library on Friday, Dec. 20th from 10:30am-3:30pm. To make an appointment, or get more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-Red Cross (733-2767).

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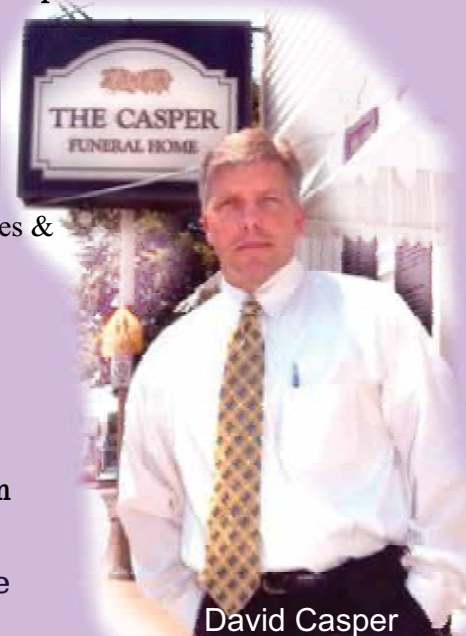
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Ortiz, not Manning, deserving of SI's Sportsman of the Year

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Conor Ryan

Since it's inception in 1954, Sports Illustrated's year-end "Sportsman of the Year" award has served as one of the most revered accolades in the sporting world. Given to "the athlete or team whose performance that year most embodies the spirit of sportsmanship and competition," the award has been presented to sporting legends such as Joe Montana, Bobby Orr, Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan.

This year, the award was given to Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning. Don't get me wrong, Manning has had one hell of a 2013: 4,811 yards, 47 touchdowns (currently on pace to break Tom Brady's single-season touchdown record of 50 set in 2007), and has led the Broncos to an 11-3 record.

However, while Manning has had a great season, I truly believe that another athlete deserved the title of Sportsman of the Year: The Red Sox' David Ortiz.

Entering the 2013 MLB season, expectations for Ortiz – as they were for his team – were not very high. While Ortiz hit a robust .318 with 23 home runs in 2012, he was severely hampered by an Achilles injury that only prevented him from playing in 90 games and had him lingering on the disabled list when the 2013 season opened in April.

However, once he stepped into the batter's box for the first time on April 20, it was vintage Papi. The Dominican-born slugger hit .309 with 30 home runs and 109 RBIs during the 2013 campaign,

once again establishing himself as the top bat in the Sox lineup and the best designated hitter in baseball. While his regular-season statistics were impressive, Ortiz managed to step his game up to another level once October baseball got underway. After hitting .385 in the ALDS against the Rays, Ortiz followed that up by getting arguably the biggest hit of the postseason for Boston – a clutch two-out grand slam in the bottom of the eighth inning to tie Game 2 of the ALCS to tie the game 5-5.

Behind Ortiz's clutch play, the Red Sox advanced to the World Series for the first time since 2007, where they took on the St. Louis Cardinals. Under the bright lights of the Fall Classic, Ortiz had a

series to remember, hitting .688 with two home runs and six RBIs as Boston claimed its third World Series title in ten years.

After the series-clinching Game 6 win, Ortiz was named World Series MVP, solidifying his status as one of the greatest postseason hitters in MLB History. While Ortiz's stats were certainly impressive, it was not with his bat, but rather with his words, that Ortiz showed why he deserved the title of Sportsman of the Year. It was Ortiz who picked up the microphone on April 20 and, with one cry of "this is our f***in' city," told not just Fenway, but the entire city of Boston, that we would be back down in the face of terror.

It was Ortiz who rallied his teammates in Game 4 of the World



Series with an impromptu meeting in the dugout after he saw a lack of energy from his teammates. Inspired by Ortiz's words, the Sox would score three runs in the following inning to take a 4-1 lead.

It was Ortiz who established numerous charities during his time in Boston, including the David Ortiz Children's Fund, which has raised over a million dollars for children in need of care both in the United States and the Dominican Republic. Again, don't get me wrong, Manning has had a great season, but what has he really accomplished? Has he won a title? Honestly, Manning probably deserved it more last year, when he came back from multiple neck surgeries to put together a great season.

While he may not grace the cover of Sports Illustrated later this month, as a Boston sports fan that has seen the various ways that David Ortiz has helped this city both heal and cheer over the last 12 months, he is undoubtedly my pick for Sportsmen of the Year.



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Back Graphic



Thornton Suspended for 15 Games

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

by David Pollard

Talk back to David at DPollard@SouthBostonToday.com

Shawn Thornton was suspended for 15 games on Friday by the NHL Department of Player Safety for his attack on Brooks Orpik during the Bruins match against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday, December 7th. The 15 game suspension is the longest handed down to any player since Brendan Shanahan took over as chief disciplinarian. Thornton will be eligible to play on Saturday, January 11th when the Bruins take on the Sharks in San Jose.

