Workforce And Middle Market Housing: The Unions Have to Step Up.

During a recent real estate development panel discussion, developers John Hynes, Thomas O’Brien and Richard Galvin agreed that it is nearly impossible to build affordable high-rises in downtown Boston. The developers spoke at a symposium - “What’s Next? Leading Developers Share a Vision for the Future” - hosted by Associated General Contractors of Massachusetts, a trade group representing the construction trades. In a BBJ article reporting on the panel discussion, John Hynes, CEO of Boston Global Investors, the developer of Seaport Square stated, “These high-rise construction budgets alone are $350 to $400 a foot — that’s construction alone. Forget about the land price, the soft costs are another $100, with land you are looking at $500 a square foot. Ten years ago, that number was half. Labor costs have gotten out of control, the efficiency and quality of work is great ... but labor costs have skyrocketed, driven, in part, by the shortage of skilled labor in the trades.” “The ingredients are there once everyone gets together to solve it. I do think in the new (Boston Redevelopment Authority) environment there will be a much more proactive use of these under-used parcels”, he added. O’Brien, founder of HYM Investment Group, which has approvals to...
EDITORIAL

Independence Day: When ‘Most’ Feel Proud to be an American

With Independence Day here already and our country in full celebratory mood, pride in being an American is in full display all across the nation. Old Glory proudly waves and Red, White and Blue are the colors of the season. Americans will attend patriotic parades, concerts and fireworks displays all geared to marking this wonderful holiday that heralds our country’s birthday. Ah, but not all Americans are feeling that pride in their country according to the results of the most recent Pew Research Poll released the other day. It seems 60% of those who call themselves ‘Solid Liberals’ say they are definitely not proud of being Americans and feel that America is not a good country at all.

Of course, this group, according to the survey only makes up 15% of the US population and certainly does not include all liberals, yet is quite vocal about their disdain for their homeland. Meanwhile, on our southern border with Mexico, thousands are migrating here from several countries, clamoring to get in and have risked life and limb to make the journey. To be clear, unless they come here legally, they have absolutely no right to cross our border. But that’s not the point of this editorial.

The point is this. Those risking everything to come here must see something about America that the aforementioned ‘Solid Liberals’ can’t seem to grasp. Though America may have its faults, there is nowhere better in the world – period. So today we offer up a possible solution to make everyone happy. Why not do a one for one swap?

Let one illegal in for each ‘Solid Liberal’ who agrees to leave? If they dislike this country so much, this should be a plan to please the disgruntled, ‘better than thou’ types residing here who seem to hate all that this nation stands for. Think about it. In no time at all there could be a major demographic change in Cambridge, Brookline, Wellesley and Amherst, Massachusetts and in San Francisco, California as the Solid Libs left for Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala and the new arrivals would gratefully take their places. Maybe, in the interest of compassion, the departing unhappy Americans could leave their vintage Saabs for the newcomers as a gesture of good faith.

The fact is and we all know it to be true, you will not see any takers on this side of the border among those who constantly bash our country, our constitution and this wonderful land created by God and our brilliant Founding Fathers because they know they couldn’t have it better than they do here in any other nation on earth. And yes, that includes European nations. No they won’t leave and that’s too bad. But since they are staying, they need to get out of the way of the overwhelming majority of true, patriotic Americans who plan to celebrate with pride on this Fourth of July, the birthday of the greatest of all nations. Happy Independence Day to all!

“I love my freedom, I love my America. Forever May Old Glory wave” - Jessi Lane Adams

Last Week’s Poll

Last Week’s Poll Results On Cutting Down The M Street Beach Trees

The person(s) who cut down the trees by M Street Beach committed a felony. What should the punishment be?

a) Write an apology to the community and publish it in South Boston Today 8%
b) Pay a fine 1%
c) Pay for new trees and manually install them 16%
d) Perform community service 3%
e) Do jail time 8%
f) All of the above 64%

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Before getting into the Independence Day part of this week’s column, please indulge me as I do one of my favorite things: Mention and have a good laugh at a couple of the most recent goofy antics brought to us by the PC Police (AKA the politically correct activists) making more ludicrous demands. This time they are picking on Warner Brother’s ‘Looney Tunes’ cartoons. There is actually a demand that children be banned from watching these hilarious cartoons that have stood the test of time and have entertained kids (and many adults) for decades. The reason? Because they are violent and they say the biggest culprit is ‘Yosemite Sam’, the bearded, cowboy hat wearing, six gun toting character, who has been chasing after Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck for years and always gets the worst of it. You see, to the PC types, ‘Sam’s six shooters are a bad influence on the young crowd because he’s always shooting something up; usually his own feet. The PC types can’t see the humor in that but don’t seem to have a problem with the latest video games that glorify mass murder, rape and cop killing. But Looney Tune cartoon characters must be vilified, condemned and banned from Saturday morning TV.

