In his very first State of the City address, Mayor Marty Walsh covered the gamut of advances during his first year in office. Record pothole filling, record bond rating, record gun buybacks, record fundraising and a new parking payment app. He also announced several new education initiatives, most interestingly the creation of a Boston School Building Authority to oversee construction and refurbishment of city schools. The authority will focus on the design to build process, as well as the funding process with a specific focus.

CONTINUED ON page 4
A cabbie, from Liberia no less, was telling his customer what a bad idea he thought the Olympics coming here is. “I was in China. Do you know the Birds Nest stadium that cost $80 million is empty? Whole neighborhoods were demolished.” We, however, are not China but the point was clear. It doesn’t mean those advocating for the Olympics are dreamers any more than those with serious reservations should be called NIMBYs. The good part is that we have ten years to address and solve problems, if that is possible. The bad part is that we have ten years and we have too many issues here in the city to devote all our civic minded peoples’ time to this at the exclusion of the matters of daily life.

It would be nice and perhaps worth investigating some type of insurance to protect the taxpayers investment. After all, the cabbie also pointed out that the construction companies are the ones who always make out. Assurances should also be secured for the citizens in order to prevent tax monies being spent for no return.

On Monday evening, over 100 South Boston residents attended a neighborhood meeting on a controversial proposal to build luxury condos at the site of the old Gate of Heaven school building. Most of those residents that attended were against building more luxury condos in an already congested and dense neighborhood. With parking at a crisis situation in the neighborhood, most residents demanded justice and clearly and loudly said, “Enough is enough.”

Although the overwhelming majority of the people were against the controversial development proposal, the developer was well represented by local consultants. One South Boston longtime resident was overheard commenting that “these same people worked for the developers who purchased the rectory, the gym, the Neighborhood House and several other properties in South Boston for luxury condos with no real benefit to the people of South Boston.”

The neighbors were clear in their opposition to the developer’s project. Another longtime resident in attendance complained about the recent increase in property taxes that just landed in the mailbox this month. As City Hall continues to build more and more luxury condos with no parking for residents, the neighborhood is left with a significant increase in property taxes that are having a devastating impact on long-time residents, the elderly and those on fixed income.

The developer and his consultants have been actively lobbying city hall lobbying for more condos and in support of this real estate project. Many residents simply question the political process and the influence of city hall and those connected to the decision makers at city hall. “South Boston deserves to be treated with respect and enough is enough with these luxury condos.” It is time for leadership!

- Pat Gorman  SB Resident

“The war against terrorism is one we must win” - Lisa Murkowsi
A

s we all know, satisfaction can come in many forms. Obamacare is proving to be a disaster to so many folks, who have had their own insurance policies cancelled because of it, and to people, who when they do get a plan, find that it is inferior to the one they used to have and it cost a heck of a lot more. So, where does the satisfaction come in? Well, to listen to the shrieks and howls coming from some of the same Harvard Professors who were so vocal for the plan to be foisted on the American people, when they recently learned that they themselves would now have to pay more – much more for their healthcare because of Obamacare, you’d think that their favorite wine and cheese shop was about to go out of business or that a thief stole their favorite portrait of Che Guevara.

In the land of “do as we say, not as we do” and “Obamacare is for the common people, certainly not for the Ivy League elite”, payback certainly is a five letter word. Richard Thomas, who is a Harvard professor of ‘The Classics’, who was all for the plan for you and I but not so much for himself, called the changes to his healthcare, do to Obamacare “deplorable and deeply regressive”.

Then there is Mary D. Lewis, a professor of the ‘History of Modern France’ who feels the changes to her healthcare because of the big increase in cost, are “tantamount to a pay cut” and that this cut will be timed to come at precisely the moment when you are sick, stressed or facing the challenges of becoming a new parent”. Really Professor Lewis? Welcome to the real world. And the howling went on and on and on by one outraged and indignant Harvard faculty member after another when they realized that even they would actually have to suffer the indignity of being treated like every day Americans and that the plan that they so enthusiastically championed would come back to bite them on the – tail. When most liberals wind up getting exactly what they deserve as a result of the unrealistic, moronic agendas they push on the rest of us, it is, as I said, satisfying. But when it happens to arrogant college professors it’s beyond satisfying; it’s priceless.

The biggest news of the week was and is of course the terror attacks in France. Innocent people being slaughtered by radical Islamists are getting to be an all too common occurrence in just about every part of the world. Everyone feels for the French during this tragic time, but the question needs to be asked, what were the French authorities thinking? Police without guns? This is 2015. Are they insane? How do they expect to protect the public from armed and violent criminals, hit them with stale croissants? Some might think that Donald Trump is a windbag and at times I might agree but he made a good point in response to these latest attacks. Trump said “Isn’t it interesting that the tragedy in Paris took place in one of the toughest gun control countries in the world?” Even the cops were unarmed. As Judge Andrew Napolitano said: “It was like shooting fish in a barrel. “As the man hunt moved into the smaller villages, according to reports, the French residents there were absolutely frozen with fear because unlike Americans, the French are not allowed to own firearms for their protection so yes, they were totally defenseless until security forces, armed finally, arrived.

