



Collins is a True Leader on Environmental Issues

Boston legislator nails perfect score on inaugural ELM scorecard

State Rep. Nick Collins, a Boston Democrat, is a true leader on environmental issues, according to his perfect scores on the Environmental League of Massachusetts' unique and inaugural legislative scorecard. The scorecard gauges true leadership on environmental issues – not just votes, upending more traditional rankings that are often based mainly on non-controversial votes.

The legislative scorecard from ELM, the oldest environmental advocacy organization in the

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We look forward to seeing you at our Farewell Party on Saturday, April 18 at 7:00pm. We will be collecting a voluntary \$10 or \$20 donation to South Boston Special Kids.

EDITORIAL *Stop Signs At Every Corner?*

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
By Staff

Unlike the meandering cow paths that wove between barns and houses in the North End and later became its streets, South Boston was a planned community. "The most perfectly laid street plan in America", an 1800's architect is quoted as saying, because the street system in South Boston was put in place before housing was built. Pierre Charles L'Enfant himself (Peter to his friends), a French-born American architect and civil engineer, is said to have copied it for the design of our nation's Capitol. Sure enough

Washington D.C. is divided as A, B and C Streets intersecting with First, Second and Third Streets. Both plans have served their communities well.

Change comes, as it always does, and both street systems adapted while maintaining their useful intent for over 200 years. This past winter, during record snowfall, the city introduced the brilliant idea of temporary one-way streets. With the snow choking off streets everyone wondered why the idea hadn't been thought of earlier.

Now, after three weeks of snow-free streets, it

has been suggested the change be made permanent. While nearly everyone agreed with the one-way snow situation, many are asking "why"? What is the purpose? What will be accomplished? Minus the snow the street pattern was working just fine. Where's the problem? Change just for change sake is never a good idea. Some suggest that it is a license to drive a little faster, as we all have experienced on K Street, West Second, E Street, I Street and others. If there's a legitimate reason what is it? The old expression, "don't fix it if it ain't broke" comes to mind.



"Gun bans don't disarm criminals. Gun bans attract them" - Former Vice President Walter Mondale (D- Minnesota)

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The Information Center



Contradictory Thinking And A Fast Fading Daily Newspaper

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

As of this writing at least, the sentence for the remaining Marathon bomber still had not been announced. From the talk on the streets, a clear majority want him to get the death penalty. Some are opposed and feel life in prison without the chance of parole would be preferable. Then of course there are the certifiable ‘nutbags’, who think he should be set free; mainly the groupies who held signs outside the courthouse during the trial supporting him and the members of his Twitter fan club. It takes all kinds I guess.

There are those who oppose the death penalty, no matter how hideous and savage the crime - some for reasons of conscience or religious conviction. I personally don’t agree with them, but they have the right to

their beliefs. But then there are some who are walking contradictions. They believe that to put to death a cold, calculating mass murderer should never happen because it’s cruel and inhumane, yet they have no problem with partial birth abortion, where an innocent child is painfully ripped from a mother’s womb. Contradictory thinking like this brings to mind those who sit on the editorial board at the Boston Globe.

With the exception of Jeff Jacoby, one of the Globe’s only clear thinking writers and who doesn’t have the off the wall warped sense of values typical at that newspaper, the Globe is either the epitome of confusion or an insidious agenda-driven rag. I say it’s a bit of both.

One case in point is the position

they’ve taken on the Gate of Heaven school building. It is mind-boggling that they have a position at all on such a parochial issue. But then again, it was the Globe that incessantly and malevolently castigated this community during the busing crisis in the 70s and now insists that luxury condos and not quality schools is what the Southie plebeians should accept. My, my nothing has really changed because they’ve always wanted to oversee the extinction of the working class families of South Boston. This newspaper is not going to let that happen.

Since the overwhelming majority of South Boston residents want the building to be a school, the Globe naturally feels that the school should go to the developers, so yet more

luxury condos can be built because we just do not have enough of them here. Paradoxically, in other parts of the city, as referenced in the Gate of Heaven Neighborhood Group’s two recent articles by Kevin Lally that appeared on the pages of South Boston Today, the Boston Globe is all for charter and private schools going into vacant school buildings. With the exception of a few quivering politicians and some Cambridge moonbats, most people no longer even care what the Boston Globe wants. They haven’t in a long time. Apparently, the newspapers reporters and editorial writers haven’t gotten the message yet and they just can’t understand why South Bostonians constantly ‘disobey’ their commands.

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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.

