



## \$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 investors. It is expected that 30% of the buyers of the newly

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This Week's Poll  
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# EDITORIAL “Mercy?”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
SBT Staff Report

Where and what would Sean Collier be today? Probably realizing his life long dream of becoming a Somerville Police Officer. He’d probably be in a football pool with his colleagues anxiously, like the rest of us, awaiting the Super Bowl. Maybe even going to a Bowl Party, but probably, because he’d almost still be a rookie, he would have to work a shift during the game. Only his family can say how many family events he’s missed.

The three murdered and 260 wounded were the act alone of two maggot brothers who kept their plans to themselves until the attack had taken place, at least it seems that way. But after the fact at least some of their fellow ingrates knew. Ingrates who were welcomed into and given all the benefits this country “we know who attacked your kind and generous nation”? No, they sat back, laughed, smoked pot and disposed of any incriminating evidence. They could have maybe have saved Sean.

When America called for help, they lied. MIT police officer, Sean Collier died. Now the only American in the bunch, (even if he is from Cambridge) who should have known better is wailing that his sentence of 8 years is too long. He should come back in 8 years and ask the Collier family if it’s long enough.



*“Why are our media and president so quick to find evil in our police but not in Islamic terror” - Gregg Gutfeld, FOX News*

## This Week’s Poll

### Do You Think The New Property Tax Bills Are Fair?

# Yes / No



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# The Information Center



## American Sniper/Protestors in Barrels/Serenading the Terrorists

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
John Ciccone

Note: talk back to John Ciccone by email at [jciccone@southbostontoday.com](mailto:jciccone@southbostontoday.com)

If you haven't yet gone to the theatre to see this year's biggest hit movie, it's worth more than the price of admission to see Clint Eastwood's 'American Sniper'. I don't go to many movies. Personally, I look at most of what Hollywood produces now as less than second rate and Tinsletown's attempt to cheapen American culture. But Eastwood out did himself with this one. When spellbound audiences rise to their feet and give standing ovations continuously throughout the film not much more needs to be said. We live in an era in our nation when most of what Hollywood shovels at us is done with the goal of turning us against our own country, attempting to rewrite America's proud history and more often than not, making our military look evil. American Sniper gives a true, accurate account of

what our troops are called upon to do in defense of our freedom, the sacrifices they make and the dangers they face and does so all while treating them with the respect they deserve. It's called reality. It's a true story about one of America's heroes: US Navy SEAL, Chris Kyle.

I said seeing this film is worth 'more than the price of admission' and here's why. Not only will you be entertained by one of the most well directed, action filled, reality based movies ever made, but the more people that go to see it (tens of millions of Americans already) the crazier you can help drive all the Hollywood leftists, who are having meltdowns and near strokes, furious because American Sniper is so successful and popular. It brightens the day of many of us when America haters like MSNBC's Ed Shultz, Seth Rogen,

Michael 'the dirt bag' Moore and all the other bottom feeders in Hollywood and other liberal media are about to have their heads explode. Now of course, if American Sniper portrayed our troops as crazed racist killers and the terrorists as compassionate and noble heroes, the critics would fall all over themselves praising it. But thankfully there are still a few in Hollywood - Clint Eastwood chief among them - that refuse to be part of Hollywood's perverted culture. God Bless you Clint. May you stay around for many more years.

This is the first column since the fiasco on RT 93 last week, where protestors attached themselves to cement filled barrels and blocked traffic, nearly causing the death of an 83 year old veteran in an ambulance being rushed to the hospital. They were protesting the

usual: white people from the suburbs, the rich, racism, cops, capitalism, SUV's, the price of marshmallow fluff etc... The cops were taken by surprise by the whole thing and were unprepared at first as to how to clear the protestors off the road and free up traffic. In hindsight, here is a suggestion: If the same thing were to happen again, immediately bring in front end loaders, scoop up the smelly protestors and move them to the sides of the road and just leave them there. They got themselves stuck in the barrels. It will be up to them to get themselves out. It then becomes their problem and not the commuters. Come spring time, if they are still on the side of the road in their barrels, they can be a tourist attraction, much like a zoo exhibit. If they did manage to free themselves on their own

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## Rep. Collins Sworn In For A Third Term

On January 7, 2015, Representative Nick Collins was sworn in for his third term. While expecting

some cooperation with the newly elected Governor Charlie Baker, Rep. Collins acknowledges that the Governor enjoyed wide support from his District. He expects to have a good working relationship with the executive branch, mindful however that the interests of his constituents take precedence.

Speaker Robert DeLeo easily won a fourth, two-year term as speaker on a party line vote, 125-35. The speaker thanked the departing Governor Patrick for his service and friendship and pledged to work cooperatively with Governor Elect Baker.

DeLeo offered no specifics on his agenda, pledging to spell out his priorities in a separate speech later this month. Amid the pomp: questions about whether DeLeo will try to change an eight-year term limit on speakers that would force him to step down at the end of the new legislative session in January 2017.

Rep. Collins and other legislators now await their new committee assignments.

## Letter To The Editor

### Who will the mayor choose?

An abutters meeting held Monday January 12 at the Gate of Heaven School building left most people basically shaking their head. As expected – the overwhelming majority of abutters, neighbors and residents oppose turning the Gate of Heaven School building into high-end luxury condos.

At the meeting, the developer publicly admitted to having closed door meetings with the Mayor and city councilors at city hall. Also, closed door meetings between the developer's community liaisons and other City Hall officials have come to light.

Last year, a poll posted in the South Boston Today newspaper, over 97% of people voted in opposition to the luxury condo proposal and in support of a charter school. Mayor Walsh's own Office of Neighborhood Services did its own poll of abutters and 85% of abutters opposed the high-end luxury condo project. Despite efforts of some to discourage certain interested charter schools, there are other charter schools, who want to locate at the GOH school building.

Last May, Mayor Walsh acknowledged the overwhelming opposition and shared his own opposition to the high-end luxury condo project in the Boston Business Journal saying, "There's been a lot of push back on the Gate of Heaven proposal. It's another concern about over-development in South Boston. When you have a project like that with so much controversy, it's really hard to move forward. It's not like the community is split over it." This was in response to a neighborhood meeting with over 700 people in attendance, all of whom opposed the high end luxury condo proposal, on top of the fact that nearly 1,000 signatures have been gathered in opposition as well.

