

Report Finds MA Drivers Are Risk Taking Drivers

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Andy Metzger -State House News

Massachusetts drivers are more likely to have sped on a highway recently or blown through a red traffic light than their peers around the country on average, according to a new AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety report. Bay Staters, however, are also more tolerant of bad driving behavior than those in many other states, and tend to offer contradictory thoughts on how others should behave behind the wheel compared to their own driving tendencies. "It's a case of 'do as I say, not as I do' when motorists recognize the risks of certain behaviors but do them anyway," said AAA Director of Public and Legislative Affairs Mary

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This Week's Poll
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EDITORIAL

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Staff

What is the excuse this time? For years the Keystone Pipeline has been prevented by the President for two main stated reasons. One is the alleged environmental damage its construction and possible spillage could cause. The other reason is that the tens of thousands of jobs it would create are “temporary”.

Recently, the Department of the Interior dropped its opposition and now supports the pipeline, primarily because tanker train accidents average 10 a year creating ecological and economic disasters near populated areas that dwarf any potential pipeline

break in the middle of the wilderness. By their very nature all construction projects are “temporary”. Once the project is finished, the job is too. The workers move on to the next “temporary” project.

The pipeline would reduce our foreign oil import over 17% - almost one fifth of our country’s total need. Not to mention it would reduce our involvement in foreign entanglements of propping up oil producing undemocratic regimes. Maybe even reduce the hate directed toward America.

Building the pipeline is good for America and the world. The unions support it. The House and Senate, with bi-partisan agreement, support it. Yet the President has vetoed it.

What’s the excuse this time?



“REAL PATRIOTISM IS THE WILLINGNESS TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT IS WRONG” - RON PAUL

This Week’s Poll

Should the 48 hour space-saver rule be enforced given the unprecedented nature of this year’s snowfall.

Yes / No



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SouthBostonTODAY PO Box 491 • South Boston, MA 02127
Online • On Your Mobile • At Your Door

Publisher
John Ciccone

Editor In Chief
Brian R. Mahoney

Managing Editor
Brian P. Wallace

info@southbostontoday.com • ads@southbostontoday.com

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Row Boats And Canoes/Snow Shovels for Life Rafts? /Rick Coyne's 50 for 50 Run March 7th

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

A reminder about local South Bostonian Rick Coyne's 50 for 50 run coming up on Saturday, March 7th. As was reported in South Boston Today, friend and neighbor Rick Coyne will turn 50 years old in a few days and in honor of his late mother, Barbie Coyne, will run 50 miles to raise money for two of her favorite charities. All proceeds from donations and sponsorships will go directly to the South Boston Special Kids and Adults Program and to St. Jude's Hospital. If you'd like to donate or be a sponsor for this good cause you can go online at www.gofundme.com/12b4mg or send checks to the Mt. Washington Bank, 708 E. Broadway, South Boston, 02127 payable to Rick's 50 for 50.

Yes, it got cold again. But, we did have last Sunday when the mild breeze kicked in and the sun was shining brightly and it actually caused some of our local 'glaciers' to begin receding. With all of that short term melting taking place, the smiles among some soon turned to concern as a few people started wondering if they should trade their snow blowers and shovels in for rowboats, life rafts and canoes. If we get a few more days like that, our local streets just might resemble rapidly flowing rivers. But, we'll take it.

The media hyped last Sunday's Academy Awards/Oscars like their very existence depended on it. Still, most Americans did not watch. Personally, I never watch. It has pretty much turned into a circus for the ego driven Hollywood air heads to give each other awards and then scold the public with their off the wall political sermons. And it came as no surprise to most that the top grossing

film and most popular among the American public, American Sniper, didn't win. As we've said here before, Hollywood hates pro-American, pro-military movies and they are not too happy with Clint Eastwood either. But none of that matters. The American people made their feelings known as millions saw the film despite all the negative attacks by the lefties in the press urging people not to see it. So who needs the Academy Awards?

In what Rush Limbaugh called something out of a 'Saturday Night Live' TV show skit, millions of Americans listened in stunned disbelief as US State Department and Administration spokesperson Marie Harf said we should create jobs programs for members of ISIS so they will change their terrorist ways. And John Kerry agreed. This, among many other reasons is why ISIS does not fear or respect this country. As they behead, burn alive, blow up and massacre Christians, Jews, women and children, our response is to find them employment? Harf, looking and sounding like a blonde, ditsy, space shot, and refugee from Harvard Square, then implied that her critics are just not smart enough to see her logic.

With this fantasyland mentality, is it any wonder that ISIS continues to advance and grow? What kind of jobs could we offer them? It would have to be careers that would tap into their skills. Some suggestions: Explosives technicians, surgeons specializing in removal of body parts from the neck up, pyromania consultants etc. Knowing this White House, and judging by past actions and rhetoric, all jobs would come with free healthcare, food stamps, discount college tuition and a housing allowance. After all, what was good

for the Tsarnaev Brothers should be good for ISIS. They all seem to follow the same ideology and have similar afterlife goals. As wacky as these jobs program statements were, you would think that the White House would jump to distance themselves from them. But they didn't. So what does that tell us about this administration other than they are even weaker and more naïve than most people already thought?

And now a comment on the statements made by former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani when he said,

among other things, that he does not believe that Obama loves America. Shock, outrage and venom were the response from the liberal sector and the mainstream press. Oh, and let's not forget that old standby – he must be a racist. But Giuliani simply and publically said what millions already are convinced is the truth. As the former mayor correctly pointed out, Obama was brought up by Communists in his youth, kept company and received funding from domestic terrorists like

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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 government activity, as well as links to other news.

