Robert Kraft is highly regarded as a hard-nosed and savvy businessman and his success has been chronicled for posterity. The Kraft Family is highly respected not only for their fame and fortune but also for their philanthropy. Beyond their financial largesse, which is laudable but not unexpected, Josh Kraft, with 25 years in service to youth, has ably and spiritedly led the Boys And Girls Clubs Of Boston as its CEO since 2008. The upgrade of the South Boston Clubhouse currently undergoing substantial renovation underscores that leadership. The late matriarch Myra left a legacy of good

CONTINUED ON page 7

South Boston And Bob Kraft Part Deux

Please Join Us
December 4, 2014 6-8:30 PM

Julie’s Annual Event

This year’s invited guest of honor is Mayor Martin J. Walsh, a long time champion and advocate of Julie’s, who will receive the 2014 Angel Award.

Julie’s Learning Program

Florian Hall 55 Hallet Street Dorchester, MA

For ticket reservations visit our website at www.juliesfamily.org or call: Bob Monahan at 617-269-6663 ext. 11 or Jeanne Feltch at 617-269-6663 ext 10 or Carrie Coughlin at 617-269-6663 ext. 34
EDITORIAL

“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet”

SBT Staff Report

Not to denigrate their achievements but aren’t there more pressing issues than debate about a building that already has a name, The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC)?

During his administration as Mayor, Ray Flynn faced the difficult choice of remaining as Mayor and perhaps overseeing the Southie waterfront development that he actually jump started with the approval of the Seaport West building or accepting the humbling appointment as Ambassador to the Holy See (The Vatican). For the greater glory of God and perhaps the Democratic Party, Ray accepted and performed admirably as Ambassador.

It is understandable that still fresh emotion could lead good friend and former City Councilor Larry DiCara to heap excessive praise and credit on the late Mayor Menino. However, ethnic pride aside, it’s perhaps a little soon for revisionist history.

It’s important to remember that the BCEC is the result of state, not city, legislation, written in part by South Boston’s then State Senator Steve Lynch. It’s also important to remember that Tom Menino was befriended by City Councilor Jim Kelly, who did the heavy lifting in gaining the community support that Chapter 152 required. The Mayor’s only real contribution was to send his BRA Director Tom O’Brien as his emissary to sign an agreement with the South Boston community and elected officials that would create jobs and housing for South Boston residents. This agreement stayed in effect until construction of the BCEC was underway, and then Mayor Menino broke the agreement and forced his old friend Jim Kelly into court.

Perhaps, instead of debating our likes and dislikes and fixing something that isn’t broken, we keep the name we have or one we can all agree on, something like, for example, “The Boston Veterans’ Memorial Convention and Exhibition Center”.

“Not what we say about God’s blessings, but how we use them is the true measure of our Thanksgiving” - W.T. Purkiser
Note to our Readers: This Pre-Thanksgiving column was originally written in 2011 and first appeared in the South Boston Tribune. It received a huge response and many requests to reprint. We did so here in South Boston Today in 2012 and 2013 and we’ll repeat it here again with some changes for updating purposes because the subject matter is just as relevant now as it was then.

In the opinion of so many of our readers and people all across America, media hype has ruined the peace and tranquility that for generations, has made Thanksgiving what it is supposed to be. Granted, there are many people who look forward to getting the great deals and bargains offered by stores on ‘Black Friday’. They have a right to shop when opportunities like this present themselves. But each year the stores seem to want to open earlier; now going right into Thanksgiving Day; and as early in the morning as possible. Employees at some stores are told they must work which cuts into that precious time that so many want to be able to spend with family and friends. This season though, some of the large stores have heard from their employees and shoppers as well and will no longer open on Thanksgiving. This decision will mean a lot to many families.

As for Black Friday itself, the advertising blitz that we are all bombarded by which almost commands that people need to be first in line to barge through the doors of their favorite stores like race horses at the starting gate. It’s literally making some people crazy. Shots fired at a mall in North Carolina, multiple stabbings at a store in Chicago and the lady with the pepper spray at a California Walmart will possibly go down in history for taking the insanity up several notches. What can I say? There are many of us who are traditionalists and proud of it. The question we ask is: ‘can’t we all just enjoy Thanksgiving for what it’s supposed to be?’

This year it is suggested that everyone take a deep breath and relax. Kick back and enjoy a meaningful Thanksgiving. Friday is time enough to release our wild animal aggression at our favorite stores.