The fact is that the only beneficiary of luxury condo development is the developer and associates. There are zoning laws for a reason. Changing the rules to favor the chosen few is not what was expected from our new Mayor especially with so much public opposition.

The question is...will Mayor Walsh support the people of this vital South Boston neighborhood? ...or go against the neighborhood and instead hand this community resource over to a luxury condo developer and his associates?

**South Boston Resident,**  
Matt Kennedy

CONTINUED FROM front page

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 said 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.

Take this week's poll on taxes online at southbostontoday.com

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# Reading Between The Lines

## “Tase Them”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Brian R. Mahoney

Note: talk back to Brian by email at [bmahoney@southbostontoday.com](mailto:bmahoney@southbostontoday.com)

How, if you were a police officer, would you take into custody, a 6' 5", 350 lb. resisting suspect? Shooting might be seen as over reaction, so would a night stick be better? Although the visuals of six cops clubbing a suspect to submission might rekindle memories of the Rodney King Incident, simply swarming the suspect with overwhelming numbers, as in New York with Eric Garner, isn't always a solution either. The police, obviously, cannot just walk away if the suspect is belligerent and announces, "You're not taking me", so what are they to do?

Think back about a year or so ago to a video being played on most stations. In a courtroom, somewhere in America, an unruly spectator refused to comply with an order and officers were moving in to take action. A voice is then heard exclaiming, "don't tase me bro". This is immediately followed by a scream as the agitator is lit up with some high voltage from a Taser gun. Without sounding too crue, it was kind of amusing and satisfying to know the culprit had to pay some kind of penalty for his unsocial behavior, painful but not a permanent physical punishment.

For reasons, not easily understandable, the Mayor of New York, (raised in Cambridge), has 35,000 officers but only 400 Tasers in the police inventory because the Mayor thinks they're "oppressive". If Tasers had been used Eric Garner is probably alive and much of the disruption caused by these trouble makers, searching for a cause, is avoided.

Recently, many citizens were

unable to enter Boston due to the actions of groups of criminals who conspired to block entry into the City. Besides lives that were jeopardized because emergency or life saving treatment was denied or delayed, all of the work, education, medical research that is conducted in the city was prevented for an extended period of time. Even one day's delay might mean life or death to someone. Who are these criminals to think they have the right to make those delays?

Unfortunately, like clever little rats finding the one weak point into a building, the criminals stopped a rental truck on the highway as it enters the city. They rolled out barrels filled with 1200 pounds of cement. A 3 foot section of PVC pipe was previously inserted in the side of these barrels. Deep inside of the PVC a bolt, similar to a rung, had been inserted. The criminals inserted their arms, up to the armpit, in the PVC and held on to the rung and refused to release their hold.

The police had limited options. Amputating limbs would have been messy. In addition, perhaps, some folks would have complained. Attempting to club their arms or bodies also might raise objections. However a good shock might do the trick. It might jolt some sense into their, otherwise, empty heads. How quickly do you think they would have released their "death grip" in the barrel with a couple of volts coursing through their bodies? If it doesn't work at least it's an "A" for effort and no harm no foul.

Wishful thinking aside, a Taser may be the most effective,

non-lethal, tool the police have. The biggest objection is that a Taser is too effective and its prompt deployment brings a quick

end to the "fun" these criminals seem to find in causing problems for a law abiding society.

*Take care till next week.*

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## POLL: Half of Boston Area Residents Support Olympics Bid

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

By Andy Metzger

### STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Boston area residents support the idea of bringing the summer Olympics to the region by a 51 to 33 percent margin, while 75 percent believe the question should be put to voters with a referendum, according to a MassINC Polling Group survey.

Respondents to the WBUR-sponsored poll were skeptical that private funds could finance the endeavor (29 percent) as a majority believes public dollars would need to be used (53 percent).

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, an Olympics backer who does not support a referendum, enjoys a 74/6 favorable/unfavorable approval rating in his city, and a 66/5 favorable/unfavorable in the area inside and around Route 128. The

U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) fare worse in the public's estimation, with the USOC receiving a 45/13 in the region and the IOC at 35/20.

The poll of 507 registered voters involved surveys in the middle of last week and has an overall 4.9 percent margin of error, with a 6.7 percent margin among the Boston residents who responded..

WBUR noted support for the successful bids by London for the 2012 games and Rio de Janeiro for the 2016 games was much higher than the results of last week's survey. In a 2004 IOC poll, 68 percent of Londoners supported holding the games, and in 2009, 84.5 percent of Rio residents backed the games.

Boston 2024, the group pushing the Olympics bid, has released little information about the specifics of their proposal, contributing to a lack of understanding of how the games might play out in the area.

Republicans are the most supportive

of the games, backing them 58/30 and unenrolled voters are the least supportive at 49/35. Drawing off of Walsh's own prediction that most Bostonians are "excited" about the bid, WBUR found 48 percent of city residents are excited.

Demographically, those earning more than \$150,000 are more excited (59 percent) than lower earners, as are those with some college education (65 percent), and women ages 18-49 (62 percent).

Sen. Eileen Donoghue, a Lowell Democrat and top supporter of bringing the Olympics to the Boston area, said Tuesday she had not yet seen the poll.

"I can tell you that, you know, in my experience I've heard from lots of people who are supportive and a lot of people want to get more information," Donoghue said. "So it may be early to gauge support until people have the full details. We're looking forward to bringing the details and the conversation to the people of the Commonwealth."

Donoghue noted Boston 2024

has convened a citizen's advisory group and its first meeting was held Wednesday January 21 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Donoghue said the meeting is the "first of many," with Mayor Walsh separately planning nine community meetings, including one scheduled for Jan. 27.

"I think our bid is a very strong one, it's one that I think will benefit the Commonwealth, not just for bringing the games, but for economic development, transportation infrastructure, all of these conversations that we should be having anyway," she added. "And so I think it's an opportunity to really engage with the public on discussions of not only priorities but where are we going over the next ten years." Asked about the poll pointing to residents desiring a referendum, Donoghue said, "Referendums are always a conversation to have with the people if there's an interest in doing that."

[Gintautas Dumcius contributed reporting]

### CONTINUED FROM page 3

from the barrels, sentence them to fines to pay the taxpayers back and one year of labor on a chain gang cleaning the same road that they tied up. That should even the score nicely.