HOUSE ADVANCES BOSTON HOTEL LIQUOR LICENSE BILL

Boston hotels would be able to transfer their liquor licenses to new hotel management under a bill that was granted initial approval in the House Wednesday. Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, the House chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, said that without the change licenses would revert back to the city, causing “confusion” when hotels change ownership. “A significant number of these were in my district,” the Boston Democrat told the News Service. The bill allows the transfer only to hotels at the same location as the license-holder. State law provides five liquor licenses for hotels, or

so-called innholders, in Boston. Michlewitz’s bill (H 234) cleared the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure on Monday. - Andy Metzger/SHNS

HORGAN URGES LAWMAKERS TO REVISIT JUDICIAL RETIREMENT AGE

Seventy years old does not look like what it used to, a Boston Municipal Court judge told lawmakers on Wednesday as he tried to convince them to raise the mandatory retirement age for judges. The Legislature instituted a mandatory retirement age in 1972 when some sitting judges in their mid-80s were not in the best health, according to Judge Thomas Horgan, First Justice

of the Boston Municipal Court and president of the Massachusetts Judges Conference. People are living longer and are healthier today, Horgan said. “Stereotypes about older workers are now being exposed as thoughtlessness,” Horgan said. Rep. Ellen Story, a Democrat from Amherst, is sponsoring a constitutional amendment proposal (H 1609) that extends the mandatory retirement age to 76 years old, up from 70. Other states have later retirement ages for judges, typically between 70 and 76. Vermont lets judges work until they are 90, according to Horgan. “The Massachusetts Judges Conference respectfully suggests that arbitrarily removing competent, seasoned, and capable judges makes no good sense and deprives the people of the wisdom, knowledge and compassion developed and strengthened over years of honorable judicial service,” Horgan said. To take effect, a constitutional amendment requires approval of two consecutive Legislatures, followed by approval of voters statewide. - Colleen Quinn/SHNS

AFTER GALVIN’S CONCERNS, HOUSE BOOSTS \$\$\$ FOR ELECTIONS

Secretary of State William Galvin’s recent appeal for additional funding was heard in the House, where budget-writers increased the proposed line item for elections by about \$1.4 million. Galvin last month scoffed at Gov. Charlie Baker’s proposal to fund the elections division at \$5.7 million, saying the Bay State would not be able to hold a presidential primary next year with that appropriation.

“As you all know this country is scheduled to elect a new president next year. Apparently the governor only wants 49 states to vote, he doesn’t want this one, because he has drastically underfunded the elections budget,” Galvin, a Brighton Democrat, told lawmakers at a budget hearing in March. The budget released by the House Committee on Ways and Means ups the funding for the elections division to about \$7.1 million. Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey said he found Galvin’s reaction to the budget “compelling.” - Andy Metzger/SHNS

RAIL CAR PLANT LAND PURCHASED, NEW CARS EXPECTED IN 2019

The joint venture hired by the MBTA to design and manufacture 284 Orange and Red Line vehicles in Springfield on Tuesday announced its purchase of a 40-acre parcel where it plans to build a manufacturing plant. CNR MA called the purchase a “significant milestone” for its venture with Carbuilder Changchun Rail Vehicles to build a 200,000 square foot rail car assembly facility and 2,240 linear foot test track. Phase one of construction is estimated to cost \$60 million. Working under a \$566 million MBTA contract, CNR MA plans to begin construction of its facility in the spring of 2016 and its timetable calls for construction to be completed in the fall of 2017, with full rail car production starting in the spring of 2018 and the first rail cars completed in January 2019. - Michael Norton/SHNS

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Reading Between The Lines

“Civilized?”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY
Brian R. Mahoney

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

What is civilization or a civilized society? Throughout history and up to the present, there have been times and areas where lawlessness and armed might had ruled. Experience has taught us that all of the players in life, the farmers, merchants, law makers and artists needed to unify behind rules that they could and would defend. The Monks in their intellectual pursuits learned that even the tallest towers couldn't keep the barbarians at bay. Just as the peasant farmers learned the truth that “man does not live by bread alone.” They needed each other for defense and a better life and society. At first, their civilization needed to be defended behind castle walls. Later, the walls came down and barbarians and bandits were forced beyond the boundaries of towns and countries. Keeping the barbarians out and defending against those who attack is the defining foundation of a civilized society. Failure to do so would be uncivilized.

Which brings us to today, where those, who benefit the most from civilization's defense while doing the least to contribute to it, are the first and loudest to label anyone advocating the death penalty for the bombing weasel as uncivilized. They claim a society with a death penalty is not civilized, when the reality is just the opposite. A society that will not defend its most vulnerable has no right to call itself civilized.