Ok, there are still remnants of that old Politically Correct mindset that once had momentum for their efforts to take Christ out of Christmas or put in different words, remove ‘The reason for the season’. These people came, and still do come, in two main categories. One group is made up of the fanatics who hate, and the word hate fits here, anything having to do with religion, Christianity and the true meaning of Christmas. These are bigots who were and still are obsessed, though thankfully are less and less successful with their efforts to ban Nativity scenes, stop school children from singing Christmas Carols at their pageants and pretty much anything else that would purge God from the celebration. The ACLU among others comes to mind here. The other group is made up of very silly people, who

CONTINUED ON page 12
To Tax Or Not To Tax  SOUTHBOSTONTODAY
SBT Staff Report

The roads and bridges of Massachusetts need to be repaired. The consequences of not doing so could be dire. Earlier this year, the governor signed a transportation bond bill that included $300 million for fiscal 2015 for the Chapter 90 local roads program. But, it is not enough.

The Chapter 90 authorization endorsed by the Legislature for fiscal 2015 matches the $300 million authorization for fiscal 2014, but the Patrick administration has already announced that it will release just $200 million again this year. The Legislature continues to support the $300 million funding level for the reimbursement program, but decisions about how much of the funding is actually released are the domain of the governor’s office. The $300 million in Chapter 90 authorizations for fiscal 2014 and 2015 will remain on the books, however, and could still be released at a later date by the current administration or the new governor who takes office in January.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate had each approved different versions of the five-year transportation bond bill. The Senate bill included a $1.5 billion Chapter 90 authorization intended to provide $300 million per year from fiscal 2015 through fiscal 2019. The House bill provided only one year of funding – $300 million for fiscal 2015.

The final bill settled on the House’s one-year Chapter 90 authorization and softened the restrictions proposed by the Senate. In order to carry forward more than half of its allocated Chapter 90 authorization from one year to the next, a municipality will be required to submit a five-year spending outline to the Department of Transportation. Sounds like a prudent stipulation.

When voters this month approved a repeal of the law linking future gas tax increase to inflation, a leg of the stool propping up the Legislature’s long-term transportation financing plan was removed. But a year after a contentious debate on Beacon Hill over taxes to fund road, bridge and rail improvements, it remains unclear how the Legislature will deal with the issue. After rejecting Gov. Deval Patrick’s broad plan to overhaul the tax code, the Legislature voted in 2013 to raise the gas tax by three cents and link it to inflation, to increase cigarette and tobacco taxes and to tax software sales. The software sales tax was repealed after blowback from the business community, and voters two weeks ago said no to periodic, automatic increases in the gas tax.

Budget forecasters lament that it creates a hole in transportation financing going forward. But, the voters have spoken and legislators have to figure out what to do next. Governor-elect Charlie Baker has said he will not raise taxes or fees over the next four years, and wants to reduce the tax burden in Massachusetts. The public wants better roads but don’t want to be taxed further to do so. So, it appears that gridlock (pun intended) may be the order of the day on Beacon Hill when it comes to transportation infrastructure and maintenance and most assuredly when it comes to taxes.

Giving Thanks!

We give thanks to our neighbors, partners and customers who made 2014 another successful year. Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving.

JAMES E. ROONEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
There are, today, many people throughout the world who hate America. Over the centuries there have been many more. Some hate America because they believe America uses her strength like a bully. Still others hate American hypocrisy when we act more like the colonial oppressors we were founded to oppose, than freedom fighters we claim to be. Both criticisms, at some point in our history, are true and deserved.

There is, however, another group that historically hate America. People, who believe that power should be hereditary, detest America because that selfish philosophy is against our Constitution. Even though we have generational political families like the Bush’s of Texas and Florida, Kennedy’s of Massachusetts, Cuomo’s of New York, Clinton’s of where ever-they-can-get-the-best-deal, our system of power is always available to newcomers. Others hate America for our scorn of dictators and our abhorrence of totalitarian systems. Oppressive systems, the world over, despise us for our most important foundation block - freedom of speech and the press. These are the two freedoms that, allowed to flourish, make all the advancements in the human condition and rights possible. The suppression of these rights, whether by force or acquiescence, allows those few elitists to control the advancements for the many.

This is a basic, simplistic definition between Democracy and just about all other forms of government. We are a nation of laws and not men (or women). It is time to add to the list of enemies of American Democracy, the liberal nation of laws and not men. (or women). Between Democracy and just about all other forms of government. We are a nation of laws and not men (or women). Despite the American-haters, we can be thankful for those who love America because there are many more of us, than most of all, be thankful for the life and the friends I’ve known as an American. The soldiers, politicians, everyday citizen, all have and continue to contribute to this experiment we call America.