A side note on all of this is the now exposed alleged ring leader of this bunch, one Mr. Noah McKenna. Some of the stated beefs of Mr. McKenna, he of the dirty dreadlocks and less than perfect personal hygiene, according to WRKO reporters who visited his home with questions, are rich people, Wall Street, Capitalists etc. Yet, McKenna

himself lives in a 1.5 million dollar home on a private drive and went to Bard University with a tuition costing more than \$63,000 per year. No one at this newspaper begrudges anyone of wealth and success, but here is this apparently well off individual condemning and causing problems for working people just trying to get to their jobs. How do you spell hypocrite?

And finally this week, can the foreign policy of the Obama Regime get any more wimpy and inept? Our country and much of the world is at war with savages and crazed killers,

who are plotting the mass destruction of any and all who do not believe as they do. These are terrorists who only respect and fear strength, power and the willingness to use it. Yes, radical Islam. Just because Obama refuses to say the words doesn't mean we can't. After the brutal attacks in France, instead of showing that strength and projecting that power and determination they send John Kerry to Paris who says he brings 'hugs all around' to show support for France. Also in tow was 1970's folk singer James Taylor to serenade the French with a song: 'You've got a

Friend'. No offense to Mr. Taylor, but millions of Americans were cringing in embarrassment at this spectacle and we can only imagine how hard the terrorists were laughing. But a message recently came across social media sites that suggest Kerry isn't done yet. He has a plan to put an end to the reign of terror and violence by the 'Jihadists'. He is preparing to send Diana Ross and the Supremes to meet ISIS and Al Qaeda leaders, where they will sing 'Stop, in the Name of Love'. Problem solved. The world will be at peace once again.

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# Committee Releases Detailed Waterfront Transportation Plan

A committee made up of the leadership of MassDOT, the City of Boston, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the Massachusetts Port Authority, and A Better City today released a transportation plan with a set of recommendations designed to increase public transit; reduce traffic congestion; provide more pedestrian, water transportation, and bicycle options; improve accessibility for persons with disabilities; and improve the public realm in the South Boston Waterfront district. The South Boston Waterfront Sustainable Transportation Plan was created to meet the increasing and changing transportation needs of the rapidly growing Waterfront district while preserving the quality of life for neighboring residential communities.

The Plan and an executive summary can be found here: <http://www.sbwaterfrontmobility.org/>

"This plan is a blueprint for the future of an emerging Boston neighborhood. These recommendations will improve the

transportation serving the South Boston Waterfront and allow the district to continue its powerful role in our economy while reducing any impact on the quality of life of the residents of South Boston and the Fort Point communities," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "I commend the agencies and my team for proactively coming together, bringing their expertise, and continuing to engage stakeholders and residents to create a set of transportation recommendations that will help move the South Boston Waterfront district and the entire City of Boston forward into the future."

Growth in the South Boston Waterfront has accelerated in recent years, and projections are showing future development adding more than 17 million square feet in the Waterfront a 72 percent increase from the current status that will add approximately 9,200 new residents and 22,900 new jobs by 2035. Added to this will be the growth of the port and maritime activities, and a doubling of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and hotel inventory. This will increase the total transportation trips with origins and / or destinations in the Waterfront by as much as 63 percent during peak commuter hours.

Knowing that portions of the

current transportation system in the Waterfront are nearing capacity, the Committee created a plan that provides immediate, mid-term, and long-term recommendations to improve transit; highways and streets; and pedestrian, water, and bicycle mobility serving the district as well as increased accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The Plan builds upon the successes of the South Boston Waterfront district and seeks to ensure its ability to reach its full potential as both a vital economic engine and a vibrant neighborhood by defining and prioritizing transportation investments, influencing people's travel behaviors, and improving the public realm. The Plan's major goals are to:

- Improve access and mobility for all– Improve multi-modal access to and from the South Boston Waterfront as well as improve mobility within the district for residents, workers, maritime-related commerce, and visitors
- Support economic growth and vitality– Deliver the transportation infrastructure needed to support a world-class economy
- Reinforce sustainable policies and programs– Align programs and policies to support more sustainable transportation choices and demand management to and within the South Boston Waterfront

- Enhance the public realm – Contribute to enhancing the attractiveness and quality of the urban character through ongoing transportation investment
- Contribute environmental and health benefits– Realize the positive environmental effects and health benefits that result from a more sustainable transportation plan
- Invest smartly for the future– Advance strategic investment in the South Boston Waterfront to ensure the longer-term financial and operational sustainability of its transportation system

"Transportation isn't just about moving people from one place to another," said MassDOT Acting Secretary & CEO Frank A. DePaola. "Congestion, lack of parking, and inadequate public transit can significantly and negatively impact the local and regional economy. The proposal we put forward today includes a host of ways in which, working together, we can ensure that the South Boston Waterfront remains a vibrant and accessible community."

The immediate actions the Plan recommends happen within six months are:

- Make improvements to the Silver Line in the form of signal priority at the D Street intersection and having

**CONTINUED ON page 8**

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CONTINUED FROM page 7

real time arrival and departure information;

- Consolidate the private shuttles that service the area;
- Design I-93 access improvements at Purchase Street;
- Improve striping on D Street leading to the I-90 on-ramp for better traffic flow;
- In conjunction with private development, initiate construction of streetscape and improve circulation of Northern Avenue and East Service Road, including new north-south connecting streets;
- Conduct a six-month pilot on the expanded use of South Boston Bypass Road from Richards Street to West Service Road at all times, and from I-93 to Richards Street on the eastbound route in the AM peak only;
- Conduct a six-month pilot on access for all vehicles on northbound HOV from I-93 to the Ted Williams Tunnel;
- Make local neighborhood pedestrian and intersection improvements;
- Place new Hubway stations and determine a process for developing more extensive bicycle accommodations;
- Focus on traffic and parking enforcement and implement new technology for on-street short-term parking;
- Provide ongoing progress updates to the community.

"The current transportation systems serving the South Boston Waterfront are being stressed every day thanks to the incredible growth and popularity our district has realized in a short time," said James E. Rooney, executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. "As a committee, we worked together with valued input from stakeholders and residents to develop and put forward these strong recommendations that will meet the needs of the residents, commuters, and visitors who live, work, and convene in this important part of our city and our economy."

The development of the Plan began in December of 2013 and was overseen by a steering committee made up of the leadership of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the

City of Boston, the Massachusetts Port Authority, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, and A Better City. An interagency working group was formed to guide the technical elements of the Plan development and ensure interagency consensus. Stakeholder and community input has been a part of the process since the inception of the Plan. A Better City serves as project manager and facilitated the development of the Plan. The engineering and planning firm VHB studied and forecasted demand and developed the technical aspects to meet future needs, which serve as the basis of the Plan. The development of the Plan was supported by generous donations from area businesses.