In this day and age, when the world is well aware that there are tens of thousands of terrorists training for the purpose of coming to western countries and killing as many of us as they possibly can through their sick ‘jihad’, it is mind boggling that this level of naiveté and stupidity continues, where governments try to disarm their law obeying citizens. No matter how many times brutal attacks and massacres happen, there are still those who actually believe that putting a sign up that says “gun free zone” or depriving
Governor Baker Says He Will “Hold the Line on Taxes”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By John Ciccone

In what a majority of South Boston residents consider to be a refreshing change from the previous administration, newly sworn in Governor Charlie Baker; the first Republican in eight years and Massachusetts’ 72nd governor, has promised to resist hiking taxes in the Bay State. Shortly after being sworn in by placing his hand on the family Bible and taking the oath of office, in response to the approximately $500 million dollar budget deficit left by Deval Patrick, Baker stated: “We have to realize that this is a spending problem and I pledge to hold the line on taxes. “We are already demanding enough from hard working people.” These are welcome words to many.

These are promises that bring sighs of relief to many working class families in Boston and in fact all over Massachusetts, as there has been a steady increase in taxes and fees over the years that have caused hardships and burdens to the middle class. Jennifer Mullen, a lifelong South Boston resident and mother of two teenagers was thrilled at the new governor’s words and stated that she was hoping that with the change in administrations “a new page would be turned and an end would finally come to nonstop tax increases”. She went on to say “For far too long, the state never seemed to be satisfied, they always kept coming to us for more and more.”

Jeff Rosen, who moved to the city from the North Shore 14 months ago, was short and to the point about his feelings on the no new tax statement: “It’s about time” said Rosen.

The Patrick Administration, working with the legislature over the last eight years was successful in hiking taxes and fees on a number of things during their tenure, but were stopped by the voters on issues like an additional tax on the sale of alcohol and the recently overturned perpetual increase on the per gallon gasoline tax. Through petitions, signed by thousands of voters in both cases, the issues were put on the ballot and voters were able to overturn these particular tax hikes. With the new Baker Administration, the odds are that this type of grass roots activism, at least on the issue of tax increases, may no longer be necessary.

The question put to Governor Baker by some who believe that the only way to bring down a deficit is tax and fee hikes is “How?” If not by raising taxes, how will he attempt to balance the state budget? One of the ways Baker says he won’t do it is by cutting state aid to cities and towns. He will however implement a hiring freeze and get right to work looking for and rooting out government waste and cutting spending in other areas.

Some of the other priorities Baker says his administration will concentrate on is stemming the tide of opiate addiction that is a growing problem in Massachusetts. He will not only refrain from making it more difficult for more successful charter schools to be created, but will actively work to assist in the process, especially in the areas where they are needed most. Education will be an area of much focus.

The change in direction of this new administration from that of the previous one seems to be one of real substance, and anything but the continuation of the status quo in Massachusetts. The plan to hit the ground running and make Massachusetts a better place would seem to be the calling card of Governor Charlie Baker, as well as newly elected Lt Governor Karen Polito.
I ronically, the French satirist Voltaire first wrote this philosophy when he learned of an author who had his books burned by the government. But, it was our own Patrick Henry who articulated that thought when he proclaimed, “I disagree with what you say but will defend, to the death, your right to say it.”

That philosophy is one of the bedrock foundations that form our own Declaration, Bill of Rights and Constitution. We even have a statue in our Public Garden inscribed with Henry’s statement. Growing up surrounded by Bunker Hill, Dorchester Heights, Lexington and Concord, it was inspiring to learn of those Patriots and what they endured to create this nation. Today, however, those Patriots are relegated by the America-hating “progressives” to the status of “old dead white guys”, who were racists to boot, and who “stole” this country. And that all those American virtues are sins.

Today, if we are to find people who still believe in those principles we must go to Europe - specifically France. When the Israeli, Palestinian, German and 40 other world leaders joined arms in a march calling for an end to Islamic Fanaticism, America was a no-show. Whichever ridiculous excuse offered by the White House - the President was watching football, Security was a concern, nobody invited him - the truth of the matter is that the president sympathizes with the Islamic murderers. Eric Holder the Attorney General was already in Paris why didn’t Obama send him? Why, why, why? We all agree he is not a dope. Even if he had his way paved from the beginning, it is still obvious this is a very intelligent man.

Disgust and revulsion are just some of the emotions many, if not most, are feeling at America’s absence in the largest march in the history of France. Larger even than the demonstration following WW2. Over a million and a half people and America didn’t stand with them. America failed to stand with the Egyptian democratic movement, instead supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. This organization assassinated American ally, then President Anwar Sadat, and was founded by Ayman AL Zywahiri the present head of Al Qaeda. All of this was preceded by his Mid-East “apology” tour. A policy he has followed and obviously believes in.

Every thing is America’s fault. His progressive allies in the media didn’t wait for the French victims to grow cold before launching their “don’t blame the Muslims just because these vicious killers are jihadists fighting in the name of Islam”. Obviously, most people do not blame the vast majority of Muslims for the violence. It must be acknowledged that their community is comprised of a number of supporters of the fanatics, but a vast larger group disagree and are frightened into silence.