I’m grateful that for every Gruber that laughs and ridicules regular Americans, while raking in millions for “lying to us”. There are a hundred who will show up at the stadium and cheer for Southie and Eastie, even though no championship is at stake. No trip to the playoffs. They play for us and we cheer for them. It’s as simple as that. I’m grateful that, for all his degrees and money, Gruber will never experience the friends, family and spirit of Thanksgiving that we “simple” folks do.

This whole issue is about health. If, however, health means wealth, Gruber is as sick and destitute as the poorest villager in the darkest corner of Liberia. Only a sick mind could chortle and glee, while telling of the millions he has lied to. If nothing else this Thanksgiving, be thankful you’re not him. Most of all, be thankful for the family and friends you get to share this day with.

Take care till next time.

“Being Thankful”
FORT POINT ARTS NEW EXHIBIT

The Fort Point Arts Community Gallery is pleased to announce the second exhibition for the 2014/15 season, Narrative/Non-Narrative: Two Artistic Approaches, featuring the work of Mario Kon and Beverly Sky. The show was juried by Andrew Witkin, Gallery Director of Barbara Krakow Gallery.

Narrative/Non-Narrative features the work of long time Boston Artists, Beverly Sky (Boston Center for the Arts, Artistic Studio Building) and Mario Kon (Fort Point Arts Community), who approach art-making from two distinctly different perspectives and concerns. Ultimately, giving form to a particular truth is what both artists work towards.

Beverly Sky’s work adheres to the precept that a picture is worth a thousand words. Ms. Sky utilizes Fabric Collage as a medium to express ideas and stories that engage her aesthetic and intellectual curiosity. Quoting the artist Chuck Close...“Art is a way of accessing a symbolic vocabulary from the deep parts of ourselves that go beyond words and to touch others in that same place.”

Mario Kon’s work follows a non-narrative approach, rejecting the assumption that art should be didactic and rational and instead rely on a direct visual experience of the work. Mr. Kon approaches his work with an organic and spontaneous energy. Whether sculpting, carving or painting on wood, he creates visual tensions that transform the surfaces geometrically. To quote the painter Mark Rothko...“Silence is so accurate.”

For a complete review of Mario Kon and Beverly Sky’s work, please refer to their websites: www.mariokon.com / www.beverlysky.com
CONTINUED FROM front page

will that deserves acknowledgement.

According to a report in the Boston Globe, the New England Revolution Professional Soccer Team, owned by the Krafts, is seeking to locate a stadium within the City of Boston. Seeking a site in or near Boston is not news. However, one of the sites mentioned in the report is a site adjacent to the Central Artery and contiguous to South Boston. Famously, Robert Kraft engaged in a failed attempt to re-locate the New England Patriots from Foxboro to the South Boston community in 1996. The possible Soccer Stadium site under consideration also happens to be an industrial site (no industrial site is safe) that is attractive to a number of enterprises, including a homeless shelter, recycling center, a possible Olympics venue and is currently bordered by the MBTA rail yards that are still a necessary asset to its rail operations.

For all of their admirable qualities, building relationships with either the vocal plebeians or patricians of Boston may be missing from their DNA. They may argue otherwise because, in the report it was noted that, “the Krafts have been meeting with state and local officials”. But, there is no evidence that they have met at all with any of the local residents, civic leaders or officials or any other of the legitimate local stakeholders, including businesses, property owners and even fans of soccer.

Like many high profile and successful corporations, there is assumption that their mere size, success and “entertainment value” in and of itself should warrant deference. They seem to prefer the top-down approach to deal-making. The same could also be said of John Henry’s Red Sox purchase of city owned land near Fenway Park (albeit they were successful going to the top to negotiate directly with Mayor Menino’s BRA chief) or the future of the Boston Globe site on Morrissey Boulevard, given its prime location in Mayor Martin Walsh’s own neighborhood. The slippery slope, especially in Boston, is that the economy itself, the growing market for soccer as a mainstream sport among the average citizen, the prospects of an Olympic bid that may expand Boston’s world class status and the visible transformation of the South Boston/South End areas from commercial and industrial to high end residential, appear to be perfectly aligned for a bid such as this. If anything, Robert Kraft understands the opportunity given such an alignment and perhaps has lined up the necessary financing should a Boston site become a reality. Adding to it is the pressure on Mayor Walsh, who according to the report has indicated that he is open to the idea of a Boston location, to manage this incredible momentum, so that he can satisfy a diverse range of constituencies, while promoting the tsunami of growth coming the City’s way.

As tiresome and tedious as it may be to engage with the entrenched interest groups and individuals from the abutting areas, painstakingly making the case for the merits of a soccer stadium is an unavoidable process. However, once survived and successfully leveraged, that survival is a sort of ‘rite of passage’ that successful developers have come to realize have long lasting positive benefits. Furthermore, it can allow the impressive portfolio of the Kraft Family contributions to the business and philanthropic communities, as well as the general public, to be factored into the criteria for a decision. Of all of their success, learning how to cope with the pressure of the bottom-up approach could very well be the ultimate test of their ability to crack the Boston market.