"The Waterfront district is a unique driver of our economy in that it's a major industrial port, a rapidly growing business district, and a hub of business and leisure tourism," said Massport CEO, Thomas P. Glynn. "A major part of this plan is built on our listening to the residents, employers, industries, agencies, and other stakeholders that work and live in the district, and incorporating their feedback into these final recommendations."

The planning process focused on the "study area," the South Boston Waterfront district, and the "impact area," made up of the adjacent residential neighborhoods of South Boston and the Fort Point Channel.

A major part of the planning effort involved public engagement and input early in the process through a comprehensive Public Involvement Plan. This public process facilitated a dialogue on the issues and opportunities facing the South Boston Waterfront from multiple perspectives including the residents of South Boston and the Fort Point Channel communities, employers and employees in the South Boston Waterfront district, maritime and industrial businesses, agencies, advocacy groups, and neighborhood associations. There were five public meetings to inform and seek input on the plan.

"We developed and implemented a solid and thorough process to create this blueprint for a modern,

sustainable transportation system that will serve the residents, commuters, businesses, and industries in the Waterfront district that are vital to the economies of Boston and the Commonwealth," said Richard A. Dimino, president & CEO of A Better City. "This plan represents a successful effort built on residents, stakeholders, the business community, and government working together toward a common goal of creating a better future."

The Plan is the first step in fulfilling a long-term vision for the South Boston Waterfront. The process to implement the plan will be developed by the sponsoring agencies that will create an organizational structure to refine the recommendations, define a prioritization and finance plan for the phased implementation of the recommendations, advocate for and execute the improvements, and monitor the progress.

The Plan and an executive summary can be found here: <http://www.sbwaterfrontmobility.org>

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON SITE CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES

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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\\_viewer/](http://public.dep.state.ma.us/wsc_viewer/).

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 [ebankey@massport.com](mailto:ebankey@massport.com).



# Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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

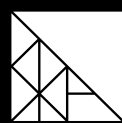
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**BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**COMMUNITY MEETING**

## 9 CHANNEL CENTER

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**100 WEST 2ND STREET**

Lewis Gallery, First Floor  
 South Boston, MA 02127

**PROJECT PROPONENT:**

Berkeley

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Berkeley Investments, Inc in their Notice of Project Change propose to rehabilitate the existing building at 9 Channel Center with approximately 6,687 sf of Other uses (e.g. retail or restaurant) at the ground level and 65,875 sf of Office Uses on the upper six levels, for a total of approximately 72,562 sf of gross floor area. As required under PDA Plan No. 53, at least 36 parking spaces will be provided for 9 Channel Center at the Channel Center Garage.

MAIL TO: **GARY UTER**  
 Boston Redevelopment Authority  
 One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
 Boston, MA 02201

PHONE: 617.918.4457  
 EMAIL: Gary.Uter@Boston.gov

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:**  
 Friday, February 6, 2015



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## Massport Uses Air Traffic Control Tool To Reduce Noise

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced it will resume late night and early morning opposite direction operations, weather permitting, beginning this week at Boston Logan International Airport, and other facilities around the nation. The so-called “head-to-head” procedure is used during times of very low demand and directs aircraft over water. This should result in reduced flight noise over several communities surrounding Logan during the late night and early morning period, as more flights will be routed over Boston Harbor.

The head-to-head procedure was halted nationally last June by the FAA to review the procedure. When in use at Logan, the procedure has aircraft departing from Runway 15R and landing on Runway 33L during the late night (typically midnight to 5 a.m.) and when weather conditions are appropriate, including good visibility and little wind.

“We thank the FAA for its safety review of the procedure and for the decision to include it in its air traffic procedures because it is effective in reducing noise,” said Ed Freni, Director of Aviation. “For decades, Massport has worked to reduce the impacts of noise on residents near the airport.”

Sustained airplane-related noise is down markedly in the last 15 years for two main reasons. Even as the number of New Englanders who use Logan continues to rise, the number of flights is down. In 2000, more than 27 million people used Logan and there were 487,966 flights. In 2013, 30.2 million people used Logan and there were 361,339 flights. Additionally, aircraft and engine technology have improved and made planes much quieter. In 1990, more than 44,000 people surrounding Logan lived within the highest noise levels defined by the FAA’s 65 day/night decibel noise level or greater. In 2013, that number had dropped to 4,307.

Boston Logan is 30 minutes from the intersection of Route 128 and I-90 and 10 minutes from downtown Boston, and serves as the gateway to the New England region and offers nonstop service to 76 domestic and 42 international destinations and in 2013 handled more than 30 million passengers. Boston Logan is served by two public transit lines and is the Air Line Pilot Association’s Airport of the Year for 2008 because of its commitment to safety. Over the past decade, the airport spent \$4.5 billion on a modernization program that includes new terminals, public transportation access, parking facilities, roadways and airport concessions, and has been transformed into a world-class 21st Century facility. The airport generates \$8 billion in total economic impact each year.

## ABCD provides EITC info, tax prep and financial counseling

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. and a coalition of partner agencies are ready to support local residents with access to FREE tax preparation services that include filing for the Earned Income Tax Credit. ABCD urges applicants to book their appointments NOW and benefit from the FREE tax assistance program that runs until April 15, 2015. ABCD encourages low-income families and seniors to increase their federal and state income tax returns by using this useful service.

For over 25 years ABCD has provided thousands of individuals, families, and seniors with FREE tax help preparation across the city. In partnership with Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s Boston Tax Help Coalition and a host of community partners and volunteers making up the Boston Tax Help Coalition that was started more than 13 years ago, ABCD serves as a critical part of the national Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program in Massachusetts.

January 30 is National EITC Awareness Day. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the federal and state income tax credit available to low- and moderate-income working families and individuals. “Qualified hard working low-wage workers often receive significant EITC credits and see a big increase in their tax returns,” said John J. Drew, ABCD President/CEO. “This is money that can directly help low-income residents who work hard for their money. It can be used to pay the heat, food and rent costs that are weighing people down,” he said.