The Massachusetts bishops have

passed a statement opposing the death penalty on moral grounds with some pointing out that “Christians turn the other cheek”. Christian doctrine also holds that God is all knowing and all powerful. God could have said “if an attacker rends thy hair, then offer another strand”, in which case the victim would be collapsed and bloody long before being bald, if the attack continued. Accepted scripture, though, tells us God used cheeks, of which we only have two. That way if struck, rather than immediately retaliate, the victim allows the attacker to reconsider their negative attitude. Maybe it was an accident or a single act of anger. If, however, the second cheek is struck, there are no more options. God has this covered with an absolute prohibition against suicide, which is exactly what will happen if you do nothing. You will be killing yourself.

The bishops can take refuge in their towers and hide behind cloistered walls and issue calls for “understanding”, but the rest of us live in the real world of society. A society we must defend, if it is to survive. Over the last month and a half the Pope himself has made pleas that are thinly disguised calls for military intervention to stop killing of mid-eastern Christians.

Those opposing the death penalty for the marathon weasel should try a little “understanding” themselves. Understand how long ten minutes is. By some estimates the bombing weasel may have spent that much time standing

not 10 feet away from little Martin Richard and his family and all the other innocent victims celebrating a glorious day and event. He knew exactly what he was doing. If he was such a holy warrior why didn't he use a suicide vest? Instead, video shows him almost running people down in his hurry to escape.

When trapped in Watertown and faced with surrender or murdering his brother, it was “sorry about that, speed bump”. He could have jumped out of that

boat shouting, Allah Akbar” and charged the police, who gladly would have sent him to paradise.

Instead the weasel came out with his hands up. He didn't want to die, he wanted to live, then and now, as did our friends and neighbors whom he murdered. How long before some killers, somewhere, hold innocents hostage demanding his release? Every day that he takes a breath insults the memory of those he killed or tried to kill.

Take care till next week.

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Former NE Patriots Star Now A Convicted Murderer

As reported by Travis Anderson and Martin Finucane of the *Globe*, in a stunning reversal of fortune for a man who once sprinted into end zones as an NFL star, Aaron Hernandez was convicted Wednesday of first-degree murder in the shooting death of a friend who had angered him. He was sentenced to life without parole.

The former New England Patriots tight end was found guilty by a seven-woman, five-man jury of the June 17, 2013, for the murder of Odin L. Lloyd of Boston. The jury in Bristol Superior Court took seven days to render its decision. It found he merited the conviction by “reason of extreme atrocity or cruelty.”

Hernandez showed little obvious emotion, but shook his head as the verdict was announced. He looked at his mother and fiancée in the gallery, who were holding each other, engulfed in tears.

Hernandez, 25, and two accomplices picked up Lloyd, 27, a landscaper who played semiprofessional football, at his home on the pretext that they would party together. Instead they drove through the darkness to an industrial park in North Attleborough near the football player’s spacious home, where Hernandez shot Lloyd several times with a .45-caliber Glock

pistol, including two kill shots to Lloyd’s chest as he writhed in pain on the ground.

The verdict capped a 10-week trial that included testimony from 132 prosecution witnesses, including Patriots owner Robert Kraft; Hernandez’s fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins; and a former friend of the athlete who had claimed in a lawsuit that he was shot in the face by Hernandez in Florida four months before the execution-style slaying of Lloyd. The defense called only three witnesses.

The millionaire player, who was heading into his fourth season with the Patriots, had summoned his associates Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz to help him murder Lloyd, prosecutors said. Wallace and Ortiz face separate trials for first-degree murder.

Prosecutors faced serious challenges. The murder weapon was never found, and there was no eyewitness to testify to the murder. They built a circumstantial case against Hernandez, weaving together surveillance footage, cellphone records, and DNA and other evidence found at the crime scene to tell the story of Lloyd’s final ride. The prosecution also called witnesses who described a pattern of suspicious behavior by Hernandez before and after the murder.



Hero Officer John Moynihan Recovering At Home

Boston Police Officer John Moynihan has been home from the hospital now for several days and though the healing process will take some time, he is expected to make a complete recovery. Moynihan is the officer who was shot in the face by an assailant when pulled over during a traffic stop on Humboldt Avenue in Roxbury on March 27th. His assailant was shot dead by other police officers, after they themselves were fired upon by Angelo West, age 41. Immediately after the shooting, Moynihan was rushed to the hospital and was in an induced coma for several days.

After speaking with Boston Police Department sources, South Boston Today wrote a story about the shooting and Officer Moynihan’s condition while still in the hospital. SBT was happy to report that his condition was improving and the prognosis for recovery was good. The story was widely read and received more than 15,000 hits on the SBT Facebook page alone and

the response from well-wishers was massive, with thousands offering support and prayers for him and for his family.