MAYOR RELEASES REVISED OLYMPIC AGREEMENT

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh on Tuesday released a revised version of an agreement with the U.S. Olympic Committee, saying it can no longer be construed to bar city employees from disparaging the city's bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The original agreement, released to reporters in January, appeared to prohibit city employees from statements that "reflect unfavorably" on the bid. Walsh had repeatedly downplayed the language as "boilerplate" that other cities pursuing the bid have used, and added that he would not fire city employees who spoke ill of the bid. Walsh told the News Service on Tuesday that the revised agreement clears up "some of the language that was boilerplate, and that really should not have been in there in the first place." Walsh said the new version also promotes transparency by allowing for bid-related documents to be released by the city. Rich Davey, the CEO of Boston 2024, the nonprofit leading the bid for the Olympic games, said in a statement released by the mayor's office that the new agreement "will strengthen Boston's efforts to work with communities to build a stronger Olympic bid and a lasting legacy for the Commonwealth." Olympic officials are expected to choose the host city in 2017. - Gintautas Dumcius/SHNS

ROONEY: BCEC EXPANSION TALK SLATED FOR AFTER BUDGET RELEASE

The Baker administration plans to consider the roughly \$1 billion Boston Convention and Exhibition Center expansion project after the governor files his annual budget bill, according to a top official who has pushed the project. Gov. Charlie Baker plans to file his

budget bill on March 4. "We'll just wait until that happens," Massachusetts Convention Center Authority Executive Director James Rooney said in a State House hallway Tuesday. He said, "It's a billion dollar public investment so frankly I'd be disappointed if they didn't want to learn more about it." Rooney said the offices of Treasurer Deborah Goldberg and Secretary of Administration and Finance Kristen Lepore would "collaborate on the issuance of the bonds." The Legislature authorized funding for the project last year, when Gov. Deval Patrick was governor, but it is up to the current administration to follow through. Rooney has said the convention center needs to grow to attract larger conventions and said it would spur economic development. Others have questioned whether expansion of the center in the South Boston Seaport area should be a priority. Asked whether he believes the Baker administration would be on board with the project, Rooney said, "I've seen no indication of any problems." - Andy Metzger/SHNS

GROUP SAYS HEAD START CUT WILL HURT LOW-INCOME CHILDREN

An anti-poverty agency on Tuesday lashed out at a spending cut ordered by Gov. Charlie Baker, saying the \$1 million reduction in Head Start grants will lead to the elimination of five early education classrooms for low-income families. Action for Boston Community Development President and CEO John Drew said in a statement that the cut "makes no sense" and will lead to the elimination of services for 100 children and a reduction of 10 staffers. ABCD manages Head Start services for nearly 2,500 children and their families in Boston and seven communities in

the Malden area. More than 14,000 children receive Head Start services statewide. Baker and the Democrat-controlled Legislature recently teamed up to agree on a package of mostly spending reductions to erase a \$768 million gap in the \$36.5 billion state budget. Baker inherited that budget from Gov. Deval Patrick midway through fiscal 2015. Drew said he hopes the cut was a "mistake" and would be reversed. The cut, leveled by Baker earlier this month, reduced funding for the Head Start program to \$8.1 million, the same level as in fiscal 2014. - Michael Norton/SHNS

AGENCIES TO DELIVER \$12 MIL TO IMPROVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Behavioral health services to MassHealth enrollees, especially children and adolescents, will be improved and payments rates enhanced under a \$12 million agreement announced Tuesday by state officials. The agreement between the Health Policy Commission and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services will boost Medicaid payments to hospitals that serve significant numbers of low-income residents. The payments are being made from a fund created under the 2011 casino legalization law, with the money coming from one-time licensing fees collected by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. "The integration of behavioral health care into primary care is a top priority for the HPC. This agreement with the Baker Administration shows that even in difficult budgetary times, we remain focused on behavioral health and on improving access and quality for those residents most in need of these important services," David Seltz, executive director of the HPC, said in a statement. - Michael Norton/SHNS

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Bill Ayers and crew, who bombed the Pentagon and sat in the front row of a church for almost 20 years and looked up to as a mentor its ranting pastor who shouted from his pulpit "God Damn America". All of these things are documented facts. One look at the White House guest list topped off by Al Sharpton, the admitted Communist Van Jones, leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood and other US haters and advocates of Jihad says it all.

Obama travels the world criticizing this country and apologizing for its greatness and trashes our Constitution at every opportunity, while throwing open our southern border. He makes no attempt to hide his disdain for our military, as he shrinks and hollows it out with glee, and openly takes the side of rioting thugs in Ferguson and elsewhere over this nation's law enforcement. He believes that America was far too powerful throughout our history and still is, or was, until he took over. If any of us had a background like this, acted as he is doing and espoused those views, our patriotism and love for this country would also be questioned. Giuliani was just applying the same standard to Obama as most would to anyone else and he was justified in doing so. It's refreshing to hear a public figure that is not afraid to speak the truth. It's rare. Maybe the former mayor's courage will finally prompt others to find theirs.

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Reading Between The Lines

“Battle for Boston”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

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

Recently, while watching the History Channel series on the American Revolution, the episode of the evacuation of Boston was aired. The narrator summed up the event by intoning, “Thus the British woke up, surprised at the cannons positioned on the hill and evacuated the city without a shot being fired.”

South Boston Today, over the next 3 weeks, is proud to print the most complete and accurate account of this event ever produced. We are honored to remember and print for the first time in over 200 years, the names of the very first casualties in the history of the American Armed Forces. We are determined to do our duty and correct the historical record of Gen. Washington and the American Nations first victory. For most of its history, South Boston has always been identified as an Irish community. Growing up, I remember people jokingly calling it, “Ireland’s 33rd County”.

During most of its 200 plus year history, it has had a predominately Irish population. Those of us, who have grown up or live here, however, know that its merchants, athletes, scholars and leaders have always been drawn from every ethnicity under the sun. That same wide-ranging mix was present during the fortification of the “Heights” and is with us today.

The Battle for Boston is one of the most misunderstood and least appreciated acts of our American Revolution. Our story should probably start at the Battle of Bunker Hill in Charlestown. To paraphrase the British Commanding General Howe, “Many more victories like this and our army will be destroyed.”

The strategic importance of the Hills or Heights surrounding Boston had long been apparent before that bloody engagement. The arrogance and contempt the British held for their “Yankee Doodle” cousins, however, caused the British to underestimate the necessity of the prompt securing and fortifying of these Hills and Heights. Even after the Battle, South Boston (Dorchester Neck), was primarily grazing land for cattle and was sparsely populated by approximately 12 families.