He noted that the EITC credit can be accessed retroactively for the past three years, so qualifying low-income workers may qualify for a considerable sum. “We have had people who were homeless who were able to pay first and last months’ rent on an apartment and change their lives,” he said. “We’ve had working students

who could finally purchase books for college. You don’t want to miss out on EITC!” Families, individuals, and seniors who meet financial guidelines are eligible for tax credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit. Those eligible for the EITC also receive a 15 percent match on their state return.

Seniors may also qualify for additional dollars via Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

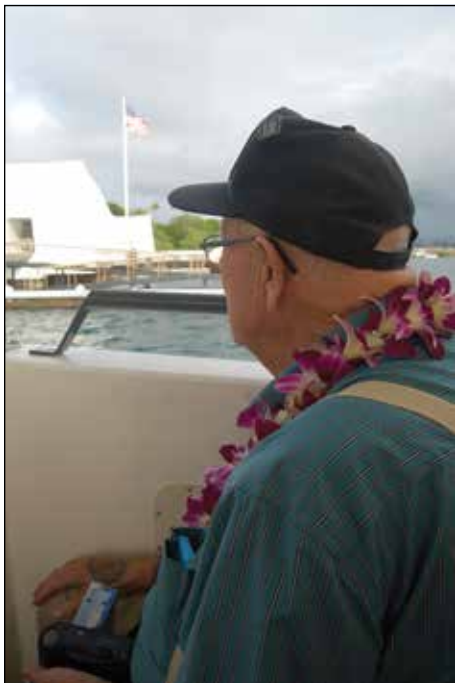
Seniors aged 65 and older may be eligible to receive up to \$1050 in tax refunds from the State of Massachusetts through the “Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit”. This credit is available to all eligible seniors who pay unsubsidized rent or property taxes and is retroactive for three years. The “Senior Circuit Breaker” offers a tremendous financial opportunity for those who qualify. It is important to note that seniors must file a tax return in order to receive the Senior Circuit Breaker credit even if they do not owe taxes.

The IRS estimates one out of five eligible taxpayers will not claim EITC and lose out on this important credit. To help ensure everyone gets the EITC and other credits that they qualify for ABCD is offering FREE tax preparation provided by IRS-trained professional tax volunteers, available for people of low and moderate income at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout Boston. Taxpayers can avoid refund anticipation products that offer immediate refund cash at high interest rates or the service fees associated with prepaid debit cards offered by paid practitioners. Citizens do not have to pay for services they can get for free.

New this year! A Federal Health Insurance Mandate through the Affordable Care Act

Even though health insurance has been required for Massachusetts residents since 2007 tax filings, the Federal health insurance mandate takes affect this year through the Affordable Care Act. ABCD has been a leader in promoting access to health insurance and understanding the tax law as part of this effort. To date, many Massachusetts residents are already covered. However, our network of community coordination sites throughout Boston can help qualified

**CONTINUED ON page 12**



## South Boston's Ed Hamilton Honored at Pearl Harbor

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Staff Report

It was meant to be a beautiful family vacation on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu for Edward Hamilton and several members of his family. It turned out to be all of that and much more - a trip that will never be forgotten by any of them. Ed's daughter Laura Hamilton McDonagh and her husband Colie were there to celebrate 38 years of a beautiful marriage and would renew their

vows on the beach. Joining them on vacation were their son Ross and his wife Christina. They planned it to be a combined vacation and anniversary celebration. But beyond that, Ed Hamilton, who will turn 90 in August, wanted to visit Pearl Harbor where he served in the US Navy during WWII, not to mention 9 major battle areas in other parts of the Pacific.

On the family's itinerary was a stop

at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center to observe a special event called 'A Tribute to Military Families', which is a way for visitors to learn more about the military and to connect with veterans, service members and their families. But when the Navy brass learned that they had a WWII Navy veteran, who actually served at Pearl Harbor during that war among the crowd, it turn out to be much more than that (He served from 1942-1947).

Edwin Hamilton became the center of attraction and the Navy brass and the crowd itself loved it. This was the first time Ed had been back to Pearl Harbor since 1946 and the return was emotional. He shared his experiences with the crowd and it was fascinating to all present. He carried a photo of part of his crew when he served aboard the destroyer, USS Bennett. He carried that photo along with a picture of his late wife Melba Hamilton, who passed on a few years ago. The band then played 'Anchors Away' in his honor, appropriate and very much appreciated by all. Ed was even asked to share details by one of the Navy's historians and chaplains.

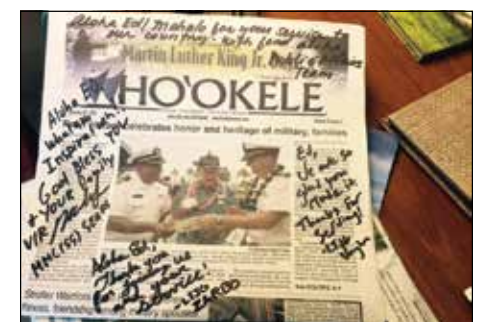
The local Honolulu news media got wind of the honored visitor on board and interviewed Ed and his family and asked him to share more information of the time. He even appeared on the front page of Waikiki's Hookele Newspaper. But it wasn't just print media. Local TV and radio also picked up on it and ran with the story. And now, Ed Hamilton of South Boston became an instant and honored celebrity all over the island. People who saw the broadcasts and the print stories would approach him along the board walks, beaches and in restaurants to shake his hand, thank him for his service and yes, there was even a request for autographs, all of which Ed just took in stride and continued to enjoy the family vacation.

But, there is more. He was congratulated in the various restaurants where he was told that his money was no good and the meals were on the house. And the hotel made it a point to treat Ed and his family like royalty and the visiting dignitary that in a

sense, he certainly was. In fact, the Hamilton/McDonagh family was overwhelmed with kindness and well wishes from one end of Oahu to the other. It was apparent just how much Americans appreciate our veterans, members of the WWII Greatest Generation.

Ed Hamilton has long been and still is a well-respected man about town with countless friends who happily exchange greetings with this good man where ever and whenever they see him. He has always been considered a good neighbor, a loyal South Bostonian and most important, a dedicated family man. So it's not surprising that when the people of Hawaii got the chance to meet him personally, they too took a liking to him. He credits and is grateful to his family for putting together this wonderful vacation, since it's long been his desire to return to Pearl Harbor someday. His daughter Laura said the following when asked by South Boston Today how she felt about the whole experience: "It's something that will stay with all of us forever. Seeing how kind everyone was to my father really touched all of our hearts and we thank the Lord that this vacation went as it did. One of the most important things in life is for family members to honor their parents and it was definitely an honor to be able to travel back to Pearl Harbor with my Dad". When asked how he felt about the experience he stated simply "Coming back to Pearl Harbor brought mixed emotions, the memories were both difficult and fond. But, most of all it was fun."