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Featuring fresh Bell & Evans® and Plainville Farms® turkeys which are grain-fed with no animal by-products, no antibiotics after chick growth, contain less fat, less calories than commercial factory-raised turkeys, raised in an animal-friendly environment in Pennsylvania Dutch Country and Upper State New York. We will also be carrying a variety of fresh and frozen turkeys.

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foodiesmarkets.com
230 West Broadway, Corner of C Street, South Boston
617-269-4700
We will be CLOSED Thanksgiving Day
Hours: Mon.- Sat. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sundays 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON
SITE CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES and PERMANENT SOLUTION STATEMENT
WITH CONDITIONS (i.e. SITE CLOSURE)

December 8, 2014
OFF-TERMINAL AREAS
935 East First Street, South Boston
RTN 3-00257

As part of the Public Involvement Plan process for the site at 935 East First Street, CONE will host a public information meeting about remediation and assessment activities for this site and the recent submittal of a closure document for the remaining Off-Terminal Areas. The site is known as Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-00257 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the cleanup of the site pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and the recent submittal of a draft Permanent Solution Statement with Conditions (i.e. Site Closure) for the remaining Off-Terminal Areas.

The meeting will be held at the Curley Community Center, 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston, on Monday December 8th, 2014 @ 7:00 PM. Please use the M Street entrance. This meeting will only address the Off-Terminal areas. PIP meetings for the On-Terminal portions of the site (i.e. 900 East First Street) are scheduled and held separately by Massport.

Copies of assessment and remediation documents produced during the last six months (including the recent September Remedy Operations Status Report, and the recently submitted draft Permanent Solution Statement with Conditions) are available for review at the Northeast Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection or on-line at http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/.

Written comments on the recently submitted draft Permanent Solution Statement with Conditions for the remaining Off-Terminal Areas will be received for 20 days following the PIP meeting, pursuant to the Public Involvement Plan for the Off-Terminal portions of the Site. Interested parties may submit written questions or concerns to Michael Stiller, LSP at URS Corporation, 101 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110 or by e-mail at michael.stiller@urs.com.

Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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Thanksgiving 1621 and 2014. Some change, some tradition

M ost adults today read about the first Thanksgiving while still in elementary school. It’s a story of hardship being overcome by success that finally led to the first Thanksgiving feast, where the Pilgrims gave thanks to God for the bountiful food that was finally available and enabled them to survive.

The Pilgrims were seeking freedom from the religious persecution they had suffered in England and courageously set sail for the new world. Packing all the belongings they could carry onto what would now be considered a tiny ship, they made the perilous journey and landed on the east coast of what is now America. This is history; we all know this from our lessons at school. But what many may have forgotten was that this was not the beginning of what is today a uniquely American holiday. The first Thanksgiving, celebrated in the autumn of 1620 was not observed in the years following. It became an official holiday in 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it to be so and it has been a tradition ever since.

Today, Americans often sit down to sumptuous turkey dinners with all the ‘fixins’ and still give thanks to God for all that we have in our country. This of course is sometimes preceded or followed by watching football games and taking part in other holiday activities, one of which for some could simply be an after dinner nap, while waiting for dessert and coffee.

Historians still aren’t positive that turkey was part of the first Thanksgiving feast. However, they do seem pretty sure that sumptuous main courses like wild duck, goose, venison and even lobster were high at the top of the menu followed by fruits such as plums and boiled pumpkin. No pumpkin pie. But happily, turkeys today are plentiful and if cooked just right, delicious.

Though tradition still reigns on Thanksgiving Day, much has changed since that first feast in 1621. The 46 surviving Pilgrims were joined and helped by 91 American Indians and together they worked hard and in cooperation they ensured that food and shelter, two of the most important things that were a must for survival in those days in such a harsh environment, would follow and endure well into the future.

Thanksgiving holiday today is spent with friends and family is frenzied shopping sprees and a headlong rush into the Christmas Season and all the hustle and bustle that comes with it. Times change for sure, but the good thing about this very special holiday is that even though in this modern age nearly four centuries since the first Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed, where things are so much different with new customs and habits, most Americans still hold on to part of that tradition. It’s what caused this Thanksgiving holiday to begin way back when the Mayflower first landed at Plymouth Rock. And that is an appreciation of family, good friends and neighbors and helping neighbors and slowing down, even if it’s just for a day to give thanks for all that we have.
South Baptist Church Bake Sale This Saturday

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

It’s that time of year again that so many residents of South Boston and elsewhere look forward to. Thanksgiving is coming and as so many people know what always precedes this wonderful holiday is the annual pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale sponsored by the ladies of the South Baptist Church located at 80 L Street (at the corner of L and Fourth Streets). It will be this coming Saturday, November 22nd in the lower Church from 10am till 2pm.