Though they still didn’t occupy, the British became more aggressive and warlike toward the small South Boston population. A series of raids by the British over the next 8 months led to the capture of at least six rebel soldiers and the burning of houses and barns. Among the properties burned was the Wiswell Estate near “Bush Tree Hill (M Street Park), the Jones Estate at K and First Streets and Blake Estates near Farragut Road and the Foster property between F and D Streets. Combined with harassing fire from British held Castle William (Castle Island), South Boston was soon evacuated and left empty by the people. If it had remained that way, it is conceivable that our National Anthem today would be “God Save the Queen”.

Fate and destiny, however, had other plans for South Boston and America, Destiny’s Child in this tale was a Boston bookseller named Henry Knox. Knox, friend and advisor to General Washington, was commissioned a Colonel of Artillery in November of 1775. At the same time, the “Green Mountain Boys,” commanded by Ethan Allen, (and accompanied by a Massachusetts Colonel named Benedict Arnold) captured Fort

Ticonderoga and its cannon. Located in Upstate New York, Ticonderoga is an Indian name meaning, “Between Two Lakes”. It is situated between Lake George and Lake Champlain up by the Canadian border. Washington needed its cannon for his plan and this was Knox’s mission. A mission, in the dead of winter, Knox was determined to accomplish.

So began one of the epic journeys in military history. With snow, sleet and howling winds, from Lake Champlain, over the Allegheny and Berkshire Mountains, through

Great Barrington and Western Massachusetts, Col. Knox was able to transport these cannon, by oxen, through the roadless wilderness. Knox later wrote that the cannons had to be dragged up and over, “Mountains from which we might have seen all the kingdoms of the Earth.” Imagine driving those oxen through the icy wilderness wearing those heavy, soggy, frozen, woolen, revolutionary uniforms. 1775 was one of the coldest up to that time.

Toward the end of January 1776,
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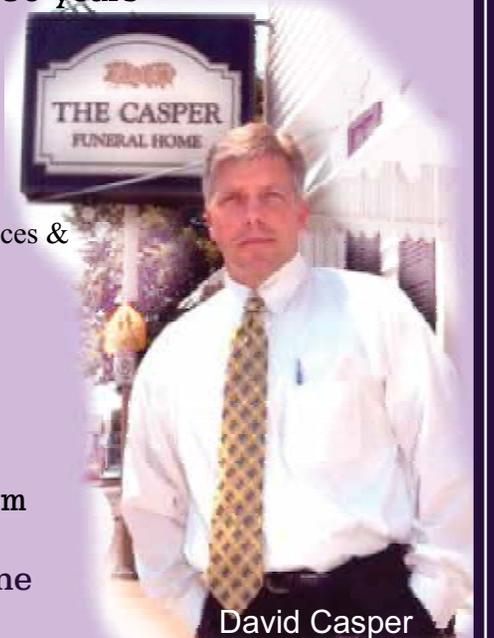
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Sen. Linda Forry Named Vice Chair Of MA Caucus Of Women Legislators

The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators announced today that Senator Linda Dorcena Forry (D – Dorchester) and Representative Jennifer Benson (D – Lunenburg) will serve as Co- Vice Chairs for the 2015-2016 legislative session. They will be joining the leadership of Chairs Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Gloria Fox.

Established in 1975, the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators was formed with a mission to enhance the economic status and equality of women and to encourage and support women in all levels of government. It is a bi-partisan organization comprised of the women State Senators and State Representatives. There are currently 50 women legislators that make up 25% of the Massachusetts legislature. Throughout the history of the Commonwealth, only 189 women have served as elected officials in the legislature compared to over 20,000 men.

“I am thrilled to be named the Senate Vice Chair of the Women’s Caucus. For the past 10 years, I

have served as a member of the Caucus, working on issues that impact families in our state,” said Senator Forry, “I look forward to working with our Chairs to shift the paradigm of how people view women’s issues. Most of the problems we face, we face together. They do not confine themselves to one gender or another. The fact of the matter is, all issues are women’s issues.”

“I am honored to serve as Co-Vice Chair with Senator Forry over the course of the 2015-2016 legislative session. The Caucus of Women Legislators provides valuable insight and discussion on issues that women and their families face every day. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with my colleagues as we work towards accomplishing the Caucus’ mission to enhance the economic status and equality of women, as well as to encourage and support women in all levels of government,” said Representative Benson. This is the first year that the Women’s Caucus has had the positions of Co-Vice Chairs in addition to the Co-Chairs.

Snow and Ice Damage Closes Murphy Rink For Season

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
SBT Staff Report

South Boston Youth Hockey has announced that the Murphy Rink is CLOSED for the remainder of the season effective immediately. The reason stated is because of the damage caused by ice and snow to the structure and roof of the building. But it also assured parents and players that the league will be able to complete the scheduled games after having made other arrangements for ice time at alternate locations.

This past Tuesday evening, a meeting to discuss the condition of the Murphy skating rink as well as the remainder of South Boston Youth Hockey’s season was held at McCormack Bath House on Carson Beach. Representatives from SBYHL, Dorchester Youth Hockey, UMass, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and representatives from South Boston’s elected officials were on hand to plot a course on how to go from here.

As had been announced previously, 2.4 million dollars has been awarded for repairs and renovations at the Murphy; originally scheduled to begin sometime after April 1st of this year. However, with the huge amounts of snow that Boston and the entire state has received this year, the added stress from all the extra weight from so much snow on the roofs of many ice rinks; including Murphy prompted the early closing of the South Boston’s on skating facility.

South Boston Today spoke with City Councilor Michael Flaherty who went to the rink to get a firsthand look at some of the damage. The councilor stated he could see buckling rafters from the ceiling in the area between the warming room and the ice surface areas and there were other spots of concern that may not have been visible. DCR officials said the rink incurred

damage from an ice and snow slide last Friday that went from the upper curved section of the roof and landed on the flat lobby portion. A DCR spokesperson stated that the agency will work with architects and contractors to complete a full restoration of the facility after its engineers and consultants complete their assessment.