Now that he has been released and gone home from the hospital, the Boston Police have sent out a public statement: “In the days after the shooting, John and his family have been strengthened, humbled and inspired by the outpouring of love they’ve received not only from his closest friends and fellow officers but also from concerned citizens and strangers from all over the country wishing a full and speedy recovery. Above all else, John would like to thank and acknowledge the officers on scene for their lightning quick response that he credits for saving his life”. Police spokespeople went on to say that “John’s recovery promises to be challenging and that his family asks that everyone please keep him in their thoughts and prayers.

South Boston Today again joins the rest of Boston and Americans everywhere in doing just that. Officer Moynihan is among Boston’s finest and we hope and pray that a full recovery comes quickly.



REPRESENTATIVE NICK COLLINS PRESENTED WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

The Massachusetts League for Community Health Centers (MLCHC) presented **State Representative Nick Collins** with its 2015 Leader Award for his outstanding support of community health centers.

The MLCHC is a non-profit, statewide association which represents and serves the needs of the Commonwealth's 49 community health center organizations, including the South Boston Community Health Center. The ceremony was held at the Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House during MLCHC's Community Health Center Day.

"Our state's community health centers are vital in providing high-quality, cost-effective health care services to working-class and low-income families," said Rep. Collins. "I am honored to receive this award for what it represents and I look forward to working with the MLCHC and its members to continue strengthening community health centers across the Commonwealth."

CONTINUED FROM page 3

How dare we?

But it won't be too long now. The day is fast approaching when the Boston Globe will be leaving the Morrissey Blvd building that they've occupied for far too long. That's right folks, for those who haven't heard they will be downsizing and moving to office space much more fitting and suitable to accommodate what seems to be their shrinking readership, their disappearing influence and dwindling advertising revenue.

While we're not exactly sure what will be located on the land once the Boston Globe buildings are torn down, anything would be an improvement. A hazardous waste dump, a target range for US Navy jet fighters, a NASCAR race track, Uncle Jeff's Redneck Mini Golf, a massage parlor, a pig farm... The list of things that would be preferable to the Boston Globe is endless.

But some might ask how will South Boston adjust without the Boston Globe close by to lecture and scold us and tell us how racist, unenlightened and wrong we are because we pay them no mind. I have a feeling we'll get by just fine. And when the day comes that even the Globe's new downsized digs are phased out, most people will probably remember it as just an annoying footnote in history that served no positive purpose.

This week's weather had a lot of people walking around with big smiles and great attitudes. They were happy to learn that yes, the thermometer really can reach the 70 degree mark. Spring has finally sprung. Enjoy.

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36 A St UNIT 5C Condo	\$863,000	3/19/15	6	2	1370
602 East Second St UNIT C Condo	\$725,000	3/26/15	8	2.5	1620
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269 Emerson St UNIT 1 Condo	\$575,000	3/31/15	3	1	880
732 East Sixth St UNIT 3 Condo	\$530,000	3/31/15	4	1.5	1101
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414 East Eighth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$412,500	3/20/15	4	1	800
21 Wormwood St UNIT 212 Condo	\$369,000	3/18/15	3	1	1107
689 East Eighth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$354,000	3/18/15	3	1	572
201 D St UNIT 1 Condo	\$330,000	3/18/15	4	1	586
168 West Sixth St UNIT 2 Condo	\$285,000	3/30/15	2	1	475
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South Boston Get Ready For Puppy Love! *MSPCA Boston Will Have Plenty Of Adoptable, Adorable Pets Aboard the League's Mobile Unit*

North Shore Animal League America joined forces with Boston Medical Center (BMC) on Tuesday, April 14, and brought smiles and puppy love to the hospital and its surrounding community. Animal League America, the world's largest no-kill rescue and adoption organization, knows firsthand the power of the human-animal bond, and drove its "shelter on wheels" from Port Washington, NY, to Boston as part of the Tour for Life. This is the third year that North Shore Animal League America has come to BMC, and the annual visit continues to bring comfort to those affected by the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, including hospital staff.

The Mobile Unit was filled with

adorable, adoptable pets from MSPCA Boston, all looking for loving homes. Tour For Life travels throughout the United States from North to South and East to West in four Mobile Adoption Units helping shelter and rescue groups in 37 cities and 26 states bring awareness to their organizations and find homes for the adorable adoptable animals in their care.