Ed Hamilton made such an impression with the United States Navy Brass that he has received an official invitation to return next year for Pearl Harbor Day. There are many there who are hoping he chooses to do just that.





## South Boston's BRENDAN O'BRIEN TAKES THE STAGE 'STUART LITTLE- THE MUSICAL'

**H**e sings! He dances! He goes sailing in Central Park! He's Stuart Little- the tiny mouse with a big personality and an even bigger sense of adventure. Boston Children's Theatre (BCT) is proud to present this charming, engaging and hilarious production of STUART LITTLE-THE MUSICAL featuring 7-year old Brendan O'Brien of South Boston. The production runs from January 31 through February 8 at the Cambridge YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge.

No stranger to the stage, Brendan was last seen in BCT's production of Pippin in the role of 'Theo.' He has also appeared in Aladdin at BCT and in The Lion King and The Little Mermaid with the 4th Presbyterian Church in South Boston. Brendan is a second grader at the Condon School.

In this family-friendly musical, audiences will meet Stuart Little, a small mouse born into a human family in New York City with his brother George and the family's spiteful cat Snowbell. Based on the classic children's book by E.B. White, STUART LITTLE- THE MUSICAL follows the little mouse as he bravely navigates his way in a human world.

"Boston Children's Theatre has always been committed to providing a welcoming and creative environment for people of all

ages to experience live theatre," explained BCT Executive Artistic Director Burgess Clark. "When children enter the theater for the first time and see their favorite book magically come to life on stage, it is a feeling that cannot be described. I chose Stuart Little for that very reason. It's a perfect title to introduce children to the wonders of theater and to help foster a potentially life long love and appreciation of the arts. It's also incredibly funny and entertaining!"

STUART LITTLE- THE MUSICAL is directed by visiting artist Peter Ellenstein, an award-winning director, producer and educator. Ellenstein comes from a theatrical family and has spent 35 years in professional theatre, film and television as an Artistic Director, Producing Director, producer, director, consultant, actor and teacher. For the last 20 plus years he has held leadership positions in prominent theatres and academic organizations and consulted with many theatres and educational institutions, most recently as the Artistic Director of the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, Kansas. The production also features choreography by Nicole Soriano and musical direction by Mindy Cimini. STUART LITTLE- THE MUSICAL is based on the book by E.B. White and adapted by Joseph Robinette with music by Ronna Frank and lyrics by Joseph Robinette and Ronna Frank.

STUART LITTLE- THE MUSICAL will be performed at the Cambridge YMCA, 820 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA. Performances are January 31 at 2 pm, February 1 at 2 pm and 4 pm, and February 7 and 8 at 2 pm and 4 pm. Tickets are \$27 and can be purchased by visiting [www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org](http://www.bostonchildrenstheatre.org) or calling the BCT Box Office at 617-424-6634, x222. Grandparents Packages are also available that include 2 tickets to the show, a special souvenir and a photo with the cast. School matinee performances are also on sale through the BCT Box

Office. STUART LITTLE- THE MUSICAL is supported by BCT's 2014-2015 Presenting Sponsor WGBH.



### SOUTH BOSTON BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE REGISTRATION

*South Boston Lacrosse will be holding registration for the 2015 season for the Boys & Girls teams at the following locations, dates and times.*

**Date Saturday January 24th at the Murphy Hockey Rink 9:00am – 11:00am**

**Date Saturday February 7th at the Murphy Hockey Rink 9:00am – 11:00am**

**Date Sunday February 25th at the Walsh Gym/PALGym 11:00am – 1:00pm**

**Date Sunday February 8th at the Walsh Gym/PALGym 11:00am – 1:00pm**

There will be 4 Boys & 4 Girls teams this year.

- 15 and under/7th & 8th Grade - Boys & Girls - U15 Player is Under 15 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season.
- 13 and under/5th & 6th Grade - Boys & Girls - U13 - Player is Under 13 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season.
- 11 and under/3rd & 4th Grade - Boys & Girls - U11 - Player is Under 11 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season
- 9 and under Instructional/Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade - Boys & Girls - U9 - Player is Under 9 years of age as of January 1st prior to start of season.

We will be charging the following fees for the 2015 season. Boy's U15, U13, U11 - \$150.00 and U9 - instructional - \$50.00, The U9 instructional will be a house league team, no travel, practice and games on Saturdays. Girl's U15, U13, U11 - \$100.00, U9 Instructional - \$50.00. The fee will pay for uniforms, insurance and the cost of the officials for the season. You will need to make the full payment at the time of registration to hold a spot on the roster. Each team's roster will have a maximum of 22 players per team, after the 22nd player you will be put on a waiting list. If you are paying by check make the check payable to South Boston Lacrosse. The program is still in need of coaches for both the Girls and Boys teams. If you have any questions you can contact Pete Lisiecki at [p.s.lisiecki@gmail.com](mailto:p.s.lisiecki@gmail.com).

#### CONTINUED FROM page 10

individuals with questions about the Premium Tax Credit to help make health insurance more affordable. We can also help with questions related to Shared Responsibility payments and qualified exemptions to the few that may owe for being uninsured and/or underinsured.

Free Tax-Preparation Sites:

To find a FREE tax preparation site near you visit <http://bostonabcd.org/tax-assistance.aspx> or call 617-348-6586 or visit one of our participating neighborhood sites.



Fire Safety Week At St Peter Academy



Early Childhood Students Honor Our Vets



Plimoth Plantation Field Trip



Halloween Fun In K1

## St Peter Academy - Where Learning Happens 12 Months A Year

**W**ould you like to see learning happening? Visit our school at 371 West Fourth Street and you will see students personally invested in their education and teachers creating meaningful interactions that empower students to think critically and communicate effectively.

St. Peter Academy is an independent private Early Childhood through Grade 8 school dedicated to providing a high quality education to children of all faiths and diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Teachers are engaged and regularly attend high quality professional development seminars in order to stay abreast of 'best practices in education' and deliver a continuum of rigorous and collaborative academic instruction. Parents are engaged as board members, advisors, event planners and classroom volunteers. Investment in STEM curriculum is already showing results. Technology upgrades are underway that are state of the art. The leadership of the school believes that the classroom is not the only learning venue. South Boston and Boston is rich with educational experiences and we take advantage of it.