The DCR also stated that it is working closely with SBYHL, Dorchester Youth Hockey and UMass Boston to relocate and provide ice time in order to allow SBYHL to complete their regular scheduled season. DCR released the following statement to South Boston Today: “We appreciate the cooperation and partnership of both SBYHL and DYHL leadership teams to meet the goal of providing recreational opportunities for the youth in their communities. DCR had been able to accommodate all ice time requests for both youth hockey organizations.”

Said South Boston Youth Hockey’s Tom McGrath, “There is much to be said when youth sports organizations from different communities; in this case South Boston and Dorchester work so well together and step forward, in cooperation with state agencies to make the best out of unforeseen problems. The situation with the condition of the roof that arose unexpectedly and so quickly is a good example of that cooperation; especially when in this case; the kids will be able to finish their season.”

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Parking Space Saver Rules For A Different Kind Of Winter

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Staff Report

In Lincoln, New Hampshire, just before you get to Loon Mountain, there is a great attraction that families are flocking to. It's called 'Ice Castles' and it consists of the most creative man-made ice formations that can be found anywhere. Huge, sculptured, hollowed out mountains of ice; some reaching 30 feet high majestically beckon visitors to come on in and explore their inner sanctums. It's a fun place. Cold, but fun. Well, as we can all attest, a walk around the streets of our neighborhood isn't too far off from a visit to the NH Ice Castles or even another attraction up there called the 'Polar Caves'. Just consider the size, structure and some similarly creative cavern-like interiors easily big enough to hold the largest SUV's and Pickup trucks and you just might agree. This brings us to the added significance of the 'space savers' this winter.

In normal winters, a large storm would be considered a 10-12 inch snow fall. People would dutifully shovel out their cars and claim the spot with a chair, an orange cone or anything they could spare to mark the space that they worked hard to clear. Tradition and even a ruling handed down from the former mayor often dictated that you'd keep the spot for 48 hours; a time frame often scoffed at by local residents and usually pushed to a week or more or at least until the foot or so of snow started to melt away. But that was then and

this is now and with the huge amount of snow - just recently turned to ice - that we have, what used to be a half hour of shoveling has become a task that has taken many hours. In some cases it took days if you factor in all the times you had to re-shovel because a plow buried you back in. And now, all bets are off and rules have been tossed out the window as people are guarding the spots they toiled over with back breaking work with almost fanatical possessiveness.

A lot of inquiries are coming in to South Boston Today from residents confused about the rules for space savers this season. So to be sure we knew exactly what the policy was before we passed it on, we contacted City Hall and spoke to Melina Schuler, the hard working Senior Media Liaison to Mayor Marty Walsh and asked her for an official statement of policy. She sent it right over to us and we'll share it with our readers: "Space savers are meant to be used on a short term basis with 48 hours as a guideline, and Mayor Walsh urges residents to treat their neighbors with respect, and use good judgment around this. Our primary focus right now is on snow removal and opening up access to our streets and then we can assist on space savers". But, say sources at City Hall, the 48 hour rule will not be enforced and the city will not be coming after your space savers at least not for a while.

Mayor Walsh, like most other

Bostonians has recognized that conditions are much different this year than perhaps ever before. Being able to adjust and compensate for unexpected situations is a plus for anyone but especially if you are the mayor of a large city. In fact the mayor has said that he is indefinitely suspending the 48 hour rule until further notice. This is a decision that has made some residents, especially those who labored so hard to dig out, quite happy.

Of course, space savers are not supported by everyone. There are some who believe that no one has the right to commandeer public property for their own specific use. And technically, they have a point. On this issue, like so many others, there will never be 100% agreement. But from the talk on the streets, it seems clear that a majority of people in South Boston do favor the practice and it will probably remain the custom for many winters to come. Yet, while it goes on in almost every neighborhood in Boston, there is one place, the South End, that has banned it. And the reviews of this experiment are mostly negative. Quite a few reports of vandalism are on file and many people there are not even bothering to shovel at all. They will chip away just enough snow to be able to pull their car out, leaving a snowy, icy mess making many parts of the streets there unusable for parking. Said one South End neighbor originally in favor of banning space saving: "It's a disaster. We should have left well enough alone."

The good news to most people is that this winter and all the snow and ice and inconvenience it has brought here just can't last forever. A look at the calendar gives people, who have had enough of this Arctic weather, hope when they remember that the first day of spring is just a few short weeks away. As the sun rises higher in the sky with each passing day and the thawing and melting commences - and it will - the memories of below zero temperatures, 15 foot snow mounds, ice covered sidewalks and shocking heating bills will all fade away. And hopefully, by the time July 4th rolls around, there will no longer be a need for space savers.

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Colonel Henry Knox was able to write to General Washington from Framingham that, "A noble train of artillery," consisting of 59 pieces was ready to be turned over to the American Army at Cambridge. In late February, some 35 cannon were brought from Cambridge to Roxbury. Then, when March began, the cannon were brought from Roxbury to the area we now call Andrew Square.

Today, South Boston rises towards the middle and eastern end with large tracts of flat land on north and south coasts on the West End. Back then, the ocean on the south came up to almost Eighth Street. Moakley Park did not exist. It was water. On the north "A" Street met the Ft. Point Channel and the ocean came almost up to Second Street. Farragut Road was the shore between the ocean and Castle Island. The land itself had steep rises and deep gullies and had five points prominent above all others.

The first point is what we know today as the Dorchester Heights. Then it was actually two high points called the "Twin Hills". Just behind Perkins Square, a long, sloping, rocky hill began its climb, reaching its high point around Dorchester Street and Emerson Street. This hill reached as far as the City parking lot on West Broadway and it was known as "Leek's Hill". M Street Park, before it was flattened, was known as "Bush Tree Hill" and towered over the Harbor looking directly toward the British warships anchorage. At the extreme easternmost point, the land rose to about 40 feet above the ocean at what today is Farragut & Broadway. At that time, it was called "Dorchester Point". Finally, all the way to the west at what is now "B" & West 3rd Street stood a hill probably topping at 125 feet known alternately as "Foster's Hill" or "Nook Hill".

These five hills or heights were the reason and the final destination of Knox's miraculous journey. The difficulties of this journey are wonderfully depicted in the oil paintings adorning the walls of the former South Boston Savings Bank, now Bank of America. Stop in the bank and check them out.

Part II will be written next week. Take care till next week.