Then there is the recent PC demand that the US Military immediately change the name of its Apache Helicopter. Because you see, to call it by that name is of course – racist. You thought these screwballs would be satisfied with just going after the names of sports teams they say are racist? Nah! Now they want the army to fall in line with their weapons’ systems. Maybe these people would like the Pentagon to rename this most effective of battle copters the ‘Precious Snow Flake’ or how about the ‘Tranquil Dove’; that is if they aren’t worried that Doves might get offended. Remember the uproar over the brochures put out by Cape Cod Harbor Masters warning about sharks a few months ago? A group protested the picture on the brochure cover because they said it was too scary and could be offensive to sharks. Yes, they were serious. Well, the feelings of doves should be respected too so maybe we can forget that one and go with the snowflake idea instead. When it comes to the PC crowd, the best way to deal with them is just say no to their nutty demands; don’t give them an inch but hope they continue to entertain us with their ridiculous ideas and causes.

The July 4th/Independence Day weekend is by far one of the best times of the year. Sure, the weather is warm and sunny and there are great outdoor activities happening all around us. But in addition to the usually great summer temperatures, this holiday brings with it so much more. The flags flying everywhere, the concerts, parades, fireworks and other ceremonies that celebrate the birth of our great nation make many of us stop and reflect about just how unique this great land of ours is and how fortunate we are to be Americans. A review of our history reminds us all of the tremendous sacrifices so many Americans made to help create this nation and make it the best place in the world. Our Founding Fathers had a vision of what a great and prosperous nation should be like with all the freedoms and liberties that come with it. The generations that followed fought hard and gave much to keep it this way. Now, most of us know that at this particular point in time our country is being dragged down the wrong road and many of our liberties are being chipped away from us by some in power, who no longer even try to hide their contempt for what our Constitution says and provides. It has become obvious now that some of them have as their agenda, to bring this nation down many pegs and diminish its power and influence and radically change what the late President Ronald Reagan called “This shining city on a hill”. But we are Americans and we will survive and rebound. This is a land made up of people who have made it through many foreign wars and even a civil war along with other obstacles that would have destroyed other civilizations. And long after those who would attempt to turn America into something we no longer recognize are gone from the scene. This nation will still be the hope of the world. Americans, the rugged individualists and freedom loving people that we are, are more than resilient enough to meet this latest challenge.

CONTINUED ON page 8
Mayor Walsh’s Civic Academies to Hold First Class in South Boston

BOSTON—Mayor Walsh announced today that his first Civic Academy class will be held on Saturday, July 12, from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at District Hall in South Boston. Mayor Walsh’s Civic Academies is a new program, focused on cultivating civic leaders throughout Boston neighborhoods.

“I want residents from every corner of Boston to share a sense of ownership and civic engagement,” said Mayor Walsh. “We’re setting up these Civic Academies in hopes of coming together to learn more about ways to interact effectively with local government.”

Main Goals of Mayor Walsh’s Civic Academies:

• Provide an outlet for all residents to collaborate with local government
• Develop a better understanding of how to serve Boston residents
• Create learning opportunities that support civic engagement and community service
• The first session will be presented by social media experts Lindsay Crudele, Community and Social Technology Strategist with the City of Boston’s Department of Innovation & Technology, and Charles McEnerney, Principal at Layers Marketing. They will present best practices and helpful tips regarding ways Boston residents can be civically engaged through technology and social media platforms.
• The survey to gauge public interests around Mayor Walsh’s Civic Academies is still open. For more information, visit: http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/Default.aspx?id=10659.

Ed Flynn Receives Recognition from Mass Chapter of Disabled American Veterans

Edward Flynn was honored last week by the Massachusetts chapter of the Disabled American Veterans for his outstanding leadership in helping disabled veterans and their families across the state. At their annual conference in Leominster, MA, Flynn was recognized for “extraordinary service and dedication to the ideals of the Disabled American Veterans,” said Kenneth J. Kooyman, Commander, Massachusetts DAV. Additionally, Ed Flynn was elected by the state chapter of the DAV as their 3rd Junior Vice Commander. Flynn is a Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom for military service in The Persian Gulf and at Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Flynn recently retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve with over 24 years of military service and is currently employed with the Massachusetts Trial Court as a probation officer at Suffolk Superior Court.

Alleged Driver Held in Sexual Assault, Robbery

A llied driver was held on high bail today after his arrest by Boston Police detectives for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman and taking her property while she was in his vehicle, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley said.

HASHI K. SAID (D.O.B. 2/3/74), a.k.a. SAID SAID, was arraigned today in South Boston Municipal Court on charges of aggravated rape, indecent assault and battery, assault and battery, unarmed robbery, receiving a stolen credit card, and improper use of a credit card.

Assistant District Attorney William Champlin recommended that he be held on $50,000 cash bail and that he be ordered to surrender his passport, wear a GPS monitor, stay out of Boston, refrain from all after work, before the crowds

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CONTINUED ON page 10
W

hat’s up with the Herald? Their guy lost; move on.

The concern, after the election, is to support the people’s choice when deserved and give critical oversight, when needed - at least in this paper’s estimation. For the Herald, however, Mayor Walsh seems to be unable to meet their approval on almost anything he does. The question is why? The Herald does realize he’s the Mayor of the City of Boston, don’t they? Unlike the Herald which seems to feel that Boston is just an address they use for profit, the Mayor’s concern is for those who actually live here.