About Boston Medical Center

Boston Medical Center is a private, not-for-profit, 482-bed, academic medical center that is the primary teaching affiliate of Boston University School of Medicine. It is the largest and busiest provider of trauma and emergency services in New England. Committed to providing high-quality health care

to all, the hospital offers a full spectrum of pediatric and adult care services including primary and family medicine and advanced specialty care with an emphasis on community-based care. Boston Medical Center offers specialized care for complex health problems and is a leading research institution, receiving more than \$118 million in sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2014. It is the 11th largest recipient of funding in the U.S. from the National Institutes of Health among independent hospitals. In 1997, BMC founded Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc., now one of the top ranked Medicaid MCOs in the country, as a non-profit managed care organization. It does business in Massachusetts as BMC HealthNet Plan and as Well Sense Health Plan in New Hampshire, serving more than 315,000 people,

collectively. Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine are partners in the Boston HealthNet – 14 community health centers focused on providing exceptional health care to residents of Boston. For more information, please visit <http://www.bmc.org>.

About North Shore Animal League America

Animal League America has saved more than 1,000,000 lives. As the world's largest no-kill rescue and adoption organization, we understand that a rescue isn't complete until each animal is placed into a loving home. Our innovative programs provide education to reduce animal cruelty and advance standards in animal welfare. We reach across the country to rescue animals from overcrowded shelters, unwanted litters, puppy mills, natural disasters and other emergencies and find them permanent, loving homes.

CONTINUED FROM front page

Commonwealth, awards additional points to lawmakers who led by sponsoring important legislation and deducts points for lawmakers who filed measures that ELM opposed. It also takes lawmakers to task over their recent practice of ensuring controversial votes are not recorded roll call votes – preventing voters from truly gauging which representatives and senators are truly on their side.

“Nick Collins has been a strong advocate for the environment in the State House and our new scorecard helps us show voters just what a great leader he is,” said ELM President George Bachrach. “This is our best effort to give voters a sense of who is really on their side in the critically important work that goes on out of public view.”

ELM’s scorecard relies first on roll call votes on legislation that deals with environmental and energy issues. Observers of the state Legislature know that there are few roll call votes each session and that controversial votes are often taken as voice votes that are not recorded. As a result, ELM added leadership to the votes to better distinguish environmental champions and opponents.

The scorecard awarded bonus points to legislators like who authored bills that were environmental priorities or who introduced important amendments, particularly budget amendments to increase funding for state environmental agencies. Lawmakers lost points for introducing legislation or amendments that hurt the environment.

“It’s essential that we recognize leadership and courage, not just votes,” said Bachrach. “So much of the legislative process is impossible to score – from bill redrafts by committees, committee votes to pass or hold a bill and more. This scorecard is the best reflection yet of what really happens on Beacon Hill.”

In all, ELM assessed lawmakers on 10 roll call votes in the Senate and six roll call votes in the House for 95 percent of the score. Five bonus points were then added for leadership in introducing an ELM priority bill

or amendment and five points were subtracted for introducing a bill or amendment which ELM opposed.

ELM gauged lawmakers on several important bills that will move the state forward on natural resource and public health protections – including:

- **The \$2.2 billion environmental bond bill** which includes

authorization for capital projects related to land acquisition, water and air quality, state and urban parks, farm protection and viability, climate change adaptation and solid waste and recycling, among other items.

- **Natural gas leak legislation** which begins to address threats to public safety, the release of potent greenhouse gas methane and adding to costs to ratepayers by requiring uniform leak classifications and repair timelines and establishing benchmarks for reducing lost and unaccounted for gas to reduce costs to customers.

- **Water infrastructure legislation** establishing a new Massachusetts Clean Water Trust as the successor to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust and which increases funding available for water infrastructure projects. The bill includes a definition of “green infrastructure” for the first time in statute and allows the state to use “green infrastructure” when weighing financial incentives.

- **The Fiscal Year 2014 state budget**, including amendments focused on energy and environmental issues

Extra points were awarded to lawmakers who sponsored initiatives such as supporting funding for the Department of Environmental Protection, recycling, Brownfields, hazardous waste clean-up, and state parks.

ELM intends to publish a scorecard each session and Bachrach said he hopes lawmakers rise to the opportunity, pushing for reform to the system which limits roll call votes on key matters and leading on environmental issues.

“We need lawmakers who will lead, not just vote, on environmental priorities,” said Bachrach. “We hope and trust all supporters of environmental protection and stewardship will rise to the challenge.”



John Ciccone hanging out with his buddy Jasper the Seal on a beautiful spring day at Carson Beach

Park Serve Day



Farragut Park, Pleasure Bay & Castle Island
April 25, 2015 10:00am - 1:00pm

Volunteers will meet at Murphy Rink to help clean the park and beaches along Marine Park, Pleasure Bay and Castle Island to get the summer season off on the right start!

This event is sponsored by DCR in conjunction with State Representative Nick Collins and McCourt Construction. There will be a BBQ for volunteers after the clean-up and all are welcome!