Don’t feel like baking all those goodies for Thanksgiving? Do you have enough to do just preparing the turkey and all that goes with it? Or are you wondering what desserts you can bring to family or friends on that special day? Well, you can just relax and let the pros do it for you. As anyone who has ever tried the baked good from this long time, now famous event, can attest, it is by any standards, a ‘taste treat’.

There will be cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, cupcakes, breads, homemade baked beans and the best chili, both beef and turkey, east of Texas. All ingredients used are wholesome and fresh. Everything is home baked and it is prepared by some of the finest cooks and bakers around – the ladies from the South Baptist Church. When it comes to cooking and baking, they aren’t just great at what they do they are true artists.

People look forward to this annual pre-Thanksgiving bake sale every season, because it’s all so fresh and so good it makes mouths water and the prices are good as well. Remember, it’s this Saturday, November 22nd, from 10am till 2pm at the South Baptist Church at 80 L Street in South Boston. Coffee and sandwiches will be available at the church.

And of course – EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell and Frank Kelley Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27th 11:30am – 1:30pm

Hosted by: The South Boston Catholic Parishes and the Elected Officials representing South Boston

St. Monica Parish Hall - 331 Old Colony Avenue
(at the corner of Old Colony Avenue & Prebble Street)

If you or someone you know is unable to get out and would like a meal delivered to your home, please call: 617-268-1230 after November 25th please call 617-590-9922

Southie Shuttle is providing free transportation to neighbors who are unable to obtain transportation for themselves.

Please call 617-268-4110 by Tuesday, November 25 to reserve a ride.
Hidden World Revealed to St. Peter Academy Students

St Peter Academy Students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 went to the Museum of Science to view the new exhibit: Maya Hidden World Revealed. They enjoyed the exhibits on Mayan games, clothing, language and number system, as well as an authentic burial chamber.

In addition to the viewed exhibit, students had lots of hands on learning. Using an interactive station students created Mayan birth certificate using Mayan symbols. Another interactive station had the students create Mayan names, Radiant Flower, Great Macaw and Princess Jaguar were among the favorites.

Museum staff was very engaging and took dedicated time to work closely with the St Peter Academy Students. Students created tile art in the Mayan style, practiced archaeology skills on a broken Mayan vase and did some Mayan math with museum staff.

After a nice lunch with a great view, they were happy to see the Southie Shuttle ready to take them back to St. Peter Academy.

St Peter Academy, an independent private school, is celebrating 10 years of service to the community. It is South Boston’s only Pre-K through Grade 8 School. Class size is limited to 20 students which is ideal for creating a nurturing environment filled with interactive learning opportunities. They are located at 371 West Fourth Street. To learn more about their programs or to schedule a private tour, please contact Ms. Doreen Brown or Ms. Carol Moakley at 617-268-0750 or email SPA@StPeterAcademy.com.
Now I know, with all the problems facing the world today, some might ask does it really matter what people call a Christmas Tree? Yes, I believe it does. Because it’s so very important that the world never, ever lose sight of what this season means to so many. It is sacred, it’s holy and those who strive to make it fade out need to be stood up to or one day they just might be successful. It doesn’t mean that everyone has to celebrate Christmas as a religious time. Not everyone is a Christian. But those who are so quick to work hard to deliberately dilute the true meaning so as not to offend non-Christians don’t seem to care in the least about offending the two and a half billion people around the world who are Christians. Again, to believers, this is a sacred and holy time. Efforts to marginalize the true meaning are to the vast majority of Americans insulting, insensitive and disrespectful. And just one more thing to that fast dwindling number of people who seem to have a problem and get offended when someone wishes them a Merry Christmas: Whether you like it or not, Christmas is also a federal holiday. It comes around each year on December 25th. Whether you celebrate it or not, it’s still coming, so get used to it. When someone thinks enough of you to make an effort to wish you a Merry Christmas, they want you to have one. Anyone who has a problem with that really does have issues and might want to seek counselling. And now that we have set the tone for the season, may it be enjoyable to all.

CONTINUED FROM page 3

walk on eggs shells in their ridiculous efforts to make the holidays a generic celebration, so as not to offend anyone. This second group, some of whom are interchangeable with the first group, almost goes into contortions in a looney effort not to so much as utter the word Christmas. And both groups have as one of their main targets, the Christmas Tree. Yes, I said it – Christmas Tree.