The incident is well known by now, in the 1st period against the Penguins, a series of big hits and multiple injuries culminated in the incident between Shawn Thornton and Brooks Orpik. Thornton found Orpik in a scrum, slew footed him, and struck Orpik with three jabs which knocked him out cold. Orpik was taken off the ice on a stretcher, Thornton received a match penalty and hasn't seen the ice since.

The incident has fueled an already heated debate in the hockey world about the place fighting has in the game. While some look at Thornton's actions as a perfect example of why fighting should not be part of the game, some look back to the first shift of the game, when Brooks Orpik laid a big check on Bruins winger Loui Eriksson, then refused to drop the gloves with Thornton; proponents of fighting would say the attack which occurred later would not have occurred at all if Orpik had allowed Thornton his release.

This does not change the fact that Brooks Orpik is not obliged to fight, particularly when the opponent is Shawn Thornton, who is leagues out of Orpik's fighting class. What Thornton's follow up attempt to stir things up went wrong, and it's not how the game should be played. However, Orpik needs to understand the



sport he's playing, and the type of hit he threw. The hit was borderline. Sure, Eriksson may not have had a chance to possess the puck; yes, he was skating with his head down; but Orpik had no other intention but to green light Eriksson, which has left the B's second line wingman concussed for the second time this season.

The way the game is played, if you are not going to answer for such a tone setting hit, the opposing

team will take your number. But the correct way to get back at that player is to line him up legally during the flow of play, and green light him. Thornton's attack left Orpik defenseless, while Thornton took complete advantage, and unloaded his pent up emotions in an illegal and immoral way.

So does fighting have a place in hockey? The answer... is resoundingly yes - if you are a hockey fan. Fighting is an integral part of the sport that is

as rich in entertainment as it is in tradition. It's one of the aspects of the sport that make it unique. Does it add violence? Yes. Hockey is a violent sport, taking the fights out of the game does not change that.

Is there a proper way to do it? Absolutely. In fact, if you need an example of how it's done, just go through a few clips of Shawn Thornton's career until the match against Pittsburgh, and you'll see how it's done.



Does fighting impact the game? Certainly. Momentum is a true factor in hockey, more than any other sport. A big fight at the right time can swing momentum in your team's direction, it can get the crowd going, and it can strike a bit of fear into your opponents, perhaps putting them on their heels. Those who have played the sport have likely heard the phrase "ebbs and flows" - hockey players experience them more than any other professional athletes, and it's necessary to do whatever you can to earn momentum.

Shawn Thornton will have served 6 of his 15 games after the Bruins play Buffalo on Thursday night. He also has the ability to appeal the suspension in order to get the term reduced, it is unclear as of now whether or not Thornton will appeal or if the NHL Department of Player Safety would reduce his suspension.



**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 from Noon-2pm 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 Patriots with Comcast SportsNet's Mike Giardi*

DANNY PICARD: What's your reaction to how this game ended Sunday in Miami? Are you one of these people who say, "Well, if they had Rob Gronkowski, the Patriots would have won it," or are you like me and look at the Patriots defense, after they did take a 20-17 lead, and say, "Hey, they need to come up with a big stop after that, and if they can't come up with those type of stops, then I don't care who you have offensively, you're not going to win in this league"? When you walk away from that game, what are you looking at?

MIKE GIARDI: I do definitely point to the red area as a huge issue. Look, the space that Gronkowski created for them down there when he came back, versus the numbers from before -- the first six games they were 9-of-22 scoring touchdowns in the red zone. He comes back, they blow up, it's unstoppable. Brady, in the last three weeks in the second half in the red zone, he was 14-of-22 throwing seven touchdowns, then on Sunday he's 0-for-6 in the second half, and an interception in the red zone. There is a huge cause and effect there, not having Gronkowski. Just look at the Hoo-man play over the middle. Was he held when the ball was in the air? Yeah, absolutely. But you're talking about a 6-foot-5, 6-foot-6, 265-pound target versus Hoo-man, who is 6-2, 6-3, 245. Obviously he made a phenomenal catch earlier in

the game, with the touchdown, but he's not Gronk, and no one is. There just wasn't any space.

DP: Are they going to help offensively? Aaron Dobson and Kenbrell Thompkins, they both have returned to practice but were inactive against the Dolphins. When are we looking at their return?

MG: I think Thompkins will be ready to go this week. I think Dobson is a matter of progression. He came back at the very end of the week, and you know what those Friday practice sessions are like. It's not anything intensive, in terms of what they're doing. So I can't really tell you what Dobson's timetable is. Although, a foot sprain is a tricky thing. I think it's already lingered a little bit longer than they had anticipated originally. You get Thompkins back, yeah, he's a bigger receiver, certainly not as big as Dobson, but he may be a bit more of an outside-the-numbers threat. But I think you're asking a lot of those guys, if you're thinking that they're going to change your red-zone offense at this point in the season.