The most powerful and well protected person in the world can’t be frightened. The answer must lie in agreement. In his heart of hearts, our president doesn’t like America. He believes it is America’s evil that has spawned all the turmoil and chaos in the world, going all the way back to our colonial beginnings. As soon as he moved in, he shipped a bust of Winston Churchill back to England obviously because he felt it was a reminder of another colonial power. Guess he couldn’t throw the portrait of George Washington out the door. At least not yet. Did anyone you know sit in a house of worship nodding their head in agreement as the speaker in the pulpit bellowed, “God damn America… the chickens have come home to roost”, after we were attacked on 9-11? Our leader did. How many of your friends were involved in plots to blow up and kill U.S. soldiers and policemen? Your president’s first fundraiser was. During WW1 the American battle cry to France was, “Lafayette, here we come”, in a reference to the service the young count and his country gave during our Revolution. Sadly, today our cry must be, “Lafayette try to hang on for two years and if we’re all still here, we’ll come then”.

Take care till next week.
Mayor Walsh’s ONEin3 Council Now Accepting Applications

Mayor Martin J. Walsh recently announced a call for applications for the 2015 ONEin3 Council. The ONEin3 Council is an action-oriented group charged with brainstorming, creating, and carrying out projects that directly impact the lives of Boston’s 20-34 year olds.

“We’re proud to have the highest percent of young adults out of any major city in the country,” said Mayor Walsh. “The ONEin3 Council gives us an opportunity to challenge young adults to think big and become neighborhood leaders. This population is diverse, well-educated, and full of ideas that will help us grow the city in a sustainable and positive way.”

The Council will spend the year using its talent and innovation to identify ways in which Boston can grow as an inviting, connected, culturally rich and sustainable place for young adults. Projects may include work on housing policy, economic development, public art and neighborhood engagement. Throughout the ONEin3 Council Term, members also hear from key members of the Mayor’s staff as well as leaders from within City Hall.

Last year’s ONEin3 Council was comprised of 31 Boston residents, including 16 women and 15 men, who live in 17 different neighborhoods across Boston and worked in 22 unique industries. Last year, the ONEin3 program received more than 300 applications for the Council, showing a robust interest for involvement and engagement.

For more information on the Council and instructions on how to submit an application, visit www.ONEin3Boston.com. Application queries can also be sent to: ONEin3Boston@CityofBoston.gov.

---

LEARN-TO-SKATE CLASSES

BAY STATE SKATING SCHOOL  Non-Profit

CHILDREN (4½ up) & ADULTS  As Featured on "Chronicle"

New Winter Classes!

South Boston Murphy Rink
Sundays 5PM Starts January 18th

Quincy Shea Rink
Sundays 11AM Starts January 18th

Also at 10 other rink locations!
Gift Certificates Available!

781-890-8480
www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org

Want to see your ad in South Boston Today & SBT Online?

SBT

office: 617.268.4032 or cell: 617.840.1355 or email at ads@southbostontoday.com
ABCD Fuel Assistance Is Crucial To Many

With frigid temperatures hitting the nation’s northern tier, Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. today called on the federal government to release remaining fuel assistance funds so that low-income working families and seniors could get all help possible to survive the cold. ABCD urges those who have not yet applied for fuel assistance to do so immediately. There are funds available for new applicants. Residents of ANY community served by ABCD can apply at ANY ABCD intake sites as noted below.

ABCD manages the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Boston, Brookline and Newton and this year in seven communities north of Boston including Malden, Medford, Everett, Melrose, Stoneham, Winchester and Woburn. ABCD fuel assistance directors anticipate serving more than 26,000 households this winter, but additional funds are needed.

Right now almost all of the thousands of ABCD clients who applied for fuel assistance in November and December have used up their benefits and many have nowhere to turn. So far this year the highest benefit for families below the federal poverty level or $23,850 for a family of four is $1,025. Struggling families and seniors should be aware that a sliding scale of benefits enables those at incomes slightly over the federal poverty level to also benefit from fuel assistance. A family of four earning $62,727 or a single-person household with an income of $32,618 can receive $610 in fuel aid.

“We are grateful for the support from our New England Congressional delegation and elected officials from Boston to Nebraska as we continue to offer this life-saving assistance,” said John J. Drew, ABCD President/CEO. “We urge the federal government to release all remaining FY 2015 LIHEAP funds plus additional allocations to meet the overwhelming need as soon as possible. Funds are desperately needed in this bitter January weather so that oil trucks can roll and make deliveries to the thousands of low-income households where residents are forced to choose between food, rent, medication and heat.” He pointed out that in past years the Commonwealth has provided a state supplement to augment the federal money. “That made a difference,” Drew said. “It made it possible for us to increase benefit levels when people ran out.”

WHERE TO APPLY: ABCD Boston

Applications for fuel assistance and information on all ABCD energy programs are available at ABCD’s downtown office and any of its Neighborhood Service Centers, or by calling the ABCD Fuel Assistance Hotline at 1-617-357-6012 or ABCD neighborhood sites at http://www.bostonabcd.org/service-centers.aspx.