When the Mayor searches for a solution to bringing in top talent, while still maintaining the intent of the residency law, the Herald criticizes his attempt at negotiation, demanding that he disregard city dweller’s protections and just ‘scrap’ the law. When the Mayor is rebuffed in his attempt to gain ‘host’ status for Boston and mulls legal action, the Herald berates his consideration. State law gives ‘legal standing’ as the most directly impacted to anyone living within 400 feet of a proposal. Surely, the Herald realizes he’s the Mayor of the City of Boston, don’t they?

Perhaps it’s because, unlike the last Mayor, who lived almost in the suburbs he was so close to the Dedham town line, this Mayor is actually a City Kid.

The Herald itself seems to be uncomfortable with openly embracing being in the city. For instance, the Herald has a new home at E and Fargo Streets in the Fargo Building, which was the main building for the former South Boston Naval Annex, or Navy Base. In a 1999 executive order, the last Mayor declared the South Boston Waterfront as the official name of the “Seaport”. It is always amusing that reporters are ‘live in South Boston’ when they report from the Moakley Courthouse, but are ‘On the Seaport’ when reporting from a festival at the ICA museum just next door. A generous interpretation could include from the Waterfront to Summer Street as part of the “Seaport District”. Summer Street itself is South Boston. Fargo Street always is and always will be South Boston. Even if you call your building “something or other” that doesn’t change reality. The “Seapoint” Restaurant on East Eighth and Covington Streets isn’t at any “Point on the Sea” but simply a building in Southie. The Herald’s new home is also Southie and no amount of times they say “Seaport, Seaport, Seaport,” no one is fooled. All it does is expose the insecurity and “wanna be” attitude and disdain the Herald holds for those in this city it purports to be covering or serving.

On to the national stage. It’s amazing that editorial time and space is given to comparatively trivial issues while this ‘scandal a day’ administration is fast bringing the country to collapse.

A recent study underlines what is border line criminal action by the “Lame Stream” media. The study examines coverage on three recent front page stories. On the “Bridge Gate” story, where republican governor and potential presidential candidate Chris Christie is the person in charge, ABC, CBS, NBC, combined for over 112 minutes coverage in the first week of the scandal. In the first week of the Benghazi cover-up hearings a total of two minutes coverage; and the V. A. scandal three minutes and 37 seconds.

The whole concept to the protections the press enjoys under the First Amendment is to guarantee the ability to report, free from fear, information on stories, so the people can decide. That concept is violated, is turned on its head when that press hides and suppresses that information in order to cover up for and protect individuals they favor. At that
Boston and the Road to Independence

July 4, 2026—twelve years from now—will mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence. The city of Philadelphia is already planning. They have in the works a $150 million museum that will tell the story of the Revolution—allowing visitors to step beneath the Liberty Tree, throw tea into the harbor, and stand on the green at Lexington.

Boston does not need a $150 million dollar museum. We have great museums that already tell these stories, because these events all happened in Boston. Philadelphia hosted the meeting after Bostonians had begun the Revolution. Boston had the first Liberty Tree, and Philadelphia was the only city in the American colonies that never planted one. The tree of liberty began its life here, because Bostonians were used to governing themselves. When the British Empire tried to impose new rules, Bostonians resisted. The Liberty Tree was a convenient gathering place, right beside the only road into town (now Washington Street). It was a good place to hang signs to alert townspeople and visitors to news and events, and it was a great starting point for events.

On the night of August 14, 1765—(250 years ago next summer)—a mob gathered under the tree and made their way to Long Wharf, where the demolished Andrew Oliver’s warehouse. Oliver had accepted a post as tax agent, and the mob believed he had the tax stamps inside his warehouse—a two-story brick building—which they tore down with axes, crowbars, and their bare hands, throwing the rubble into Boston Harbor.

This was not a genteel group. They then summoned Oliver to a meeting beneath their tree, which they now called “the Liberty Tree.” Other towns (except Philadelphia) adopted their own Liberty Trees, and Boston led the colonies in planning resistance to British rule. The City of Boston is working to renovate the tiny Liberty Tree Park in Chinatown, and various Boston museums and historical agencies are at work to tell the story. Next August, the Bostonian Society is planning events to commemorate this opening scene in the struggle for Independence. Over the next twelve years we will have other opportunities to commemorate the steps toward Independence. The Colonial Society of Massachusetts has brought together other partners in this enterprise so that Boston’s story will be fully told.

It is not enough to point out that the Revolution began here. Bostonians must work together to tell this story to the nation and the world. South Boston can lead the way. Every year we commemorate Evacuation Day, generally on a cold day in March, assembling on Dorchester Heights to retell the story of Henry Knox and his noble train of artillery, which allowed Washington’s army to win the first victory in the War for Independence. Civic groups in South Boston care for its history, and join together to commemorate and celebrate. In recent years our Evacuation Day ceremonies have included our neighbors in Roxbury, forming a model partnership for telling the stories of our city.

The Revolutionary Bicentennial was a bright moment in a dark decade for the city. It had a lasting impact, in creating a better tourism infrastructure for the City and its visitors. Perhaps we can use these 250th anniversaries to connect Boston’s neighborhoods today, to connect our students with their history. It is an opportunity we will not have again.

The next decade gives Boston an opportunity to retell our story of the men and women who forged a new political order in the streets of our city. We have much to celebrate over the next decade, and much work to do to make the celebration worthy of those we remember. It is an opportunity for Bostonians of today to carry on the work begun here two and a half centuries ago.