Mayor Walsh Gets Olympics Committee To Change Gag Order Section

Pressing for transparency and likely using his union negotiating skills, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, according to a Boston Globe report, has renegotiated the agreement he signed in December with the US Olympic Committee, removing language that seemed to bar city employees from speaking ill of Boston's Olympic proposal and adding a clause to recognize the potential for a voter referendum on the Olympic bid. "Now it is clear that this new agreement doesn't place any type of so-called gag order," the mayor said in an interview Tuesday. "I think the issue of clarifying the language is very important for the transparency of what we want to do here in Boston in pursuing the Olympics."

Walsh at the time dismissed the offending language as contract "boilerplate," said it was unenforceable, and assured city employees they could speak as they wished. Free speech advocates roundly denounced the language and urged Walsh to have it removed. Sarah Wunsch, staff lawyer at the

American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, said at the time the so-called gag order seemed blatantly unconstitutional. By the end of January, Walsh said he was working to edit the agreement.

The original "joinder agreement" between Boston and the USOC stated that the City of Boston and its employees "shall not make" any statements that "reflect unfavorably upon, denigrate or disparage, or are detrimental to the reputation" of the International Olympic Committee, the USOC, or the Olympic Games. City employees and officers were to promote the Olympic movement "in a positive manner." The mayor also insisted that the agreement include an explicit acknowledgment that he does not control whether a voter initiative on the Olympics could go forward to the ballot. Olympic opponents and skeptics have floated the idea of a citywide or statewide referendum on the bid, with one option being a proposal to ban the use of taxpayer dollars to put on the

Games. The mayor said Tuesday that his corporation counsel's office spent about a month working on new language with the USOC and the local Olympic organizing committee, Boston 2024.

The new agreement, which Walsh said would be signed this week, strikes the full paragraph that purported to direct how city employees should or should not speak of the bid, according to a copy of the revised agreement. In a significant addition to the agreement, Walsh said he insisted on modifying a section that outlines the mayor's authority to sign the deal with the USOC on behalf of the City of Boston.

The new language, written in dense legalese, recognizes that the voters could weigh in on the city's Olympic bid at the ballot box: "Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City explicitly does not represent or warrant that a public referendum or initiative petition, binding or non-binding, related to the IOC Bid will not occur at the State or local level."

Walsh said the day after Boston was named the US bid city that he

did not want a referendum. He has since clarified that "the voters of Massachusetts and Boston will decide what the next course is to take."

The Walsh administration and the USOC also agreed to strike a paragraph from the original deal that could be read in such a way as to forbid the city from releasing documents pertaining to its agreements with the USOC, according to Walsh and the documents.

Boston 2024 chief executive Richard A. Davey said in a statement that the revisions are "indicative of the true spirit of partnership and cooperation among the City of Boston, the USOC, and Boston 2024 in advancing the shared goal of bringing the Olympic and Paralympic Games to Boston." City government and Boston 2024 have each launched their own series of public meetings on the Olympic bid. Local organizers plan to further develop plans for the Games over the next two years, before the US proposal will be formally filed with the International Olympic Committee.

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Property/Type	Price	Sale Date	Rooms	Baths	Sq Ft
213-215 West Fifth Street Single Family	\$1,700,000	1/8/15	6	1.5	
406 K Street Three Family	\$1,375,000	12/30/14	12	3	3824
471 West Broadway Four Family	\$1,250,000	1/15/15	8	4	6058
217 M Street Three Family	\$1,199,000	12/30/14	17	3	3710
33 Sleeper St UNIT 607 Condo	\$820,000	12/30/14	4	1	1290
40 Thomas Park UNIT 2 Condo	\$814,000	1/13/15	4	2.5	1300
861 East Second St UNIT 5 Condo	\$739,000	1/15/15	4	2	1200
49 L St UNIT 4 Condo	\$640,000	12/24/14	4	2	1047
518 East Broadway UNIT 3 Condo	\$625,000	1/15/15	5	2	1001
868 East Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$590,000	1/15/15	5	2	1129
345 D St UNIT 4 Condo	\$589,000	12/31/14	4	1.5	879
922 East Broadway UNIT 1 Condo	\$545,000	12/23/14	6	2	1241
262 West Fifth Street Single Family	\$505,000	1/15/15	7	1.5	1422
3 M Street Place Single Family	\$504,000	1/15/15	6	1.5	1120
667 East Seventh St UNIT #-2 Condo	\$491,000	1/8/15	5	2	1040
221 L St UNIT 2 Condo	\$489,000	12/23/14	6	1	1115
101 Baxter St UNIT 5 Condo	\$485,000	1/12/15	4	2	1219
618 East Second St UNIT 1 Condo	\$480,000	1/8/15	2	1	724
37 Gates St UNIT 3 Condo	\$480,000	12/30/14	4	1	724
283 Dorchester St UNIT 3 Condo	\$465,000	1/11/15	4	1	917
656 East Seventh St UNIT 3 Condo	\$425,000	12/23/14	3	1	714
3 Lovis Street Single Family	\$399,000	12/23/14	4	2.5	1050
868 East Fourth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$395,000	1/15/15	3	1	665
72 I St UNIT 2 Condo	\$392,500	1/2/15	4	1	602
201 D St UNIT 2 Condo	\$381,000	12/31/14	4	1	658
905 East Fourth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$349,900	1/12/15	4	1	594
404 West First St UNIT 44 Condo	\$345,000	1/12/15	4	1	915
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MAYOR WALSH ANNOUNCES "BOSTON BINGO" TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO SHOP LOCALLY



BOSTON - Monday, February 23, 2015 - Mayor Martin J. Walsh today announced "Boston Bingo," a game created by the Mayor's Office of Economic Development to support local businesses following the historic amount of snow that Boston has received over the past thirty days. Mayor Walsh is encouraging residents and visitors to download the bingo card at <http://www.boston.gov/bingo>. Paper cards will be available this week at businesses located in Main Streets districts.

"Boston Bingo is a creative way for residents to come together and support our local economy as we continue to recover from the historic amount of snow Boston has received

this winter," said Mayor Walsh.