Winter Emergency Campaign
ABCD runs a Winter Emergency Campaign with individuals and corporate donors contributing warm coats, boots, comforters as well as funds to help the hundreds who call every day with “fuel emergencies” because they are out of oil or have had their utilities shut off. Go to www.bostonabcd.org for more information.

About ABCD:
ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston-area residents through its central offices and a decentralized network of Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Start centers, Family Planning sites and Foster Grandparent sites. Programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Head Start; Child Care Services; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; management of the Combined Federal Campaign, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and City of Boston employee giving campaigns; advocacy and consumer services.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
ON SITE CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES

On-Terminal Areas
900 East First Street, South Boston
MassDEP RTN 3-00257
Former Owner: Coastal Oil of New England (CONE)
Current Owner: Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport)

Wednesday January 28, 2015

As part of the Public Involvement Process for the site at 900 East First Street, Massport will host a public information meeting about the remediation and assessment activities for this site. The site is tracked by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) under Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-00257. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the continued cleanup of the site pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).

The meeting will be held in the Senior Lunch Room of the Curley Community Center located at 1663 Columbia Road, South Boston, on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Please use the M Street entrance.

Copies of the assessment and remediation documents are available for review at the South Boston Public Library and MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington, MA 01876 or on-line at http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_view/.

Interested parties may also submit written questions or concerns to Erik Bankey at Massport’s Environmental Management Unit Office, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, MA 02128 or by e-mail at gbankey@massport.com.
Window Into The State House

Window Into The State House provides our readers a synopsis of important issues of interest, past and current, that are being proposed, debated or acted upon by the Massachusetts Legislature. Many issues that are not related to local city government services are acted upon and have a direct impact on daily life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education.

We will excerpt reports from the gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and Senate sessions by news sources focused on this important aspect of our lives. These sources include a look ahead at the coming week in state government and summaries and analyses of the past week, re-caps of a range of state life. They are tax policy, transportation infrastructure, judicial appointments, social services and health, as well as higher education.

debates over the basic functions of government, Warren said she makes the case for medical research funding due to the personal and financial impacts of diseases like Alzheimer’s and diabetes and because of the nation’s growing elderly population. “We need to be doubling down on medical research but it’s hard to get the money,” she said. “It’s hard to get the money in Washington.” Asked about areas of funding beneficial to Massachusetts that might be vulnerable to spending cuts pushed by Republicans, Warren said the GOP has made clear that they are willing to support across-the-board spending cuts, including reductions in spending on medical research, Head Start programs and Meals on Wheels. After Keller said he was concerned that Massachusetts could see its share of the federal medical research funding pie dwindle as money flows to “red states,” Warren said that as long as funds are awarded based on merit, “Massachusetts is going to do just fine.” - Michael Norton /SHNS

WARREN: CUTS IN FED RESEARCH SSS COULD BE “REAL PROBLEM”

Massachusetts is vulnerable to cuts in federal funding for medical, scientific and engineering research under a Republican-controlled Congress, according to Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Warren told host Jon Keller during an interview that aired on WBZ-TV Sunday that she’s pitched the importance of research funding repeatedly during her time serving in the U.S. Senate. “One on one, Republicans and Democrats say, ‘Yeah, I get it. I hear your pitch. Yeah. Makes sense.’ But then the question is, put the money on the table. And then the answer is ‘Can’t find it. Not there. No. Won’t do it.’ “During
### Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property/Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sale Date</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
<th>Baths</th>
<th>Sq Ft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>350 West Broadway UNIT 8 Condo</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>11/12/14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>687 East Second St UNIT 8 Condo</td>
<td>$875,000</td>
<td>11/12/14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 O St UNIT 14 Condo</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>11/3/14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>449 East Eighth St UNIT 1 Condo</td>
<td>$670,000</td>
<td>11/6/14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Leeds Street Two Family</td>
<td>$599,000</td>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Grimes Street Single Family</td>
<td>$545,000</td>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 I St UNIT 2 Condo</td>
<td>$501,500</td>
<td>11/5/14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163 O St UNIT1 Condo</td>
<td>$438,000</td>
<td>11/13/14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430 East Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo</td>
<td>$430,000</td>
<td>11/12/14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111A West Eighth St UNIT M Condo</td>
<td>$415,000</td>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Ward St UNIT 3 Condo</td>
<td>$399,000</td>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Lennon Court UNIT 34 Condo</td>
<td>$385,000</td>
<td>11/1/14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 West Third St UNIT 2 Condo</td>
<td>$359,000</td>
<td>11/14/14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227 Bowen St UNIT 2 Condo</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>11/13/14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 I St UNIT 1 Condo</td>
<td>$340,000</td>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Lennon Court UNIT 31 Condo</td>
<td>$312,000</td>
<td>11/10/14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288 West Third St UNIT 2 Condo</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**No One Knows The South Boston Real Estate Market Better Than**

**MCM Properties**

**Representing Buyers and Sellers for 30 Years**

917 East Broadway, South Boston
617-268-5181
The City of Medford’s Chevalier Theatre will celebrate its 75th anniversary on March 7 with a concert of traditional Celtic music by the Barra MacNeils, one of Canada’s most popular and successful musical groups.