Lend a hand during this day of statewide volunteer service at Massachusetts state parks. We'll be working together to get forests, parks and beaches ready for summer at more than 35 project locations statewide.

For more information or to discuss any special accommodations or needs you may have for the day, please email mass.parks@state.ma.us. Register to volunteer at www.mass.gov/dcr/.

Pick a Park, Give a Day, Make a Difference

Follow us on Twitter @MassDCR



Please call and email the following elected officials with your concerns and request:

Mayor Marty Walsh	617.635.4500	mayor@cityofboston.gov
Eric Prentis:	617.635.3485	eric.prentis@boston.gov
City Councilors:		
Michael Flaherty:	617.635.4205	Michael.F.Flaherty@boston.gov
Bill Linehan:	617.635.3203	Bill.Linehan@cityofboston.gov
Frank Baker:	617.635.3455	Frank.Baker@cityofboston.gov
Steve Murphy:	617.635.4376	Stephen.Murphy@cityofboston.gov
Michelle Wu:	617.635.3115	Michelle.Wu@boston.gov
Ayanna Pressley:	617.635.4217	Ayanna.Pressley@cityofboston.gov
State:		
Senator Linda Dorcena Forry	617-722-1150	Linda.DorcenaForry@masenate.gov
Representative Nick Collins	617-722-2080	Nick.Collins@mahouse.gov



Rick Coyne of South Boston recently ran his own personal marathon in memory of his mother, Barbara Coyne. He raised a great deal of money for both St. Judes and South Boston Special Kids and Young Adults. Last Sunday, April 12th, he presented Harry and the Special Kids with an amazing check for \$20,000.

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April 21 Zoning Board Hearing On Gate Of Heaven School

A packed room was anticipated at the Tynan Community School cafeteria last night where the Gate of Heaven Neighborhood Association sponsored a community wide meeting. The meeting was called to discuss the way the community has been treated by the Archdiocese of Boston and to rally residents to fight City Hall over the plans to build luxury condominiums rather than a neighborhood school.

As has been regularly reported on by this newspaper including the publishing of polls indicating the overwhelming opposition to million dollar condos, as well as the rebuttals by the Gate Association, and dozens of emails and letters to the editor, the pending decision by the City appears to contradict, both in spirit and in fact, the many proclamations by Mayor Marty Walsh that he will be the champion of both working and middle income families.

The Gate Association has refuted unfounded claims of the Boston Globe and insists that several charter schools have been and some remain interested in locating there, despite the disinformation being spread around the rumor mill.

The Gate Association is encouraging residents to call and write their local elected officials and ask them not only to oppose the variances being requested, but actually attend their hearing scheduled for 9:30am on April 21 at the Board of Appeal Boston City Hall.

South Boston Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Trust Fund Announces 2015 Program

The South Boston Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship Trust Fund announces their program for the year 2015. The fund will award up to ten (10) fifteen hundred dollar degree scholarship grants and one (1) non-degree scholarship grant for one thousand dollars. Of the ten academic grants one will be funded by Massport, one by the "L" Street Brownies, one by Folan Waterproofing and Construction of Easton in memory of deceased members of the Folan family, one by the South Boston Youth Hockey Association in memory of John Cunniff. Up to six additional grants will be funded by the Hall of Fame Trust Fund, one in memory of Bob Nichols. The non-degree grant will be funded by Massport. The academic grants are for those students who reside in South Boston (02127), will graduate from high school in 2015 or have received a GED certificate since January, 2015 and plan to attend a school of advanced education or training in 2015.

The non-degree scholarship grant is for those students who reside in South Boston (02127), who will be not more than 25 years old in 2015 and plan to attend a school of advanced education or training in 2015. Examples of non-degree programs are computer training, cosmetology, nursing, culinary arts, auto mechanics or other technical or professional training programs approved by the board of trustees of the "FUND".

Complete details of each program are described on the scholarship application, which may be picked up at school, the South Boston Library, the Boys & Girls Club, the Tynan Community Center, or the Curley Community Center.

Applications must be received by May 10, 2015 and must be forwarded to: *Fred Ahern*

South Boston SHOF Scholarship Trust Fund
Curley Community Center
1663 Columbia Road
South Boston, MA 02127

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THE CORNERSTONE's Farewell Party This Saturday

As so many know by now, a beloved piece of South Boston history will be closing its doors this month with a big farewell bash this coming Saturday, April 18th. The Cornerstone Restaurant and Bar, a place where a president, governors, senators and congressmen, professional athletes, movie stars, foreign dignitaries and so many other famous people from far and wide made it a point to visit on trips to Boston will be missed by a long list of celebrities. But most of all it will be missed by South Bostonians who have for so long held it in a special place in their hearts.