The cards look like a traditional bingo card and encourage players to "grab a burger" or "see a show," and remind them to have a pizza delivered, purchase something small, or "snag something spicy."

Players are encouraged to snap a photo at each location and tweet, Instagram, or Facebook a picture using the hashtag #BosBINGO, and consider tagging each local establishment.

"We are excited to launch Boston Bingo," said John Barros, Chief of Economic Development. "The weather has taken a toll on small business revenues, making it harder for them to pay their employees, or keep up with the costs of keeping their doors open. It's so important that we do what we can to support them, and encourage our neighbors to do the same."

The game will run through March 15. Submissions can be entered electronically or by delivering them to the Office of Economic Development at Boston City Hall. Prizes include Bruins tickets, a Hubway membership and coffee with the Mayor. A full list and detailed instructions accompany the bingo cards. <http://www.boston.gov/bingo>.

Full rules are available at <http://www.boston.gov/bingo>.



Senator Forry Brings Commonwealth Conversations Tour to Boston

Senator Linda Dorcea Forry has announced that she and several of her colleagues will be touring Senate districts in the metro Boston area on March 4, 2015. This tour comes as the sixth installment of the State Senate's Commonwealth Conversations initiative which has been spearheaded by Senate President Rosenberg as a way for the Senate to speak directly with people all across the state.

Senator Forry, along with Senators Will Brownsberger, Sonia Chang-Díaz, Sal DiDomenico, Pat Jehlen, Anthony Petrucci, as well as Senate President Stan Rosenberg and Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr will be touring schools, local businesses, trades programs, and state facilities throughout the day. Then, in the evening, the tour will culminate in a public town-hall-style meeting at Roxbury Community College (RCC). There, Senators will listen to the concerns of residents throughout their districts. The two-hour public town hall forum at RCC's Media Arts Center will begin at 6:30 p.m. and all are encouraged to attend.

"The legislature deals with issues that affect the entire state and expands beyond the boundaries of the State House, and we should too," said Senator Forry. "The Commonwealth Conversations Tour gives us, in the Senate, an opportunity to let people

know their legislators are accessible and we want to craft an agenda on the issues that matter most to them while improving the quality of life for all those in Massachusetts."

"With our statewide Commonwealth Conversations Tour we hope to hear directly from the people of the Commonwealth about how we can help improve their lives through our work in the Senate," said President Stan Rosenberg. "We hope these conversations will help us craft our agenda and engage the public in the good work that we hope to accomplish this legislative session."

The Commonwealth Conversations Tour is a statewide tour of Senate districts led by the local senators to reach out to local residents, businesses, and interest groups to listen directly to their needs and concerns with the hope that it will foster more civic engagement while helping each senator learn more about issues outside of their own districts.

The tours began February 4 and run through March 18. All members of the public are encouraged to participate. Written testimony can be submitted at a public forum or through the tour website at the Talk to the Tour tab. To learn more about the tours visit the website at malegislature.gov/cc and follow on Twitter at @MA_Senate and #MaConvos.

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St Peter Academy Students Learn Local History

Today, compliments of the the South Boston Historical Society, General Henry Knox, a Revolutionary War general, and John Rowe, a prominent colonial businessman, came to visit grades 3 to 6. They came to educate us on events that lead to the evacuation of Boston in 1776. We had a great assembly and learned a lot of interesting facts about the fortification of Dorchester Heights. We learned that our school used to be near the ocean and the land was used for cattle to graze.





Olympics Hearing Draws Big Crowd And Mixed Emotions

With Mayor Marty Walsh and Rich Davey CEO of Olympics 2024 looking on, Councilor Bill Linehan and Representative Nick Collins opened the hearing on the Olympics 2024 proposal by encouraging the crowd of 500 or more residents and concerned citizens to first listen to the presentation and then speak up and ask questions. While many of the attendees had big concerns, there was some open support, but most were there to listen and learn what the plans are starting to look like. Realizing that the selection is two years away and the Olympics itself is almost ten years away, the public hearings being held will have to process a wide range of issues.

After hearing from the Olympics 2024 officials, who are acutely aware that the South Boston neighborhood is virtually ground zero as a venue host, many residents expressed their concerns. Among those with questions was an 8 year old boy who asked, “Why the money for the Olympics couldn’t instead be used to improve our schools, pay to clean up the snow, improve our healthcare

and keep our neighborhoods safe.” William Touchie McDonough, always concerned for the impact of development in South Boston, demanded mitigation for South Boston, including but not limited to angle parking along Day Boulevard and two parking garages paid for by 2024. One resident declared that the “trains are bad enough to star with and in snow storms come to a halt.” The statement seemed to be directed at Rich Davey, CEO of Boston 2024, who was Transportation Secretary and General Manager of the MBTA.

Other residents, including young mothers, expressed concerns about the over development of South Boston and how “enough is enough”. Fort Point Neighborhood residents expressed concerns about the impact of the Olympics planning on their current branding and improvement plans that they have been working on painstakingly for years. After listening to the residents Collins said, “Tonight’s meeting was a good start to a community-wide conversation about the potential impacts of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Summer

Games in 2024. I think there is tremendous upside if done right. Our task is to determine how we can host the Games in a fiscally responsible manner that results in long-term benefits to our community.”

South Boston native Leo Fahey, leader of the Pipefitters and a voice in the building trades, said “the city’s workforce is ready to build this...we are well trained and ready!” Others believe that it is an opportunity to aggressively plan the City’s future, regardless of whether Boston is selected.

This is echoed by Councilor Linehan, who said, “Boston is already a world-class city. We don’t need the Olympics to make us great. However, I think we owe it to ourselves to ask why can’t Boston host the Olympics? If we do it right, it will be great for Boston and the Olympics. The Olympics is an opportunity to host the world. The hospitality industry is the third largest employer in Massachusetts; we know how to host large groups and events. The Olympics is also an opportunity to improve our transportation system, create middle-income housing throughout the city,

and upgrade infrastructure that will serve us for generations to come.”