Robert Allison is president of the South Boston Historical Society; his most recent book is The American Revolution: A Concise History.
Wishing you and your family a fun filled and safe holiday as we celebrate the founding of our Nation.

Thank you to all of the men and women who protect our freedom.

-Nick Collins
State Representative

Happy Independence Day

A day to honor the brave men and women who fight for our independence.

Michael Flaherty
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE
www.MichaelFlaherty.com
Paid for by The Flaherty Committee

Happy 4th of July!

Have a Safe and happy 4th of July

City Council President Bill Linehan

Happy Independence Day

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Drinking On South Boston Beaches is a Fine Thing

Several South Boston residents reported and Massachusetts State Police officials have confirmed that last weekend plain clothes troopers made a sweep of some Southie beaches and issued citations in the form of $25 dollar tickets for drinking alcohol on the beach. The area with the most violations was the stretch of shoreline from M Street to O Street. The Department of Conservation and Recreation has a No Alcohol Allowed policy on its state run beaches and police sources have promised to keep issuing tickets and enforcing the rule throughout the season. Last Saturday and Sunday were picture perfect early summer/late June beach days with an afternoon tide, warm temperatures, bright sun and even the water itself was at a comfortable temperature for swimming. These conditions combined to make area beaches the place to be last weekend and the crowds were massive. Heavy drinking was reported in the area. The beaches are clearly posted with signs against the consumption of alcohol so police say that no one should be surprised when they receive a fine for breaking the law. The sweeps and patrols will continue right up to and beyond Labor Day according to police with troopers in cruisers, bikes and motorcycles out in force. Both uniformed and plain clothes personnel will be taking part in the operation. The safety and wellbeing of everyone who chooses to use the beaches is the reason this action is being taken and will be a priority say state officials.

South Boston CAN News

The South Boston CAN Coalition held its Town Hall Meeting this past week on Wednesday, June 25th at Boston College High School. The meeting included a panel of professionals discussing “Attraction to Addiction & Resistance to Treatment”. The panel members (from left to right) included Courtney Grey, the Director of Trauma Services at Boston Public Health Commission, Atyia Martin, the Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness at the Boston Public Health Commission, Joanna Bridger, the Clinical Services Director for the Riverside Trauma Center, Katherine Hobbs Knutson, an adult and child and adolescent psychiatrist whose clinical experience during her Kraft Fellowship has been at South Boston Community Health Center, and Peter Barbuto, a treatment consultant for American Addiction Centers. The event was emceed by Steve Siciliano (pictured far right), the Chief Probation Officer at Boston Municipal Court South Boston Division. In attendance were residents, members of the Boston Police Department, and other health professionals.
# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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400sf corner commercial building with room to expand in trendy west side residential zone

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Alleged Driver Held in Sexual Assault, Robbery
CONTINUED FROM 4

livery activity, and have no contact with the victim or any witnesses if he posts that amount. Judge Michael Bolden imposed $35,000 bail and the passport and GPS orders. He also placed Said on house arrest if he posts bail.

Bolden also granted a protective order sought by Champlin that will keep the victim’s name and personal information out of the public record.

Investigators believe the victim, who is in her 20s, flagged down Said’s 2010 Grand Caravan with livery plates in the area of 270 Northern Ave. in South Boston. Said allegedly took her to a nearby but deserted location, where investigators believe he got in the rear of the vehicle, sexually assaulted her, and took property that included her iPhone, credit cards, and cash. Said allegedly transported the victim to a location on State Street, where the victim reported the incident to Boston Police. During the investigation that followed, Boston Police Sexual Assault Unit detectives learned that the victim’s credit cards had been used to make several purchases – including purchases at a Quincy gas station and a pharmacy in Dorchester near the Quincy border.

Detectives obtained store surveillance images associated with those purchases and conducted further interviews with the victim and other witnesses. Based on the totality of evidence available to them, Boston Police arrested Said last night.

While the victims of any crime, including sexual assault, are urged to call 911 in an emergency, survivors of sexual violence in Suffolk County may also call the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center’s 24-hour hotline at 800-841-8371. The BARCC provides legal assistance, counseling, and other services to the victims of rape and sexual assault.

Said was represented by attorney Allan Levin. He will return to court on July 22.

All defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Workforce And Middle Market Housing: The Unions Have to Step Up.
CONTINUED FROM front page

redevelop the Government Center Garage, said he toured four high-rise luxury communities, while attending the Urban Land Institute convention last year in Chicago. One site was a 50-story, high-end property with parking and all the amenities that you’re seeing in Boston”, he said. “When we examined the costs and prices, the cost in Chicago, a union town, were 30-to-40 percent lower than to build in Boston. We must study why it is so less expensive to build in Chicago. Workforce housing cannot be built in the downtown with major subsidies,” he added.

Herein lies both the reality and the challenge that faces Mayor Marty Walsh and his commitment to stimulate workforce and middle market housing to a Boston that is attracting worldwide attention to its burgeoning real estate market.

The reality is that, with the exception of a handful of relatively lean years, Boston has been exceptionally good to this generation of the building trades and construction industry going on nearly 25 years - ever since the Big Dig, which began construction in 1991.