Whether these PC types and radicals like it or not, if it’s an evergreen decorated with lights and ornaments on display in December, it’s a Christmas Tree. They have always been Christmas Trees, they are Christmas Trees in 2014 and they will always be Christmas Trees. They are not winter solstice shrubs as some kooky school administrator from Cambridge tried to force her students to call them one year and they are not holiday trees. The trees that will be lit on East and West Broadway are not holiday trees they are Christmas Trees. The trees at the State House and at Boston City Hall are Christmas Trees. The tree that may be put up at Medal of Honor Park at M Street is not a holiday tree. It too is a Christmas Tree. This battle has been won. The PC types and the anti-Christmas bigots lost this fight several years ago. It’s just that some of them aren’t smart enough to realize it so they persist in their nonsense. Even Barack Obama, he of questionable faith, acknowledged last year that it was the annual Christmas Tree that was lit at the White House, not a holiday tree.

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY • www.southbostontoday.com
November 20, 2014

Patriot Homes To Break Ground
South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation and Caritas Communities, Inc. are pleased to announce the groundbreaking of Patriot Homes in South Boston. This project is the redevelopment of the former City of Boston D6 police station into 24 affordable apartments with a preference for Veterans.

The development of Patriot Homes will provide an important resource to address the housing needs of Boston Veterans. These affordable apartments include studios, as well as one bedroom and two bedroom apartments.

According to Donna Brown, Executive Director of South Boston NDC, “South Boston has a long history of military service and a higher percentage of Veterans than most other neighborhoods in the city. With rents rapidly increasing, Patriot Homes will help deserving Veterans to continue to live here, in our community, with the resources they need. We are grateful to have had strong support for this project from both the late Mayor Thomas Menino and Mayor Martin Walsh to enable us to move this development forward.”

CONTINUED FROM page 3

Southie Reunion

to benefit SOUTH BOSTON YOUTH HOCKEY

Honoring Jackie O’Brien
Long Time South Boston Business Leader and Sports Program Supporter

Saturday, November 29th
Carson Place 7 - midnight

Live Auction
Silent Auction
Raffles - Great Prizes
50/50 Raffles
and MUCH, MUCH more!

$25 at the door
$35 at the door

$10,000 Grand Prize Raffle
$100 each (only 200 tickets sold)

Music by...THOMAS PARK

For tickets go to WWW.SBYHL.org or stop by or the Rink 617-269-7060

www.southbostontoday.com

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
46 YEAR
OLD HOCKEY
GOALTENDER
GOES TO CAMP
PART 6

By Mark Senna

This is part six of a series of articles appearing only here in South Boston Today. For those of you who haven’t been following, I will summarize what was shared. I had been a fairly successful (played in college, won individual awards, championships, etc…) goalie in the past but was now struggling to make saves on a very young and competitive team (Bar Down playing in the NESHL). Folks, I had simply lost my way in the net but desperately wanted to help my team win hockey games. Although I might be a bit too old to learn new save techniques, I figured I had nothing to lose by attending Mitch Korn’s goaltender camp. This series details my camp and post camp hockey experience.

After three exhausting but rewarding days of camp, we goalies were ready for some fun. Thankfully, the final day of the camp is when the “Goalie Olympics” takes place and we were all anxious to see what the coaching staff had in store for us.

However, prior to getting the equipment back on and hitting the ice we had one more morning classroom session to get through. This was a fun session as we brainstormed to come up with a list of companies that make hockey equipment. I think we named at least 75 different companies. Of course being the oldest in the room, I had knowledge of many of the defunct hockey equipment companies that were popular back in the seventies and eighties. Victoriaville, Northland, Cooper, Micron, Hespeler, Christian were just a few of the companies I added to the list. Of course, none of my young counterparts had ever heard of these companies and looked at me with blank stares. At the end of our lesson the staff informed us that we set the record for coming up with the most companies.

We then spent the last half hour discussing goalie equipment. We talked about how to make sure the gear fits you properly, we discussed skate sharpening, goalie masks, leg pads, toe straps, sticks, knee pads, gloves, and on and on we went. This session was especially satisfying for me because Coach Korn showed off some of the “skinny” older model equipment. He then held up a Cooper GM 9 goalie glove next to a glove from today and the kids all busted out in laughter. They just couldn’t imagine catching pucks with such a thin piece of leather strapped to their hand.