St Peter Academy expands its students learning experience beyond the traditional classroom and into the real worlds of the arts, marine environment, civic engagement, the physical sciences, business economics, urban design and more. From the South Boston Waterfront to the Museum of Fine Arts, St Peter Academy students and families realize the benefits of

learning in an urban community.

**Here is what parents are saying about St. Peter Academy:**

*"St. Peter's is more than a school to which we send our children. It's the village that's helping us as parents to raise children who are serious scholars, leaders, and citizens who are committed to the the surrounding community. It's a vibrant, loving community where we know our children will be taught the tools to succeed in life with whatever challenges come their way. It's a community that builds confidence in abilities."*

**-Emily and James Condon, St. Peter's Parents**

*"I like that St. Peter Academy allows my children to grow and learn in a safe family environment that encourages independence and responsibility for not only themselves but the society in which they live! The teachers at SPA take the time to be involved in their students' lives and encourage them in both individual school achievements and achievements outside of the classroom including sports and drama."*

**-Keri and Derek Baszkiewicz, St. Peter's Parents**

*"I really appreciate the small classroom size and family feeling from all the teachers, staff, and families of St. Peter Academy. As a mother of three, I appreciate that S.P.A. offers an afterschool I can trust. I know my children are also getting a great education."*

**-Olga Markos, St. Peter's Mother**

*"We love the individual attention our children receive in the small classroom environment and the close community feel of all grades Pre-K*

*through 8th. Their zero-tolerance to bullying approach is a big plus, which allows our children to focus on their education. And our teachers are second to none!"*

**-Kenny and Maria Blasi, St. Peter's Parents**

We are a center of academic excellence, challenging our students to think critically and to consider multiple perspectives, focused on preparing our students for tomorrow's world. We serve a diverse population of students who live down the street, across town in Boston's neighborhoods and surrounding suburbs. We welcome students and families from all backgrounds and faiths.

We welcome the opportunity to have you visit St Peter Academy to see for yourself that ours is a unique and wonderful learning community. All are welcome at our Open House on Wednesday January 28 from 9:00-11:00 am and 5:00-7:00 pm or contact Mrs. Doreen Brown to arrange a tour at 617-268-0750 or SPA@StPeterAcademy.com

The St Peter Academy Community is a place where our students and families are at the center of everything we do!

**St. Peter Academy At A Glance**

Serving students from Early Childhood 2.9 years old through Eighth Grade

Early Childhood Classrooms – Two Teacher Co-Teaching Model and Opening the World of Learning and Building Blocks, Two Nationally Recognized Literacy, Math, Social Studies, Social Emotional Curricula, as well as Technology and STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering, Math)

Elementary & Middle School Curriculum – Our rigorous core curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the National Common Core Standards and is enhanced with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Curriculum and computer based technology in every classroom

Enrichment – Instruction in Visual, Dramatic & Music Arts; Nutrition & Fitness Classes; Technology Instruction; Student Government; Public Speaking; Writer's Workshop; Math Olympiad Competition; ISEE Prep Classes; BOKS Fitness Program; Girl Scouts; Academic & Cultural Field Trips; World Language (Spanish); Middle School Reflective Retreat; and Community Service.

- School Day 8:00 am – 2:30 pm
- Before School Program 7:00 am
- Extended Day & Free After School Clubs 2:30 – 6:00 pm
- Summer Program 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Affordable Tuition With Multi Child Discounts
- Need Based Financial Aid

St Peter Academy is recognized around the city for the quality of its graduates. Students have advanced to Boston Latin, Boston Latin Academy, Boston College High, Roxbury Latin, Thayer Academy, Catholic Memorial, Boston Arts Academy, Newman Boston, Fontbonne Academy, Saint Joseph Preparatory.

St Peter Academy - 371 West Fourth Street - South Boston MA 02127  
617-268-0750  
-SPA@StPeterAcademy.com – www.StPeterAcademy.com



## 'Rick's 50 for 50' Rick Coyne to run 50 miles in Memory of his Mom, Barbara Coyne

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY  
Staff Report

March 7th, 2015, just a few short weeks away is the date when a very determined, committed and incredibly fit and ready South Boston athlete will test himself in a fete of endurance to benefit 2 great causes. Many South Bostonians and people far and beyond the boundaries of this neighborhood know Rick Coyne. To say that hundreds of people call Rick Coyne a friend would be an understatement.

It was 3 years ago, on the day of the Boston Marathon, that tragedy hit the Coyne Family hard. The news shook the South Boston Community to its very foundation. It was the day

that Barbara 'Barbie' Coyne, Rick's Mom and a registered nurse and beloved friend and neighbor to so many, was found murdered in her home; stabbed in a home invasion robbery. So brutal and shocking was the attack that it was lead story on many TV networks across the nation.

The Coyne Family has lived with the memory of this tragedy since then. And in an effort to honor the memory of his Mother, Rick has decided to undertake an incredible task. On March 4th, Rick Coyne will turn 50 years old. March 3rd would have been his Mother's birthday. His goal on the 7th is to run 50 miles in what is being called 'Rick's 50 for 50'. The sponsors are lining up now and all funds raised, every last cent will be divided evenly between two worthy charities: St. Jude's Hospitals and the South Boston Special Kids and Adults Program - 2 of Barbie Coyne's favorite charities.

South Boston Today had the honor of sitting down with Rick Coyne to find out more about this run - what it means to him personally and what type of preparation and training he will put himself through leading up to the big day. In essence, Rick will be running approximately a double marathon.

The interview took place at the South Boston Yacht Club where during the meeting well-wishers were coming up to Rick in a steady stream shaking his hand, wishing him luck and giving him sincere encouragement; the type that South Bostonians are famous for. His demeanor was a combination of emotional as he spoke of what had happened to his Mom and the love he had and still has for her but also one of calm determination. The reasons for this undertaking are 2 fold: "It's been 3 years and I just don't want people to forget my Mom" said Rick. The other is of course raising money for causes that do great work for so many people.