A family ensemble from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, the Barra MacNeils are widely regarded as one of the finest live concert acts in the Celtic world. Steeped in Cape Breton tradition with deep Celtic roots, the troupe combines captivating vocals and harmonies with extraordinary musicianship on a wide variety of stringed, percussion, and wind instruments.

Entering their 28th year of performing the musical traditions of their ancestors and with 17 albums to their credit, the Barra MacNeils are as popular as ever – their recent 35-city Christmas concert tour drew sellout crowds across Canada.

The Chevalier Theatre concert, set for 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, will be the Barra MacNeils’ first appearance in Greater Boston since 2003. The band has a large following in the area, where tens of thousands of Cape Breton natives settled, and the island’s unique style of music and dance still resonates in local halls and clubs.

“It is always exciting to return to the Boston area for a Barra MacNeils concert,” said vocalist and accordion player Stewart MacNeil. “There’s so much connection, shared history and culture between the Maritime region of Canada and Boston – it’s like a special visit with old friends from home each time.”

Tickets for the Barra MacNeils concert are priced at $31 and $26 ($23 and $19 for seniors/students) and may be ordered at www.chevaliertheatre.com.

The concert is being sponsored by the City of Medford; the Friends of Chevalier Auditorium and Gene Mack Gym; the Chevalier Auditorium Commission; the Chevalier Theatre Organ Society; and the Canadian American Club of Massachusetts.

Hail Mary Prayer
Pray 9 Hail Marys for 9 days. Ask for 3 wishes, 1 involving business and 2 impossibles. On the 9th day publish this article and your wishes will be answered, even though you may not believe it. KB
CONTINUED FROM page 3

the people from possessing the tools needed to defend their lives, homes and families and yes their countries, does anything but encourage the lunatics that roam this planet in search of easy targets. And one more question on the matter then I’ll drop it. Was anyone really surprised that Obama, Biden or Kerry did not attend the unity march in France with all the ‘responsible’ world leaders? But then again, can’t offend the terrorists now can we?

And it feels a little better living in Massachusetts now that Deval Patrick is no longer the governor. He’s gone, and so too will his herd of cronies that worked their hardest to turn the state into a third world country. Some people have no shame. He took bows as he left bragging about his legacy. He left the state saddled with a $350 million to $500 million deficit because of poor management. Just think, all those tax hikes he’s so proud of and the Bay State is still wallowing in the red. Then there is the case of the children, who died under state care by an agency run by his appointees; the Solar company that took hundreds of millions of our tax dollars and went under anyway, the soft on crime judges, all the free perks given to illegal aliens, the EBT scams, business’s and families moving out at a rate so high to other states both north and south that if the trend isn’t reversed, Massachusetts could lose yet another congressional seat in the future (with the way some of these congressmen vote, not such a bad thing). And who can forget the many, MANY, trips on what are referred to in political circles as fact finders or business enhancers but more factually are called tax funded junkets? This is a record to be proud of? How much lower will standards fall in liberal circles?

There are some who feel that any criticism of Deval Patrick must be fueled by racism. Not at all. Criticism isn’t based on the color of his skin. He’s being criticized because he was a lousy governor.

$ 100 Billion And Counting – Tax Bills Have Risen

According to records researched by Rich Johnesson of financialbuzz.com, Boston is now officially a city worth $100 billion. The surge in the real estate market led to the total value of its commercial and residential property crossing that threshold for the first time, as per a recent city assessment.

This rise will herald considerably higher tax bills to be paid by property owners from 2015. Residents are now seeing the effect of Boston’s attractiveness to national and foreign investor. It is expected that 30% of the buyers of the newly announced high rise going up on the Christian Science Monitor site One Dalton Street will be foreigners.

Johnesson reported that the assessing department of the city, to fight off the sticker shock, had already started to reach out to owners in a few neighborhoods where the values have increased to a maximum. According to Declan Mehigan of Lir, he was told that the value of one of the buildings he owns has increased by 81 percent, from $1.9 million to $3.5 million. Mehigan, who is the managing partner of his company, has been told that the tax bill will increase overall by tens of thousands dollars. He was understandably dismayed and complained that for a small businessman like him, he has no clue of how to proceed in the future.

According to Ronald Rakow, the commissioner of assessing, a few property owners have been spoken with by the city concerning their assessments. He added that the formal abatement requests will not arrive prior to the bills being sent out Overall, he said, value of real estate in Boston has increased by 10 percent over 2013. This is the steepest percentage increase from 2007, when the values spiked by 15 percent before plunging during the time of the Great Recession.

However, tax impact of the higher assessments could be partially compensated by the property tax law present in the state that bars the total municipal levies from rising in excess of about 2.5 percent in any single year. This law compels the state’s towns and cities to adjust their tax rates if need be. The previous ten years have seen the real estate scene in Boston experiencing a stunning overhaul. New buildings now crowd Seaport District, which was once a huge parking lot. The Rose Kennedy Greenway and Big Dig have transformed the Boston downtown. New residential towers and office spaces dominate the length of North Station to Fenway. The assessed value, in total, of the real estate of the city has risen into twice what it was in 12 years. Stay tuned as tax bills roll in and the City begins to deal with likely to be angry residents, both at the increase and if the burden is not equitable.