City of Boston officials proclaimed that the City will not spend any money City money on the Olympics. That official would later clarify that Mayor Walsh “doesn’t intend” to spend money, which many feel would make Boston unique given the past experiences of cost overruns in other Olympic venues. One resident asked Mayor Walsh that if a majority of South Boston residents opposed the Olympics, because most of the development would happen here, would he consider dropping the Olympic bid. Mayor Walsh said yes. As for concerns expressed about security, Mayor Walsh said that he hopes that Commissioner Evans will still be around and in charge.

The ringing concerns centered on over development and the impact on the quality of life in South Boston and environmental concerns in general. While there was considerable emotion being expressed, it remains to be seen how the Committee and the Mayor will incorporate these concerns as they finalize the application.



South Boston Citizens' Association Upcoming Athletic Events

South Boston Citizens' Association, President Tom McGrath is pleased to announce next week's athletic events. On Monday, March 2nd, the Annual basket-ball free throw competition will take place at the Tynan Community School Gym at 6pm. Please register with Kathy Davis.

On Friday Night March 6th, 6:00pm it is the SBCA's Annual Boxing Show, which will be held at the Stretch Walsh Center behind the South Boston Court House. Dan Long, Peter Welch, Tommy Connors, Jimbo Curran and Mike Larkin promise a fun - filled night with over 20 bouts planned. Come up and support the athletes as they have prepared for this night all winter. Registrar of Deeds Mickey Roach, Bill Stoddard, Dan Long and Peter Welch are your Chairmen.

Free admission.

Monday, March 9th, we move down to the Condon Swimming Pool for the Annual Swim Meets. Registration begins at 5:30PM. First meet begins at 6:00PM.

On Tuesday head on down to the Curley Rec. Center, where there will be the Bumper Pool and Dodge-Ball tournament from 4pm to 7pm. Barbara Caputo- Kelly and Fred Ahern are your chairpersons.

On Sunday afternoon, March 8th, the 21+ Bowl-A-Rama will take place at the South Boston Bowl on east Broadway beginning at 1:00pm. Refreshments will be served.

Leadership Initiative Announces Spring Programs

The South Boston Leadership Initiative is pleased to announce five new Spring Programs, with the first beginning on Monday March 2nd. Each program will last for a total of eight weeks. The programs are free and open to any South Boston resident or student, as long as that person fits the particular age group that the program is designed for. Specific details for each individual program are posted on www.SouthBostonLeadership.org. Some highlights include:

SAT Prep (March 2nd)

Career Skills 101 (March 24th)

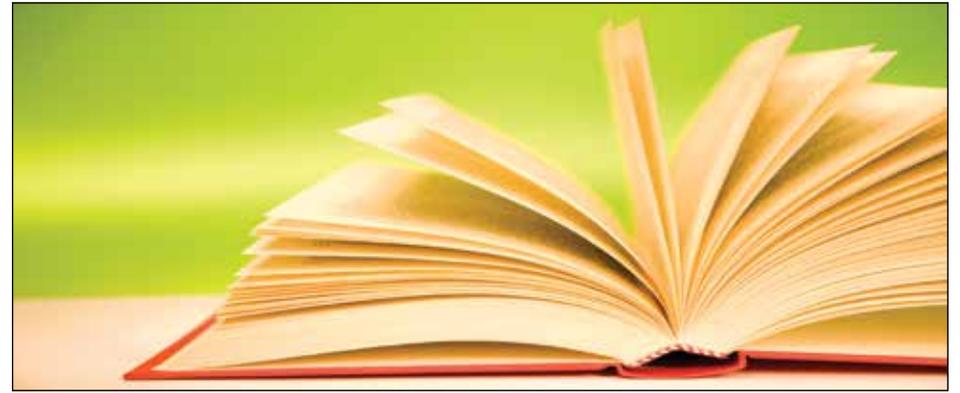
Youth Fitness and Nutrition (April 7th)

Introduction to the Building Trades (April)

Math Olympics (April)

These unique programs will be instructed by qualified staff and will run in cooperation with the South Boston Neighborhood House, the South Boston Health Center (Youth Ambassadors), Regan's Motivated Fitness, BCYF Curley Community Center, and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.

For more information and to sign up for any of these programs, please go to www.SouthBostonLeadership.org. Space is limited.



South Boston Branch Library Offers Spanish Classes

Hola South Boston Branch Library Friends, This free, hour long, six week program is for all ages and levels. Are you interested in learning the basics

or brushing up on your Espanol? Bring your questions, desire to learn and Mr. Jose Aponte will assist you.

Join us Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 6:45PM and you'll be speaking Spanish before you know it!

ERIN GO BRAGH

Don't forget the St. Patrick's Day Book Sale! Saturday, March 14th from 10AM-3PM. We are receiving plenty of drop offs and donations of CDs, DVDs, and books. Be sure to stop by and support your local Library.

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Red Sox Multi Million Dollar Baby - Yoan Moncada

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
ESPN - Gordon Edes

The Red Sox have never had a No. 1 overall draft pick since the amateur draft was implemented in 1965. The highest they've picked was third, in 1967, when they took a high school pitcher from Idaho, Mike Garman, who won a grand total of two games in four seasons with Boston.

That illustrates both the significance and potential risk of the deal the Red Sox were on the verge of striking Monday for 19-year-old Cuban prodigy Yoan Moncada. The signing bonus for Moncada is a reported \$31.5 million, shattering the record for an international amateur signing and almost four times the \$8 million signing bonus the Pirates gave pitcher Gerrit Cole in 2011, the most money ever given to a drafted amateur.

Where does Yoan Moncada fit? The Red Sox will worry about that later.

If Moncada was eligible for the 2015 draft, numerous talent evaluators have said, he likely would have been the No. 1 player taken overall. His imminent signing thus represents a coup for the Sox, whose system is already teeming with highly regarded prospects (seven of Baseball America's top 100 prospects are with the Red Sox).

But because he is still a teenager, the Sox investment carries more risk than, say, the \$72.5 million they gave last August to Cuban outfielder Rusney Castillo, who at 27 is in the prime of his career and has a much longer track record of success.

Moncada represents spectacular potential at a time when teams regard younger players as more valuable assets than ever. In outbidding the runner-up Yankees



by as much as a reported \$6 million, the Sox showed yet again they are willing to spend when they feel it makes the most sense to do so. Going the distance for Jon Lester last winter went against their better cost/reward judgment. That was not the case with Moncada.