Opened in 1978 by the Flaherty Family; Tom Sr., Jimmy and Dudy, it has for decades been a gathering spot where people in search of a great day or night out, surrounded by wonderful people, the finest food and drink and

entertainment to please everyone could feel safe and comfortable and have a good time. The Cornerstone had it all.

South Boston Today had the honor of speaking to Tommy Flaherty Jr., who pretty much grew up there; he was a bar back in the family business at the age of 12, to talk about the good times and the incredible history of this famous gathering spot for more than 3 decades.

Tom spoke at length about what the Cornerstone meant and still means to so many of its patrons as well as to the Flaherty Family itself. Tom was proud of the fact that the family made it a priority to help with so many neighborhood causes. It was a place where the famous 'Southie Times' were held; benefits for people and local organizations in need of support. From families who were down on their luck because of a fire or an illness,

youth sports leagues running benefits, groups like the South Boston Special Kids organization, Veterans causes and so many others could always count on the good people at the Cornerstone to provide a location for their needs.

Tom went on to tell us about the time President Clinton showed up with full Secret Service detail; just wanting to mingle and relax with some regular people. He mentioned how World Champion Boxer Marvin Hagler would often come in, sit at the bar and sip a glass of wine and socialize with the patrons. Professional wrestler George the Animal Steel would show up with other pros after performing at the Boston Garden to relax after a tough match and how the Boston Bruins had worked the bar serving drinks to customers one night.

The entertainment was always a big draw over the years. The famous Al Crest was a regular

performer there for 14 years and had a loyal following that would pack the house every weekend. Groups like The Copy Cats, The Usual Suspects and many others never failed to please. Whether the acts were musical or comedy; it was always some of the best.

The Cornerstone has always been known for being a place where locals and visitors alike could go to feel comfortable because it was truly a traditional gathering spot with that friendly and personal touch. When there, you felt welcome; almost like you were family too and you were certainly among friends.

Tom Flaherty went on to praise the locals who over the years worked at the Cornerstone and helped make it the success it was. Well known neighbors like Mike Larkin, Bobby Lero, Mucka and Johnny Joe McGrath and so many others; each brought their own unique personality.

We asked Tom Jr. his feelings about the Cornerstone closing after being such a large part of his family's lives for so long. Without hesitation he said of course he'll miss it. How could he not? But he also said that after 37 years, it was time for them to kick back a bit and relax. Although as a Boston Firefighter with a wife and young children, he'll still be keeping pretty busy. Tom Sr. is also a Boston Firefighter. Staying active is still very much in the plans. But Tom made it clear that it has been a labor of love and the family is grateful to so many loyal patrons and friends for their support.

Though the goodbye party at the Cornerstone will be this coming Saturday, everyone is invited, it will remain open till the end of April.

South Boston Today joins the rest of the neighborhood as well as so many other fans of the Cornerstone in wishing the Flaherty Family the best of luck and to say Thank you to them for their generosity and kindness over these many years. They have helped create wonderful memories that people will cherish forever.



**South Boston Babe Ruth
League Registration
13 - 15 Year Olds
At The Walsh Center
Behind the South Boston Court House
Friday April 17
6:00 - 7:15
Saturday April 18
11:00 - 12:30**

All new and old players must register at this time. The registration fee is \$60.00 for one and \$100.00 per family. Your age is based on how old you will be as of April 30th of this year. If you have any questions please call Kevin Lally at 617-943-5238 or email at lallycompound@aol.com everyone makes a team.



CITY GOLF COURSES SET TO OPEN

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has announced that the City of Boston's two municipal golf courses - the William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park in Dorchester and the George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park - will be fully open for business by Saturday, April 18, weather permitting.

"Our parks and public spaces provide families and children a place to have fun and learn new skills--like golf--while enjoying their time outdoors," said Mayor Walsh. "We have made some improvements since last season, including an increase in yardage at Franklin Park, and our courses continue to get national recognition while offering an affordable golfing experience in our local neighborhoods. Now, Boston golfers can get ready to get out and play on our award-winning championship courses."

The William Devine Golf Course is scheduled to open Saturday, April 11, and the George Wright Golf Course the following weekend. Golfers should call the clubhouses to confirm availability at (617) 265-4084 for Franklin Park and (617) 364-2300 for the George Wright.

Restoration in 2014 at the George Wright included extensive path work on holes 14, 15, 17 and 18 along with improvements such as new bunkers on the third hole and rebuilding of the tee complexes at holes 5 and 7. Improvements at the William J. Devine included new tee complexes on holes 2, 10, and 11, new bunker complexes on holes 10 and 14, and a brand-new fairway bunker at the tenth hole. PGA Professional Kevin Frawley also suggests that golfers plan on bringing new drivers for increased yardage at holes 2 and 11.