2024 Olympics- Cost, Security, Expectations
Boston Needs To Know What It Is In For

According to Rich Johnesson of financialbuzz.com, Boston is now officially a city worth $100 billion. The surge in the real estate market led to the total value of its commercial and residential property crossing that threshold for the first time, as per a recent city assessment.

This rise will herald considerably higher tax bills to be paid by property owners from 2015. Residents are now seeing the effect of Boston’s attractiveness to national and foreign investor. It is expected that 30% of the buyers of the newly announced high rise going up on the Christian Science Monitor site One Dalton Street will be foreigners.

Johnesson reported that the assessing department of the city, to fight off the sticker shock, had already started to reach out to owners in a few neighborhoods where the values have increased to a maximum. According to Declan Mehigan of Lir, he was told that the value of one of the buildings he owns has increased by 81 percent, from $1.9 million to $3.5 million. Mehigan, who is the managing partner of his company, has been told that the tax bill will increase overall by tens of thousands dollars. He was understandably dismayed and complained that for a small businessman like him, he has no clue of how to proceed in the future.

According to Ronald Rakow, the commissioner of assessing, a few property owners have been spoken with by the city concerning their assessments. He added that the formal abatement requests will not arrive prior to the bills being sent out Overall, he said, value of real estate in Boston has increased by 10 percent over 2013. This is the steepest percentage increase from 2007, when the values spiked by 15 percent before plunging during the time of the Great Recession.

However, tax impact of the higher assessments could be partially compensated by the property tax law present in the state that bars the total municipal levies from rising in excess of about 2.5 percent in any single year. This law compels the state’s towns and cities to adjust their tax rates if need be. The previous ten years have seen the real estate scene in Boston experiencing a stunning overhaul. New buildings now crowd Seaport District, which was once a huge parking lot. The Rose Kennedy Greenway and Big Dig have transformed the Boston downtown. New residential towers and office spaces dominate the length of North Station to Fenway. The assessed value, in total, of the real estate of the city has risen into twice what it was in 12 years. Stay tuned as tax bills roll in and the City begins to deal with likely to be angry residents, both at the increase and if the burden is not equitable.

2024 Olympics- Cost, Security, Expectations
Boston Needs To Know What It Is In For

At the outset let me say that Boston hosting the Olympic Games would bring great prestige and honor to our city, but we already know that. We are a resilient and innovative city who has always been home to creativity and accommodation who met many serious challenges over the years. I immediately think of the many important national and international events that Boston has hosted over the years. The Tall Ships, our nation’s bicentennial, world championship sports events, national conventions and the list goes on and on. The people of Greater Boston have always rolled up their collective sleeves to accomplish the mission.

Specifically, they want to know about the cost of the Olympics to the taxpayers, and who pays for it. They also are deeply concerned about security and terrorism, and certainly about the impact that the Olympics will have on their community. They must be assured respect and a seat at the table. People won’t accept a folly public hearing process any longer in Boston.

Our Governor and Mayor have already too many crisis issues to deal with, without dealing with this big one. And the people won’t be satisfied with staff members, political rubber stamps or people with vested interests and egos controlling and dominating the process.

So take it from someone who loves sports, the Olympics and even hoped to play in the 1964 games, but simply wasn’t good enough. A fair, open independent honest process will win the support of the people of Boston, if they believe that it in the best interests of the “common good.”

So let an independent process begin.

Ray Flynn is the former Mayor of Boston and U.S. Ambassador.
Finishing the Job

District Council 35 Painters and Allied Trades always keep their word. In August of 2014, DC 35 was able invigorate life back into walls and ceilings of St. Peter Academy. The basement classrooms, hallways, and kitchen area were in desperate need of attention. Due to a time restriction with the start of the school year, DC 35 had to act quickly. All work was performed in less than five days, which is incredibly efficient considering the condition the walls and ceilings were in. The smaller project was successfully completed but the foyer remained on the minds of the Painters.

The holiday season vastly approached and the school was winding down for winter break. “The phone rang a couple days before break, and it was DC 35. They wanted to know if they could come in and finish what they started. I was beyond ecstatic. They have been so good to us and for them to come back, it was truly a Christmas gift” says Maryann Crush, a founder and board member of St. Peter Academy. “We are a nonprofit independent private Prekindergarten through Grade 8 school operating in South Boston and keep tuition cost affordable. The building is maintained by volunteers and they do what they can. Renovations and improvements are done by parents and volunteers. Having DC 35 come in and volunteer their time and skill, will have us forever grateful. They have transformed our building and are true professionals.”

DC 35 got right to work the very next day. Painters and Drywall finishers showing up with equipment and materials ready to tackle the project head on. First on the checklist was to prepare the walls to be painted. Most of the project consisted of coating the walls with mud to make them flat again. Holes had to be patched and sanded, while the dowels on the railings that ran floor to ceiling also had to be removed. After five days of prepping, the paint was finally ready to be applied.
A breathe of life has been thrust into the foyer of St. Peter Academy. An area that was once riddled with uneven walls and seven different paint colors is now incredibly warm and inviting. It is certainly a "WOW" moment when you walk in the door, especially if you had seen it just two short weeks ago. "Our commitment to the community is at the core of what we do as activists" says IUPAT DC 35 Organizer Ray Pickup. "As an organization we focus on community engagement and promote such within our rank and file members. To be able to give back to the communities that our members reside and raise families in, is at the heart of our union activism".