Later, he discussed how the skate blades were engineered to give the butterfly goalie more “bite” on the ice. He pointed out the changes in the goalie pants and the different styles of goalie pads. It was easy to see that the equipment and the position itself had dramatically changed since the day I began playing goalie. My career in the net was made out of being athletic, quick on my feet, and aggressive. However, today’s goalies are athletic and quick too but are also much more technically sound. They are not scrambling or caught out of position as much and with the bigger equipment, they block more shots.

As we left the classroom and headed for the locker rooms my head was spinning again. I couldn’t help but think about my college playing days at Wentworth Institute that didn’t seem too long ago (1996-98). For the most part, my playing style worked there and I wasn’t asked or felt pressured to change it. But here we were just 16 years later and I can clearly see the dramatic changes in the position and equipment.

Before we got into the Olympic events we first worked on handling the puck behind the net. As someone who enjoys getting out of the net on occasion and playing defense, this drill was very easy for me. The coach would fire the puck around the boards and we were instructed to quickly leave the net, stop the puck, and set it up for our defenseman. Later, we were asked to stop the puck and then clear it up along the boards. Well, again this came natural to me. While many of the other goalies were having difficulties just getting to the puck, I was stopping it and firing the puck midway off the boards/glass just as Coach Apprile taught me back in 1983. The puck handling drills continued with my experience lending an aid to the other goalies who were really struggling. This was no longer about power pushes or butterfly saves; this was about being a mobile goalie and I was comfortably at home again.

After lunch we returned to the ice for the final session of camp which would be spent participating in the goalie Olympics. The coaches instructed us that it was going to be the blue team against the red and that we would be getting a point for our team with each event won. The first drill was a simple race from one end of the rink to the other. I was paired off against my friend from New York and quickly left him behind. However, my team came up short in total points for the event.

Next up was “goalie wars” were we were again separated by the color of our shirts. This was 44 goalies in one small section of the ice trying to knock each other down or out of bounds while skating backwards. One can imagine what this looked like. There were collisions everywhere and within a minute we were down to a handful of surviving goalies. Eventually, it got down to me against three red shirted goalies. These kids were clever and quickly surrounded me – one went low, another went high, while the other snuck behind me. Well, that was it for me, down I went!

We then separated into four smaller teams and played goalie soccer. Again, we were in a small section of the ice without our sticks so you can imagine what this looked like. I have to tell you…it was fun! We were goalies who were on the move. Looking back I have to say that this event brought in all of your abilities as an athlete. Stopping, skating, acceleration, and turning while in all of that goalie gear was exhausting but so rewarding. My blue team finally struck back and won a couple of these games too.

The coaches then got in on the fun by playing a game of tag with us. The last survivor of this event would be awarded the winner and claim all of the points for their team. The whistle blew and the coaches began circling us and quickly tagging the goalies that were not as fleet of foot. Within 30 seconds all but a few of us were left. I tried to hide along the boards but my size gave me away and I was quickly tagged. Our team fell again to the red squad.

We participated in several more events much like these and enjoyed them all. When the final whistle blew we were all exhausted but smiling – this was such a great way to end the camp. Mitch gathered us at center ice and thanked each one of us for participating in his camp. When he was done I asked if he would be OK with taking a photo with me. “Sure, I would be delighted.” We then posed with taking a photo with me. “Sure, I would be delighted.” We then posed.

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DANNY PICARD: Mike, as much as I talk Patriots with you on my shows, we also talk Red Sox. And their offseason is here. It’s the hot stove season. Giancarlo Stanton, you can take him off your wish list for now, right?

MIKE GIARDI: Yeah, that’s a ridiculous deal, by the way. Good for him, but does he not realize that by signing this deal with Miami — does he not see what they did two years ago? And he can talk about all their new TV money, but basically, they’re giving him all the new TV money. So where’s the rest of their team going to come from? Wasn’t this the guy who just said this summer that he was sick of being on a losing team? I’m pretty sure there was some prospects in addition to the new TV money. So I can imagine that in a couple of years, we’re going to see his name on the rumor mill about being traded and who wants to deal with that salary, and who’s willing to give the marlins some prospects in addition to the $300 million that it’s going to take to get him on board.

DP: Exactly, because once upon a time, the Texas Rangers signed Alex Rodriguez to the largest contract. And what’s crazy about that was — and I don’t know if A-Rod still has this in his current contract. And the A-Rod thing is a mess, so we won’t really touch upon that. But I think in A-Rod’s contract, didn’t he have a clause where, if somebody makes more than him in a new deal, that A-Rod would then have to make one dollar more than that guy?

MG: I’m pretty sure there was that clause in that deal, yeah. Another one of those things that just makes you scratch your head about the entire operation and all that the Rangers gave up to sign him and bring him aboard.