Golfers can access information on rates, season permits, and tournaments and register for special offers, monthly giveaways, online news, and specials at www.cityofbostongolf.com.

Both courses are owned and operated by the City of Boston, open daily from dawn to dusk, and feature full pro shops, concessions, cart rentals, and lessons for all ages. For updates, the City's golf courses can be followed on Twitter @FranklinParkGC and @GeorgeWrightGC.

In 2014 the George Wright was named in Golfweek's "Best Courses You Can Play" for the fourth consecutive year giving the course its highest ranking to date at #7 having ranked it #10 in 2011, #9 in 2012, and #8 in 2013. The George Wright is the only municipal course on the state-by-state list for Massachusetts. In addition, Golfweek ranked the George Wright #27 on its list of best municipal courses nationwide, a jump of 10 spots from 2013, while Golf Digest named the William J. Devine as one of their "Best Places to Play" for the fourth year in a row. Both courses will be hosting the prestigious MGA Four Ball Championship in May.

The second-oldest public golf course in America and part of the historic Emerald Necklace, the William J. Devine Golf Course at Franklin Park in Dorchester offers a pleasant golf experience only minutes from downtown Boston and is open year-round, weather permitting. Contact PGA Professional Kevin Frawley at (617) 265-4084 for more information or to book a tee time.

Founded in 1938, the 18-hole Donald Ross-designed George Wright Golf Course is a hidden gem in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston. The course is open seven days a week through November. This par 70 championship course is a challenge to golfers of any level. PGA Professional Scott Allen is available at (617) 364-2300 to answer any questions.



Chiarelli Is The First Bruins Casualty

The Bruins announced Wednesday they have fired general manager Peter Chiarelli, accompanied by this statement - "We are grateful for Peter's service to the Bruins organization over the last nine seasons," Bruins president Cam Neely said. "His efforts undoubtedly helped the team achieve great success during his tenure and he helped restore the proud tradition of Boston Bruins hockey. We ultimately feel that this change is necessary in order to ensure sustainable success for the club both in the short term and the long term. Our search for a new general

manager will begin immediately."

The Bruins said the team's assistant general managers, player personnel staff, and coaching staff, including head coach Claude Julien, "will remain in place at this time."

Chiarelli became the Bruins' GM in 2006, and built teams that won the Stanley Cup championship in 2011 and the President's Trophy in 2014. The Bruins also lost in the Stanley Cup finals in 2013 to the Blackhawks. This season was disappointing and Chiarelli wore that disappointment on his sleeve and that likely not only contributed to the move by Neely, but may have actually triggered it. Chiarelli's comments at a recent press conference underscored the lack of focus and commitment by players and lack of direction from management. After nine exciting seasons, the time had apparently come to make a change.



Red Sox Starts 2015 Off With A Bang

Ready and raring to go, utility ballplayer, Brock Holt batting at .636 (7-11) is proving to be a not so unheralded leader as the Red Sox have made the two weeks of the season memorable. The home opener against the Nationals was a laugh, but Red Sox pitching has to find its consistency among the starters.

Holt, going into Tuesday night's 8-7 win over the Washington Nationals, already had played two positions, center field and second base and that night added a third filling in for an injured Xander Bogaerts. He came in and gave the Sox two hits in four at-bats, extended his errorless streak at short to 13 career games and 60 total chances, and pushed across the go-ahead run on a groundout in the seventh inning. Holt said, "My job is to be ready to play every day. Wherever that might be is fine with me. Just be ready to play the game, and I saw I was in there today, so I was ready to go."

If this kind of unselfishness is the trademark of the 2015 Red Sox, it

should be a remarkable season.

Also stepping up are Mookie Betts, Bogaerts and Hanley Ramirez. If Dustin Pedroia has found his groove and Dave Napoli zeroes in, ticket sales will not be an issue.

In the time that Pablo Sandoval, himself a doubles hitter, has been a big league regular, dating to the start of the 2009 season, few hitters in baseball have hit doubles with the frequency of Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz.

Since the start of the 2009 season, Pedroia has a double for every 16.9 plate appearances (the sixth-highest rate in the majors), with Ortiz ranking one spot behind him at 17.0 plate appearances per double. The performances of Ramirez (18.3 plate appearances per double, 27th in the majors) and Sandoval (18.7, 35th) are impressive but, in relative terms, modest.

Hopefully, Fenway Park will offer these professionals the array of opportunities to keep the pace of wins up at home and John Farrell can figure out who to play where on the road.

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Boston, MA 02127
617-765-8636



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



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



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



Empire Restaurant & Lounge
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Boston, MA 02201
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