The challenge is that Mayor Walsh needs his union family to ‘give back’ even beyond the PLA (Project Labor Agreement) level of compromise. Just as neighborhoods seek to garner mitigation benefits from developers, who are on the front line of community interaction, so too should the building trades participate in that equation. Taken a step further, as a likely part of the Mayor’s initiative is the promoting of minority subcontractors, many of which are non-union and most of which have limited or no insurance bonding capacity and often rely on the general contractor’s bond, at a further cost.

There is a blueprint that must be explored and likely modified. On a smaller scale, the Community Development Corporations have filled a need but they have, with few exceptions, limited or no capacity to manage large scale projects. Their participation should be considered, but the model, which Walsh’s advisory team should examine, is the scope and range of the mission of the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust (HIT). Its CEO is Steve Coyle, a former BRA Executive Director under former Mayor Ray Flynn. He has directed the trust since 1991.

Straight from its website, ‘the HIT is one of the earliest and most successful practitioners of socially responsible, economically targeted investing, with a record that demonstrates the added value derived from union-friendly investments. The HIT takes great pride in its history of investing union pension capital to achieve competitive risk-adjusted returns, while also pursuing socially responsible objectives important to working men and women. Those social benefits include expanding the supply of affordable housing, creating family-supporting union jobs, opening doors to homeownership for working families, and revitalizing communities where union members live and work. In pursuing these social benefits, the HIT is able to help stimulate employment and promote economic recovery, as it is doing with its Construction Jobs Initiative.

The HIT supports the values of the union movement through the housing it finances and the good jobs it creates. Although financial performance is its first priority, participants in the HIT have the satisfaction of knowing that their investments also create other positive, tangible benefits for working people and their communities. The HIT’s relationships across the housing finance market have enabled it to undertake targeted community investing initiatives that “bring Wall Street to Main Street” – helping cities and states leverage new capital to meet urgent housing and community development needs.’

This is a mission statement that Mayor Walsh can and should challenge the Building Trades to adopt, in some form, by setting up its own Housing Trust for the express purpose of aiding him in achieving the critical mission that he embraces. In the same BBJ article, it referenced that Walsh said ‘generating housing that’s affordable for middle-income residents is key to the city’s economic growth and warned that Boston will lose workers, industries and tax revenue, if it doesn’t create more affordable homes to rent and buy.’

This challenge is within Mayor Walsh’s capability to deliver on. Short term accommodations by the unions need not translate into long term obligations. But, in reality, and for the good of the very middle class that the union movement built its reputation on developing, the union leadership has to step up for Marty. If not now, then when.

Members of the Greater Boson Firefighter Pipes and Drums pose for a photo during the 5th Annual Southie Pub Crawl.

All defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
Massport Breaks Ground for Thomas J. Butler Freight Corridor and Green Space

On Friday June 13th, hundreds of people gathered at the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) location across from Pleasure Bay here in South Boston to dedicate the new freight corridor and honor a true son of South Boston; the late Thomas ‘Tommy’ Butler. Though the weather was cool and rainy, it couldn’t dampen the enthusiasm of all the residents, elected officials and Massport personnel who were happy to make the trek to the huge tent set up and honor this great man with a fitting ceremony and dedication. It was apparent by all of the conversations among the crowd and by the public statements of the officials present at the dedication that Tom Butler was held in high esteem and is very much missed by all who knew him.

Tom Butler was the longtime Director of Government and Community Affairs at the Port Authority and was instrumental in that capacity in helping push through many improvements that benefitted the South Boston Community. Tom was also a beloved friend and neighbor to the community he had always called home.

The goal of the new freight corridor will be to re-route the heavy truck traffic away from residential areas along First Street and other locations and create a green space for the benefit and enjoyment of all. As the dedication went on, speaker after speaker praised the good work and accomplishments of Tom Butler, as well as all those other neighborhood activists who worked with Tom to finally make this new freight corridor and 4.5 acre green space and park a reality. Though Tom Butler will certainly always be remembered for all his good work, this project will be another accomplishment that will add to his legacy.
The Butler Way Mobilizes South Boston – Again

By Thomas P. Glynn

The Thomas J. Butler Memorial Park and Freight Corridor is something Tommy worked on for many years as Massport’s long-serving director of government and community affairs. As construction begins, I am proud this project is being built with more than grass, plants, cement and asphalt; it’s being built with Tommy Butler’s vision and values.

First, the Butler Memorial Park and Freight Corridor will help improve the quality of life in South Boston. Massport is investing $75 million in land acquisitions and construction projects to remove all Conley Terminal container truck traffic from East First Street and a portion of Summer Street; create a new 4.5-acre open space with a concrete noise barrier along its northern side; and, add over one hundred on-street parking spaces.

Tommy believed in balancing the practical needs of the Port of Boston with the legitimate health, safety and quality-of-life concerns of our neighbors who are asked to shoulder the lion’s share of burdens of these facilities for the greater public good. Massport believes that too. Removing all of the trucks from the street, building a new open space, and adding new parking will go a long way toward that objective.