DP: Yeah, and like the Rangers with A-Rod, eventually it’s going to get to a point in Miami where the marlins won’t want to pay Stanton anymore, or they realize that that was a dumb deal, or that they overreacted to wanting to hold on to the best player they had and that it was a desperate move to bring fans into that stadium for things other than the strip club in left field. But, I think we’re going to get to a point where we’re going to be talking about Stanton being traded. He’s still young, so that won’t be for a couple more years. But it will happen, I think we both agree on that. At the same time, nobody wants to play for a losing team until somebody smacks you over the head with $325 mil. So I don’t necessarily blame him for this. But with regards to the Red Sox now, and him being off their wish list for the time being, they’ve got to focus on pitching. We know the whole Jon Lester situation [as of Monday, Nov. 17]. We talked about this when they traded him. I wanted to see the Red Sox just re-sign Jon Lester. That didn’t happen. We can agree or disagree on what happened in the days leading up to the trade deadline. But what we know right now is that Jon Lester is a free agent. He can go wherever he wants. And the Red Sox have plenty of money to spend, to bring him back if they wanted to. But so does Theo Epstein and the Chicago Cubs, and maybe even some other teams, like his hometown of Seattle. Where do you envision Jon Lester ending up?

MG: You know, when the trade happened, and they screwed that whole thing up, the original 4-year $70 million offer was an embarrassment, and it really left them with no place to go. There’s no real conversations from that if you’re going to under-value him that much. And then not getting it done during the season and then trading him, I thought there was less than a one-percent chance that he would come back. I guess I’d upgrade that now to about 10 percent. But I just still think that — he sold his house here. Obviously with his new riches, he could buy a new one, but it just seems to me that, if he really was intending on coming back, he wouldn’t have gone through all these things. He would have maybe kept that house on the market for a little while longer. I think at the end of the day, someone is going to give him 7-years at $25 million a year. And I think the Red Sox won’t go there. I just don’t think they will. It’s a nice little story to generate some headlines right now, but unless he’s willing to take less, which he wasn’t before, I don’t know why he would be here now. I just don’t see it happening.

DP: Do you like Pablo Sandoval?

MG: Not for $20 million a year. Not that it’s my money, but I just have major concerns about that body type and how he’ll hold up. I think it was last year that he came in 20 pounds lighter, and by the middle of the season, he was back to where he was before. You can get on guys all you want, but if someone who’s making that kind of money doesn’t want to do it, and doesn’t want to put in the time and the effort to watch his diet and work out, then that’s what he’s going to be. If you’re carrying extra weight like that, it’s not good for your knees, it’s not good for your back, it’s not good for anything. So, to make that kind of investment that it appears it’s going to take to get him — I like him as a hitter, I think he’d be a pretty good hitter at Fenway, but I don’t think he’s the be-all end-all. I don’t think he’s the ultimate solution to fixing that lineup, especially for what the years and dollars are going to be.

DP: So what do you think they should do? I think what the Red Sox need to do is, they need to shock us with some sort of trade for a young starting pitcher that nobody thought was available.

MG: I think that’s what’s coming down the pike. I think this is the Josh Beckett offseason all over again when they got Beckett. Nobody heard that, nobody knew that was coming. And then bang-bang-boom, there it was. Next thing you know, you have a front-line starter who was still young...
at the time and projected to be a great front-line pitcher for you for multiple years, which, for all the criticism of him, he was for the most part. And I think that’s what’s going to happen. I think they have too many prospects, and I think they realize that there’s no point in keeping all those prospects. Pull some of those guys up and go get someone whose name we haven’t heard yet, but had his general manager at the winter meetings quietly trolling around asking, “Would you be interested in player x, player y, or player z? This is what it would take to get him.” And I think that’s what’s going to happen. I would almost take that one to the bank. I think there’s going to be a move from Ben Cherington that delivers on that.

**DP:** There has to be. Because you look at all these young pitchers they have. I mean, we keep talking about them, but you look at the end of last season, and if you’re Ben Cherington, do you feel comfortable going into next year with a starting rotation of really any of those guys that you have?

**MG:** Not any one of those guys. And seriously, when you look at what they were given, some of them were given great auditions, long auditions this summer and into the fall to show Cherington that, “I’m your guy.” Who took that ball and ran with it? Nobody. You got moments from De La Rosa. Okay. We still don’t know about Henry Owens. What’s he going to be when he gets here? Ranaudo was uninspiring.

To me, nobody really jumped out and took that opportunity. So, again, that’s another reason why you have to look at it and say, “We’ve got too many of these guys that we’re really not sure about. Maybe somebody values them a little bit more than we do and project them a little bit higher than we do.” And that’s when you make that deal.

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Happy Thanksgiving

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