DC 35 has been a major contributor for charity projects for inner city organizations in need. Courageous Sailing Center in Charlestown, Boston Center for the Arts, The Mattahunt School, Byrd Street Community Center, The Mather School, and St. Mary's Woman and Infant Center are just a few of the other charity projects that have been completed. DC 35 Business Manager Jeff Sullivan has been instrumental in not only providing the painting and drywall finish on projects, but also encouraging other building trades to do the same.

This charity project was a joint venture between District Council 35 Painters and Allied Trades and Mayor Martin J. Walsh's Office of Neighborhood Services.

A huge South Boston Thank You to Mayor Martin J. Walsh and DC 35 Business Manager Jeff Sullivan for putting together this charity project. Also, Painters Eric Furtado, Patrick Greene, and Bill Hunt as well as Drywall Finishers TJ Gould and Francisco Jiminez.
One team is keeping New England from its sixth Super Bowl appearance in 14 seasons.

A team New England has beaten by a combined total of 144-66 during games each of the past three seasons.

A team that has lost its last five appearances against the Patriots at Gillette Stadium.

A team that enters as a seven-point underdog.

A team that New England could very easily overlook under these circumstances.

Such overconfidence would be a mistake.

The Colts are a much better squad now than the one that fell at home to New England, 42-20, in Week 11. Indianapolis proved it in last Sunday’s 24-13 road playoff win over Denver that was actually a more impressive overall performance than the one New England displayed during its 35-31 comeback victory over the visiting Baltimore Ravens.

Here are five keys that will determine whether New England, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick will get the chance to win a fourth Lombardi Trophy together or the Colts will make their first Super Bowl appearance since 2009.

**Patriots coaching staff vs. Colts coaching staff**

The anti-Belichick contingent probably envisions him behind the scenes singing his own praises like Vizzini in Princess Bride by saying to himself, “Have you ever heard of Lombardi, Shula, Walsh? Morons.” But all Spygate and Beli-cheat jokes aside, the man deserves his due. New England’s 35-31 victory over Baltimore in last Saturday night’s playoff game was Belichick at his finest. His decision to use an obscure offensive formation with only four linemen and a skill-position player declared ineligible caught Baltimore so off-guard that Ravens head coach John Harbaugh drew a personal-foul penalty by coming off the sideline to scream at the officials. The Patriots also dusted off a double-pass play last used by Belichick in 2001 (!!!) that resulted in a 51-yard touchdown toss from Julian Edelman to fellow wide receiver Danny Amendola. But the brilliance of New England’s coaches goes well beyond that. Their ability to make in-game adjustments remains second to none.

Realizing their ground attack was going nowhere against a staunch Ravens front seven, the Patriots didn’t call a single running play after 4:28 of the second quarter and it worked. New England overcame its second 14-point deficit of the game in the third quarter en route to victory. That’s another Patriots’ strength: maintaining composure and not panicking when falling behind.

But Chuck Pagano isn’t chopped liver as a head coach, either. Indianapolis has reached the postseason in all three of his seasons at the helm. Offensive coordinator Pep Hamilton has done such a nice job in the development of quarterback Andrew Luck that he has drawn consideration for NFL head coaching vacancies.

But there’s only so much time in a week for the Colts to prepare their players for what New England may unveil. Will the Patriots continue using the four-lineman formation? (Pagano called the NFL earlier this week to inquire about substitution rules.) Will they remain pass-happy? Will they revert to a running game that has brutally gashed Indianapolis in the past two matchups?

“蛭 have to be prepared for everything, obviously,” Pagano said in his Monday news conference. **Colts quarterback Andrew Luck vs. Patriots pass defense**

The comparisons between Luck and Denver quarterback Peyton Manning were a major story line entering last Sunday’s playoff game. Here’s another one that applies to the AFC title game: Luck has struggled against Belichick’s defenses as much as Manning did while playing for the Colts earlier in his career. Luck suffered blowout losses against New England in each of the past three seasons.

His inability to decipher New England’s scheme has contributed to Luck throwing eight interceptions and getting sacked 10 times in those contests. Luck, though, continues to mature as a quarterback at a rapid pace. He led the NFL in completions of 20-plus yards during the regular season with 85 and has the weapons to blister a Patriots defense that surrendered four touchdown passes last Saturday to Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco.

Wide receiver T.Y. Hilton as a slot receiver could be an especially effective target. Running back Boom Herron also could give Luck a boost by helping the Colts field a
somewhat credible rushing attack and remaining a receiving factor out of the backfield (he has 18 catches in the first two playoff games). But ultimately, patience and prudent decision-making to avoid turnovers will determine whether Luck finally breaks through against New England.