The route of the run will start from The Cape Cod Canal and end at Fish Bone's Restaurant at Marina Bay. Most people would get tired just driving this route. Rick plans

to run it. But what kind of training regimen does it take to get in shape for a run like this? Just listen. He breaks it up into hard weeks and easy weeks; 4 days per week of training is what he prefers. The easy weeks he runs a 'mere' 60-70 miles!! On the hard weeks, he averages 120-130 miles. Any place at all to train will do. He spends a lot of time running through the Blue Hills in steep and winding terrain and often will run from Furnace Brook Parkway to Castle Island then back to Furnace Brook. He breaks up the locations to keep it interesting, changing his routes often. He finds these long runs to be relaxing and therapeutic and on the real long ones, believe it or not, he munches on a pizza while he's in motion. Long distance runs are one of Rick Coyne's passions.

He's a regular at the Boston Marathon and he travels far and wide to run as well. As he was casually going through what he's been doing for training, he kept getting more relaxed while this reporter was out of breath just listening to what he does for preparation. The conditioning he goes through is intense to say the least. Some have called him 'a machine'. But he is determined that he will complete this run and all the training leading up to it is well worth it. Failure is not an option.

If you would like to help Rick Coyne in this cause and make donations that will go directly to St. Jude's and the South Boston Special Kids and Adults Program, you can donate online at [www.gofundme.com/izb4mg](http://www.gofundme.com/izb4mg) or you can send checks directly to the Mount Washington Bank, 708 East Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127 where an account has been set up specifically for this event. Checks can be made out to 'Ricks 50 for 50'.

The final two questions asked of Rick Coyne for the interview were one, how has the support been for this effort? Rick's answer was short, sincere and there was a deep tone of gratitude and appreciation in his voice when he said, "My friends have been great with a ton

of support and encouragement and even people I hardly know or don't know at all have been incredible with their well wishes".

As was stated earlier, In the 45 minutes it took for the interview that day at the South Boston Yacht Club, many people approached him to wish him well, some promising to be there at the finish line at Marina Bay when he completes his run in March. The final question asked was: What if the weather is bad that day, will you cancel or postpone? Rick Coyne's answer was as expected: "No, nothing short of a blizzard or a hurricane will make me even consider rescheduling." This is a good and determined man with a cause. Somewhere from Heaven above, Barbie Coyne is looking down with pride on a son she has always had good reason to be proud of.

### Evacuation Day Planning Has Begun

#### South Boston Citizens'

Association president Tom McGrath and Peter Welch of Welch's gym announce that FREE Tryouts/Training for the Annual South Boston Citizens' Association Evacuation Day boxing show will begin this weekend on January 24th and 25th at Peter Welch's Gym • 371 Dorchester Ave • Boston, MA from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

More dates will be provided as training will continue throughout the winter to prepare each fighter for the big show to be held on Friday, March 6th 2015, at the PAL /McDonough/ Walsh Center. Boys and girls of all ages are invited to this event. Participants should bring mouth piece and gym attire for training.

**Please check South Boston Today for more info regarding all South Boston Citizens' Association Evacuation Day events.**



## Attention Progressives, Reformers and Political Leaders

If you want to see some great sporting events, without all the inevitable chaos, costs and disruption, there is something you can do about it. Communities like those in Boston, once had some of the best youth sports programs in the country. But they have been short changed in the last 25 years by too many people who should know better. Good and caring new political leaders like Boston's Mayor Marty Walsh and Governor Charlie Baker of Massachusetts now have a chance to reverse the trend in America.

In many cities and towns, popular and well attended programs like high school sports, neighborhood baseball, hockey, basketball and C.Y.O., are no longer operating like they once did. They are getting

pushed out by highly promoted professional sporting events, commercialism and media ratings. Reading all the stories in Boston about big sporting events, like the Super Bowl, Olympics, all night gambling Casinos and legalizing neighborhood drug shops, you would think they will make Boston a better city. That's almost as silly as saying that keeping bars open till 4 in the morning, will be a good thing for the young people of Boston.

We can agree that it will be hugely profitable for the bar owners but they are not the people who politicians should be pandering to. They should be trying to bring back the glory days of the true meaning of character and the positive impact that athletics has in the development and future of young boys and girls in America's cities and towns. "Keep a kid in sports and you'll keep him out of courts," was once the popular theme, but today, most of what we hear about is the multi-billion dollar sports events and the entertainment industry.

Professional sports have abandoned its commitment to the young people of America. Even area colleges have turned its back to poor inner city kids. Seventy thousand dollar tuitions for students and millions of dollars in salary for college administrators? How does that help children from poor and working class families?

The other day at the South Boston Boys and Girls Club, a group of concerned area residents spent most of the afternoon teaching kids from 8 to 16 years old, the fundamentals of shooting a basketball-the same place where many of us learned the true meaning of sportsmanship and discipline as kids. Sports helped poor kids from Roxbury, Mission Hill, Charlestown, South Boston and every neighborhood in Boston, but unfortunately, we don't see that same level of interest in developing our once outstanding youth sports programs. Yes, programs like youth hockey, Boys and Girls Clubs, C.Y.O. and Little League are still determined to make a positive difference in the lives of young people today, but they don't receive the support they need and deserve.

A good example of that commitment was the Pere Marquette Knights of Columbus Hoop Shoot Out Contest in South Boston the other day, which was a fun event. But the Knights and other youth sports programs have do it on a "shoestring." Teaching kids how to shoot a basketball by former Celtics players like Bill Sharman or Bob Cousy, or how to shoot a puck like outstanding Harvard and Boston College student-athletes once did, are now a thing of the past. These

outstanding and well supervised youth programs of days past helped make Boston and other cities, youth focused. Kids were playing sports every day, not getting high or in trouble.

Let's get back to basics America. These youth sports programs are important to the stability of our communities and our children's future, not late night bars with all the problems they bring, or reckless sexually exploitive television programs and movies. How about creating a Youth Activities Commission in America? A commission, which will focus on promoting young kids playing sports, rather than glorifying professional athletes.

Boston and every other community have many committed and dedicated volunteers, coaches and sports mentors. Let's begin to give them the support they need to help our youth and make our neighborhoods become family friendly once again. Professional sports teams and the media are raking in billions of dollars in big salaries, so let's have a little pay to play for our young people. How about a "one percent youth sports fund." The money would go directly to community youth sports programs. Programs to help our kids may turn out to be outstanding citizens with pride in their communities and confidence in themselves. The media can start now with an Comprehensive Ad Campaign, just in time for the Super Bowl to begin in focus on what's really important to the future of America once again, our young people. Ray Flynn is the former Mayor of Boston, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, who coaches Special Needs and Handicapped children.

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