DP: Alright, the red zone offense is a problem. But I guess I look at a game like [Monday] night, and the Baltimore Ravens defeated the Detroit Lions in what was essentially a playoff game for them on the road, and they didn't even score a touchdown.

MG: Look, I think we all agree that the Patriots, when healthy at the beginning of the year, that Patriots defense was a top-10 defense, maybe

trending even higher than that. But when you lose Vince Wilfork, and when you lose Tommy Kelly, and when you lose Jerod Mayo, that rips the heart of your defense out. And not you're talking about the back end of the defense is problematic because Aqib Talib, Alfonzo Dennard, and Kyle Arrington are all literally a little twist or a little curl away from being out for not just the game, but maybe beyond that, because of the hip for Talib and the knee for Dennard, and Arrington with the groin, which caused him to miss part of the second quarter, and the Dolphins went right after Marquice Cole. And the result of that play, I mean, he was competitive, but he tried to make the decision to go for the ball and the strip, instead of the wrap [tackle on Mike Wallace].

DP: Oh, yeah, I mean, you have to make that tackle if you're Cole. You have to know the situation.

MG: You're there, you just have to wrap [Wallace]. make him earn it. And the way Tannehill played on Sunday, maybe he would have earned it, but again, just make him make the extra throws as opposed to giving up that kind of big play.

DP: At that moment in time, you have to know the clock and say, "Halftime is almost here." And then maybe the Dolphins kick a field goal, I don't know. But you've got to make that tackle if you're Cole on Wallace. And he tried to make the hero play

instead, and it resulted in a Miami touchdown at the end of the half.

MG: Honestly, that was a huge momentum shift in the game, because then you're talking about, well, if you can stop them there, or at least hold them to a field goal, you've got the ball to start the second half. That's the kind of stuff that turns ballgames. And it turned the ballgame there. Cole is a nice special teams player, but anytime he's out there in coverage, he scares the crap out of me, and for good reason. Dial back to the AFC Championship game last year, when Talib got hurt and Cole had to take the field and play slot, Anquan Boldin -- who's probably heading to the Hall of Fame -- but he ripped Cole a new one. It was awful. He's just not good at it. He's a special teams guy, and that's it.

DP: But do you agree, that this Patriots team, if they can do some things defensively and make some stops here down the stretch and in the playoffs, they can win without Gronk, if the defense turns it around? Do you agree with that theory?

MG: I do. I mean, I think there's still enough talent on the defense there, that it should be better than it is. I think my biggest fear with this is that the secondary went from a massive strength to a, now, it's a weakness. And I think that's strictly because of health. I just don't know how much healthier you're going to get at this point. Dennard should not have come



back when he did. I credit him for the toughness. They'll say that the doctors checked him out and he's good to go. And when he's on the field, you expect him to perform at a high level because they're saying he's out there. But I'm telling you, he's not right. Arrington is not right, and Talib is not right. I just don't know how much more right they're going to get, as we head into the last two weeks of the season. maybe you can get that first-round bye, and maybe that extra week helps. But I think at this point, the horse is in the barn.

DP: If you're a Patriots player, you've got to thank the Pittsburgh Steelers a little bit here, because this could

have been even worse of a weekend if Cincinnati had gone into an empty Heinz Field and won, but the Bengals didn't even show up on Sunday night. So here are the Patriots at 10-4, still as the No. 2 seed in the AFC. You go to Baltimore, and then you come home to play Buffalo, do you think the Patriots still have enough there to get that first-round bye?

MG: Yeah, I still believe they end up with a first-round bye, even if they lose one of these next two. Cincinnati is proving once again that in December, that team is just not built for these moments, at least not yet. Look, if you can get to that point . . . we all know they had more margin for error

when Gronkowski was in the lineup, and certainly, defensively, if you had the guys that they lost, you'd be much better off. But I think this team has shown and proven over the course of the year, that they have the toughness and skill and execution and coaching to play anybody and beat anybody. They have 11-of-14 games decided by seven points or less. That shows you at 10-4, they've won a lot of those close games. So, look, I don't think the Patriots are afraid of anybody. I'm sure there are plenty of teams that wouldn't want to play them once they get to the postseason. But I think it's an any given Sunday thing with them. I could see them getting bounced in

the first round of the playoffs, or I could see them getting to the AFC Championship game, and depending on where it is and the health of both teams, and Peyton Manning, if he's part of the mix, would you be shocked if they ended in New York [for the Super Bowl]?

DP: No.

MG: I wouldn't be. It's a harder challenge without Gronk, but this team has shown that will all year long. And I think you can't underestimate the fact that they've been in these close games before, and they've won these close games.

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