Patriots running game vs. Colts run defense

New England running back Jonas Gray was involved in the NFL’s wildest rags-to-riches-to-rags story of the 2014 campaign. Promoted from the practice squad at midseason, Gray barreled for 201 yards and four touchdowns against the Colts. Since arriving late to practice the week after the game, Gray has barely played since. He was inactive against Baltimore last Saturday after being listed as probable on New England’s injury report with an ankle ailment.

How much of a factor Gray will be Sunday is anyone’s guess. The Colts couldn’t have been thrilled when New England re-signed LeGarrette Blount following his in-season release by Pittsburgh. Blount steamrolled for 166 rushing yards and four touchdowns in New England’s divisional-round playoff win over Indianapolis last season. On the bright side for Indianapolis, the defense has shown improvement in stopping the run since the Patriots debacle. Defensive end Arthur Jones also is back in the lineup after being beaten for three touchdowns by Denver’s tight end in the season opener. Gronkowski, though, is a different animal -- especially with a healthy Brady firing him passes rather than the wobblers being thrown to Thomas by an ailing Manning.

Brady vs. Colts defense and playoff ghosts

Yes, Brady has two opponents in Sunday’s matchup. Tom Terrific wasn’t so in his past two AFC championship game appearances, both of which were Patriots losses. Brady, though, was at his best against Baltimore last week in a 367-yard passing performance that included three scoring throws and a touchdown scamper. As the Broncos did, expect the Colts to try to disrupt New England’s short passing game. The 37-year-old Brady’s accuracy on deep throws has diminished with age (although not nearly as much as Manning’s). Seattle’s Richard Sherman is the Seattle’s Richard Sherman is the

Patriots tight ends vs. Colts tight ends

I know, I know. They don’t defend one another. But which team gets more production out of the position should go a long way toward determining Sunday’s winner. Coby Fleener and Dwayne Allen became the first pair of tight ends in Colts history to each score eight touchdowns in the same season. Fleener has developed into the better receiver, but don’t sell Allen short in that category. Indianapolis also gets production out of a third tight end in scrappy Jack Doyle.

Fleener had a career-high 144 receiving yards on seven catches the last time he played New England, and that was without the Patriots having to worry about Allen, who missed the game because of an ankle injury. Fleener’s production in that contest was statistically better than that of Rob Gronkowski, but don’t sell short the impact made by New England’s star tight end. Besides running through five Colts tackle attempts on a 26-yard touchdown catch, Gronkowski played a key role in New England’s 246-yard rushing effort with his blocking.

The most poignant image representing the Patriots’ physical dominance was Gronkowski drive-blocking Colts safety Sergio Brown off the field and into a camera cart (drawing a 15-yard penalty in the process) on Gray’s fourth touchdown run. The Colts did a nice job keeping Julius Thomas in check last Sunday after being beaten for three touchdowns by Denver’s tight end in the season opener. Gronkowski, though, is a different animal -- especially with a healthy Brady firing him passes rather than the wobblers being thrown to Thomas by an ailing Manning.

Brady vs. Colts defense and playoff ghosts

Yes, Brady has two opponents in Sunday’s matchup. Tom Terrific wasn’t so in his past two AFC championship game appearances, both of which were Patriots losses. Brady, though, was at his best against Baltimore last week in a 367-yard passing performance that included three scoring throws and a touchdown scamper. As the Broncos did, expect the Colts to try to disrupt New England’s short passing game. The 37-year-old Brady’s accuracy on deep throws has diminished with age (although not nearly as much as Manning’s). Seattle’s Richard Sherman is the关停ard who is getting the most attention entering this weekend’s games, but Indianapolis’ Vontae Davis is playing at an equally high level. Look for the Patriots to try to isolate Colts strong safety LaRon Landry in coverage, where he is often a liability.
Need a FREE Ride
to your favorite Tavern, Restaurant, Pub or Neighborhood Business?

Arrange a FREE ride - It’s easy!

Call Us at 617-268-4110 or
Book Your Ride at SouthieShuttle.com

Visit SouthieShuttle.com for
Business Members and Active Links for Menus, Hours of Service, & Locations

Like, Follow, Connect

FREE Ride Service To and From Any of Our Business Members

Barlow’s Restaurant  
241 A Street  
Boston, MA 02210  
617-338-2142

Stephi’s in Southie  
130 Dorchester Avenue  
South Boston, MA 02127  
617-345-5195

Lincoln Tavern & Restaurant  
425 West Broadway  
Boston, MA 02127  
617-765-8636

Lucky’s Lounge  
355 Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02210  
617-357-LUCK

Atlantic Beer Garden  
146 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02210  
617-357-8000

The Whiskey Priest  
150 Northern Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210  
617-426-8114

The Playwright  
658 East Broadway  
South Boston, MA 02127  
617-269-2537

Empire Restaurant & Lounge  
One Marina Park Drive  
Boston, MA 02201  
617-295-0001

Jerry Remy’s Seaport  
250 Northern Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210  
617-856-7369

Two Opticians  
394 West Broadway  
South Boston, MA 02127  
617-268-9999

SOUTHIE shuttle

SouthieShuttle.com • 617-268-4110

For Announcements, News, and Promotions