Second, this project is about working with the community. Tommy always approached issues as a South Boston resident and a Massport employee, because he knew everyone had to work together to get things done. In that tradition, Massport facilitated a series of community meetings on this project. A Community Design Committee has worked with Massport and its consultants to design the memorial park, which will feature a multi-use path, extensive plantings, lighting, and more. Additionally, Massport is working with neighborhood residents to monitor air quality, provide weekly noise monitoring reports, and minimize negative construction impacts, including dust and rodent control. This collaboration will endure throughout the project to make sure residents’ concerns and questions continue to be addressed.

Third, the Thomas J. Butler Memorial Park and Freight Corridor will support good blue collar jobs in the Port of Boston. A lot of attention is given to the 9,000 white collar jobs that have been created on the South Boston Waterfront in the last few years, but let’s not overlook the 7,000 blue collar maritime jobs in the port. This project will help keep Conley Terminal up-to-date and help it remain competitive in the face of significant changes in the shipping industry. Tommy knew that strengthening the working port is important to sustaining and increasing the number of good jobs in our city, jobs that grow the middle class and provide the opportunity to raise a family.

We all miss Tommy Butler and the enthusiasm he had for life, the pride he had in his neighborhood, and the disarming approach he brought to his work. Tommy was one of a kind, but we can all work together to follow his example. Neighborhood quality of life, community engagement, and good jobs: These are not just the things Tommy Butler fought for his entire life. They are also the building blocks of the memorial park and freight corridor that now bear his name.

Thomas P. Glynn is CEO of the Massachusetts Port Authority

8th Annual ‘Southie 3 on 3’ Roller Hockey Tournament

Some of the best athletic talent around was on display last weekend as the 8th Annual ‘Southie 3 on 3’ roller hockey tournament was held at the Street Hockey/Roller Hockey rink on Farragut Rd. More than 75 players making up 20 teams battled in the warm early summer sun to the delight of what was over the course of the event, hundreds of spectators. There were 15 teams from South Boston as well as some invited guests with 3 teams coming in from Charlestown, one team from Dorchester and even a team that travelled down from Manchester, New Hampshire to take part in this prestigious tradition.

The action was fast and at times relentless with players showing hockey skills that would impress an NHL scout even on roller blades. Stick handling, passing and coordination on the hot top rink surface was outstanding and the shots coming in from every angle were enough to give any goalie a workout. Mix in lightning speed by many of the players and this tournament had it all. Participants ranged in age from 15 years old on up and every one of them came to win and it showed. Each team appeared to be giving every game 100 percent and with this line up, endurance was not a problem no matter how hot the sun got. With music being played in the background the tournament took on a festive atmosphere as everyone; players and spectators alike seemed to be enjoying the day. As was stated above, this was the 8th year for this great tournament and definitely not the last.

In South Boston, tradition is important and the Annual Southie 3 on 3 Rollerblade Tournament is right up there with the best of them. Congratulations and well done to the players, the organizers and the spectators who turned out to support it.
This week’s article comes from the sunny decks of the Carnival Breeze where we are cruising along and heading to Grand Cayman. Today, I spent a good deal of time in the Cloud 9 Spa where they have several treatment rooms that I will count on to help heal my body from the demands of pitching. Tomorrow, it’s a snorkeling trip, more time in the spa, and whatever else the day brings. These cruises have something for everyone and can be a bargain vacation for the family.

Turning our attention from the sea to the softball diamond, the results in the Lucas (A) division has proven that there is more parity amongst the teams than we have seen in many years. The defending champion Shenanigans squad put an end to Southside’s unbeaten streak by handing them a 3-1 defeat. Mike Hoadley and Nick French were the dominating stories in this one as they limited the Southside attack to five hits while combining for seven strikeouts. Luis Colon (troplt) and Joe Cavaleri (homerun) struck the deciding blows for Shenanigans. Jim McNiff threw a five hitter but was on the losing side for Southside.

Although they were riding high with the win, Shenanigans then ran into Joey Magee and the Warehouse and were blanked 6-0 in their next game. Magee fired a three hitter while Ryan Martin provided the offense with two hits and three RBI. Again, it’s a dog eat dog world in the Lucas division this season.

While there was a pretty good race going on at the top of the division, two teams were quickly sinking to the bottom. Harp & Bard were sitting at the bottom of the division with a 1-5 record when they squared off against the Islanders, who were also sliding (3 losses in a row). Harp was ready from the start in this one as they plated five runs in the first inning and never looked back, 12-6. Keith Savage (3 hits, 3 RBI) was the hitting star while Rob Costello picked up his second win of the season on the mound for the Harp.

But sticking with the script, the Islanders snapped out of their funk and handed the Warehouse a 12-4 beat down on Thursday to close the week. Michael Higgins (3 hits) struck the big blow of the game when he tripled to tie the game in the fourth inning.

**Standings** - as of this writing, Southside was still on top in the Lucas division at 6-2, Lincoln Tavern 5-3, Islanders 5-5, Shenanigans 4-4-1, The Warehouse 4-5, and the Harp & Bard 2-5-1.

Moving over to the Feeney division where there is a clear separation between the new and the old with one exception. Cranberry Café is on top at 6-2, The Underdogs 6-3, Playwright 6-4, STATS 5-3, Dragons 3-7, JW Brokerage 2-6, and the Village Pizza crew who are eating well but not winning many games 1-6.