The last time the Red Sox and Yankees went head-to-head on a Cuban player, Sox scout Louis Eljaua bought up all the rooms in the Nicaraguan hotel where the player (Jose Contreras) was staying in hopes of shutting the Yankees out. Contreras signed with the Yankees anyway, which inspired Larry Lucchino to utter

his famous "Evil Empire" line about the Bombers (true) and then-Sox GM Theo Epstein to either kick a hotel door in or bust up a chair (urban legend).

Contreras fell short of projections, which may have left the Yankees a bit skittish in their pursuit of other players from the island, although a Yankees pitcher from Cuba who preceded Contreras, Orlando Hernandez (El Duque), more than lived up to his billing.

The Sox, meanwhile, have embarked on a little empire-building of their own, placing themselves in an enviable position of winning not only this season but

for the foreseeable future. GM Ben Cherington addressed the team's short-term concerns with his signings of Castillo and the biggest free-agent bats on the market this winter, Hanley Ramirez and Pablo Sandoval. He also responded to Lester's departure by placing five veteran pitchers at John Farrell's disposal, along with four prospects (Henry Owens, Matt Barnes, Eduardo Rodriguez, Brian Johnson) who may be contributing as soon as this season.

The next wave of young Sox position players has already begun, with mixed results at the outset but with a potentially huge upside in

CONTINUED ON page 15

CONTINUED FROM page 14

Xander Bogaerts, Mookie Betts, Christian Vazquez and Jackie Bradley Jr., and Blake Swihart, Garin Cecchini and Deven Marrero clamoring for their day to come sooner than later.

Where does Moncada fit? The Sox will worry about that later, even if the three positions he is most often linked to -- second base, short and third -- are held by what look like permanent occupants in Dustin Pedroia, Bogaerts and Sandoval. Moncada's ETA at Fenway would seem to be at least a year away, maybe two, by which time the Sox could very well have shifted things around in either the infield or outfield, where some evaluators have profiled Moncada as a potential center fielder.

The team also has placed itself in an even better position to move the prospects it would take to acquire an elite pitcher, like Cole Hamels. Unless the entire scouting profession has lost its bearings, Moncada's ceiling projects as a cornerstone player, a franchise piece with speed (he outran Castillo in races held at the Cuban All-Star Game), power (still growing at 6-foot-2, 205) and versatility. The Yankees, who need a star in the middle of the infield after losing Robinson Cano to free agency and Derek Jeter to retirement, made their own judgment on Moncada, and yielded to Boston. The Sox hope it's one that haunts them for years to come.



Boston Bruins Continue Slide; Trade Rumors Abound

On the heels of losing 8 out of their last 10 games, Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli is feeling the heat to make personnel changes. Some say his job is on the line. As of yesterday, reports have been circulating of interest in Buffalo's Chris Stewart. The discussions with the Sabres are apparently ongoing. Chiarelli has also spoken to the Columbus Blue Jackets about Cam Atkinson. It seems that the Blue Jackets are going to expect a lot in return.

After a disastrous performance last week, it appears unlikely that Malcom Subban will be able to be used as trade bait any time soon. While the Bruins have battled some injuries, they lack consistent goal scoring and core leadership. The trade deadline will be a defining moment for the Bruins season, as they risk falling out of playoff contention and Chiarelli risks his job.

The Bruins play at New Jersey on Friday and play at home on Saturday against Phoenix Coyotes, where they will face off against Milton native Keith Yandle.

CONTINUED FROM front page

Maguire in a statement.

A majority of Bay State drivers said that in the past 30 days they drove 15 miles per hour over the speed limit on a highway (68 percent), drove 10 miles per hour over the speed limit on a residential street (67 percent) and talked on a cell phone while driving (78 percent). Those percentages are between 9 percent and 23 percent higher than the country as a whole. About 45 percent of Massachusetts drivers said they had driven through a light that just turned red even though they could have stopped safely, compared to 36 percent elsewhere.

Massachusetts drivers were also more permissive of those risky road behaviors than others around the country. Sixty-one percent of Massachusetts drivers reported they found highway speeding unacceptable, while 83 percent consider speeding on a residential street unacceptable and an even greater percentage (91 percent) took a dim view on squeezing through an intersection after the light changed. Only 31 percent found fault with using a hands-free phone, while 60 percent believe using a hand-held cell phone while driving is unacceptable.

However, the only categories that attracted more disapproval from Massachusetts drivers than drivers in other states, on average, were drowsy driving and typing text messages, and only by slim margins. Selected respondents 16 and older were surveyed between August and October, and majorities reported that congestion, aggressive drivers and distracted driving is worse now than it was three years ago. About half the respondents said drunk driving and drugged driving had remained about the same, while those who detected a change overwhelmingly saw those problems growing worse.

In Massachusetts, drivers on prescription drugs are perceived as a threat by a greater percentage (72 percent) of drivers than the country as a whole (67 percent).

Both in Massachusetts and throughout the nation about 29 percent of drivers admitted to driving when they were so tired they could hardly keep their eyes open. Drowsy driving was nearly unanimously denounced, with 98 percent of Massachusetts drivers saying it is unacceptable.

In Rhode Island, 35 percent of drivers admitted to drowsy driving, and Ocean State drivers admitted to speeding, squeezing through red lights and talking on the phone while driving in greater numbers than Massachusetts roadsters. Automotive accidents are a serious public safety hazard throughout the country. In Massachusetts 10 percent of drivers have been involved in a serious crash in the last 2 years, while 19 percent said they had been involved in a serious crash at least once in their lifetime. Nine percent said they had been seriously injured in a crash.

In other states, dangerous driving behavior receives more widespread disapproval and drivers report committing fewer offenses. In Minnesota, only 26 percent of drivers reported speeding in a residential area and 32 percent reported speeding on the highway. Only 33 percent of Gopher State drivers reported squeezing through a red light in the past 30 days.

Nineteen percent of Massachusetts drivers reported driving without wearing a seat belt, and only 3 percent said they had driven when they thought their alcohol level might be close to or above the legal limit. About 60 percent of Bay State drivers supported lowering the legal limit from .08 to .05 percent blood alcohol content.

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