The exception is the Underdogs who have won four in a row and have just received word that Local 149 will be sponsoring them for the rest of the season. Again, these guys didn’t know one another prior to the start of the season. They signed up as “free agents” so watching them come together and have success as a team has been one of this season’s early gifts.

Cranberry Café continues to roll along and have confidence that they will be competing for the “B” championship by seasons end. Coach John Silva has assembled a very competitive roster. John Young, Scott Simpson, Chris Flaherty, Michael Donovan, Mark and Brian Goodman have each enjoyed a great season at the plate and in the field. On the mound it’s been a combination of Jack Flanagan (3-1) and Jay Malley (2-0) who have delivered above expectations.

The Playwright and STATS are right in the middle of the pack but certainly have enough talent to challenge for the title. Mark Hindman (12 runs, 10 RBI), Billy McDougal (.556 batting average), Shane Knowles (14 runs), and Sean Morgan (10 runs, 9 RBI) have provided the offense while the ageless Jack Rogers hasn’t walked a batter in 35 innings and sports a 4-1 record.

As mentioned above the Dragons, JW Brokerage, and Village Pizza have found that winning games in the M Street Softball League is no easy task. Stick with it boys, we have all endured the same experience.

With the season seven weeks old, there have already been some great individual performances. Cranberry Café’s Michael Donovan had the game of his career against the Dragons last week as he collected five hits, including a double, triple, scored four runs, and drove in two runs. Way to go Dunny! While on the mound, Nick French has had two high strikeout performances. On June 23rd, French struck out twelve Lincoln Tavern batters while cruising to an 8-1 victory. Earlier in the season, he had fanned eleven. Here the South Boston Today, or experience the league up front and personal by taking in a game or two. Have a great week everyone!

**Continued From Page 5**

point those protections and the press become destructive of the purpose they were created to protect. It is both frightening and sobering that in comparison, our South Boston Today local weekly has provided four times the coverage of these events than our so-called “world wide” media combined.

There is even a question in some minds how much, if any coverage, the Herald gives the 4th of July celebration. After all if, as the Herald maintains, the Evacuation Day Parade commemorating America’s first victory of the revolution “glorifies war”, then commemorating the day, (as a result of the victory), that the nation was born must also “glorify war”. Somehow though, don’t expect to see any Herald columnists labeling Keith Lockhart a “war monger”. Don’t hold your breath either for the so called “Veterans For Peace” marching or holding protest signs as the Howitzers Roar during the playing of the “1812 Overture”.

Finally for those who love and appreciate America as the true beacon of hope and light in the world have Safe, Happy Birthday for American Weekend. Take care till next week.
DANNY PICARD: The Red Sox won two-of-three last weekend in the Bronx. But what did you think of the whole Mookie Betts thing? While this season I’ve always been someone who has said, “Let the kids play,” are we sort of making too much about this kid and what he’s done in the minors? Or do you think calling him up is a good move and that they really should rely on Mookie Betts here in the big leagues?

MIKE GIARDI: I think this season has been, in many ways, a drag. Based on what they did last year, and then feeling like you brought back most of that team. And you look at the pitching, and the pitching is solid. And you still have Ortiz, and you’ve still got Pedroia, and Bogaerts is coming. There were all these things that were happening, and I thought this was going to be another exciting season. Can they do what they did last year? It’s asking a lot, but I thought there would be more life to this season, and there hasn’t been, for a variety of reasons: guys underperforming, injuries, what have you. Mookie Betts brings a certain excitement at this point of the year by coming up. That said, boy, he didn’t spend a lot of time at Triple-A, and it seems like it’s a rush. So, while I’m excited to see him and see what he can do, I’m not sure that it makes the most sense to have him here at this point. And honestly, I think that if you were going to do it, Danny, I don’t know why they didn’t call him up at the start of the last road trip, in Oakland, in Seattle, and break him in away from home, without all eyes on him. Again, it sort of reeks of a little bit of desperation on their part, in my mind.

DP: This organization has shown a lot of desperation this season, I think. The Stephen Drew signing was a desperate situation that I think they felt they were in. And now this. Yeah, you make a good point. They call him up for games at Yankee Stadium and then at Fenway. Why not let him get his first MLB at-bats when they’re on the West Coast?

MG: Yeah, 10 o’clock game on the East Coast while playing out in Seattle or something like that, playing out in Oakland where less eyes are on him. And again, less media involved, certainly less TV involved. I keep coming back to this whole operation here, especially these last couple months, and I just keep coming back to that word “desperation.” They’re not willing to say that they’re out of it, but they keep doing things that tell you they’re desperately trying to hang on or desperately trying to find a spark. They’re very much not out of it, but I think given what they’ve done and the way they’ve played, and just the lack of energy that they’ve played with for a better part of the year, I think they’re almost dreaming to think they’re going to get back into it, even though the numbers say they can get back into it.

DP: If you say they’re “dreaming” if they think they can get into the playoffs, what do you think will happen between now [Tuesday, July 1] and July 31? Do you think they will sell? Do you think they should sell? What do you think should be the game plan here, moving forward?

MG: Look, unless something happens in the next three weeks and they go on a 16-4 run or something like that, yeah, I think they should consider selling. I don’t think they should just consider selling in the manner that they have in the past, where they’ve been out of it and trade the Badenhop’s and the Jake Peavy’s. I think they should start exploring whether or not trading a Lackey or Lester or Uehara, if that makes sense. What can you get for them? And what do you think the odds are of making sure those guys come back next year. I’m pretty convinced that the Lester ship has sailed. And maybe I’m in the minority on that, I just think the whole insult thing with the $70 million offer, and then trying to re-engage him now, and he’s disputing that they tried to re-engage him. I think Lester is telling them, “You screwed up. I’m going to the open market. And if you really want to keep me, you’re going to have to come close to matching what I’m going to get out there.” And you know what he’s going to get out there is going to be pretty obscene. With the Lester situation, it feels like, to me, like a market correction. It seemed to me like, because Jon Lester said he would take a hometown discount, they decided that this was where they were going to employ their market correction, saying, “We think the money is getting out of control. We don’t think that pitchers should be making $20-25 million. Look at the Phillies’ roster. Look at what’s happened to some of the Yankees’ guys. So we’re going to try to make this right. Not just for us, but for baseball.” I’m sorry, but, there’s more money in baseball than there’s ever been. Just look at the TV con-
They hope are part of the rotation of the future. And I'm not even talking about Barnes and Owens yet. At some point, Danny, you need somebody, a veteran, to be the guy that takes the pressure off of them. And if Lester's walking, and if you can't depend on Clay Buchholz, well who's that going to be? John Lackey has committed himself to his training, he's in shape, and he's pitched his ass off the last two years. He deserves the extension. And especially if you're going to let Lester walk, then I'm bringing Lackey back, and I'm making damn sure that I give him numbers that make him happy, and make sure that he's the front guy in the rotation and takes a little bit of pressure off all those kids that you're going to be depending on here in the years to come.

DP: You mention the word "transition." And between today, July 1, and the non-waiver trade deadline on July 31, I think there can be a move made that can be a transition to the future, and also can help the transition to maybe a potential playoff run. And I think that move is to somehow make sure Rubby De La Rosa gets back in the rotation by moving Jake Peavy. Look, Peavy was good [against the Cubs on Monday], six innings, allowed that one home run, he struck out seven. But let's face it, he did it against a Chicago Cubs team that's not very good. His start before then was awful. I've always been a Peavy guy, even in his times of previous struggle. I wanted to see him keep going out and pitching like the veteran that he is. But I think it's time. I think the Red Sox made the right move with Brandon Workman, keeping him in the rotation and moving Felix Doubront to the bullpen and getting rid of Chris Capuano. I think that was a perfect move for this team. And I think, right now, what they have to do, I think you move Peavy right now. I don't care what you get back. But what you do is, you make room for a Rubby De La Rosa. You begin that transition process and you have him and Workman at the back-end of this rotation, and I think they can help you maybe even a run towards the postseason.

MG: I'm completely on board with that. And I think there has to be a National League team there that sees that Peavy still has some of that stuff to succeed in the National League. And obviously he is an excellent teammate and a great competitor. I hate throwing that around because if you should do anything in pro sports, you should compete, but some guys don't, he does. I think he would give a contending team a boost. I'm with you. I don't care what you get back for him. You can get a Double-A arm, a high A-ball arm, something like that, a B- or a C+ prospect, fine. I'll take that chance. But I would love to get the energy of De La Rosa with Workman into that rotation, and maybe that picks up the rest of the crew. And maybe it doesn't. Maybe it goes the other way. But at this point, we know what Jake Peavy is, we know what Jake Peavy is capable of in the American League East, and I'd much rather see the guy with the stuff, the guy who was one of the centerpieces of that trade out West to dump all those salaries. I'd like to see De La Rosa in the rotation. I'd like to see him every fifth day. And I'd like to see if he's capable of being a starter and being a frontline guy like maybe they believe he can be.

---Listen to entire conversation by subscribing to “I’m Just Sayin” on iTunes. Also, be sure to follow Danny on Twitter and Facebook.

Coughlin Picked in NHL Draft

Young South Boston Hockey superstar Liam Coughlin has proven to the National Hockey League what his friends and neighbors have known for quite some time. He is definitely ‘pro’ material with the ability and the skill to play with the best of them in the NHL. Liam, who comes from the well-known Coughlin Family of great all around athletes has been picked in the NHL draft and will be playing for the Edmonton Oilers. South Boston Today congratulates Liam Coughlin.

SBT, along with the entire neighborhood wish him the best of luck and go the other way. But at this point, they hope are part of the rotation of the future. And I'm not even talking about Barnes and Owens yet. At some point, Danny, you need somebody, a veteran, to be the guy that takes the pressure off of them. And if Lester's walking, and if you can't depend on Clay Buchholz, well who's that going to be? John Lackey has committed himself to his training, he's in shape, and he's pitched his ass off the last two years. He deserves the extension. And especially if you're going to let Lester walk, then I'm bringing Lackey back, and I'm making damn sure that I give him numbers that make him happy, and make sure that he's the front guy in the rotation and takes a little bit of pressure off all those kids that you're going to be depending on here in the years to come.

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