St Peter Academy Builds Community

Family fun, community pride, sponsor appreciation and school loyalty was on display at the Lawn On D, as Saint Peter Academy students, families, staff and directors celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its reincarnation as a family oriented, forward thinking learning community providing academic excellence while educating the whole child.

Over 250 South Boston residents and friends, young and old, enjoyed a beautiful sunny day, senior bingo, CIA choir, SB Historical Society Henry Knox re-enactment as well as a variety show put on by the students. Special appreciation was shown to retiring teacher Ms. Margaret Collins for her dedication and devotion to her students during this same ten year span. Ray Pickup, business agent for St Peter Academy builds community.

CONTINUED ON page 12
“Race Games”

She claimed to have been born in a “teepee” and hunted with a bow and arrow as a child to feed her self and family. No it’s not our own Senator Lieawatha, but the similarities are eerily similar. Newly resigned NAACP Spokane Chapter Leader Rachel Dolezal is white. She is also under investigation for claiming to be the victim of racism because she is black. In 2002, she sued famous Howard University for discriminating against her because she is white. If you’re confused imagine her state of mind.

Besides confusion, however, is she devious? What else do you call someone who uses race for personal advancement, particularly when they are not of that race? Isn’t it racism itself to take advantage of laws and programs intended to aid true victims of that race? How many true victims of racism were denied relief due to these false race claims?

Like Dolezal, our own Senator was white, until she became a minority American Indian that gained her Ivy League status, a mansion in Cambridge and a big-pay-little-work Harvard position and now she is white again at least for now.

What does it say about alleged progressives, who support these race programs as long as elite white people are in charge?

“Summer is very precious” - Dylan Lauren

Last Week’s Poll

Last Week’s Poll Results On Bus Routes

Question: Should The Inbound Bus Route Stay On East Broadway Or Be Moved Back To East Fourth Street?

70% Stay On Broadway
30% Go Back To East Fourth Street

“Summer is very precious” - Dylan Lauren
With the trial, conviction and sentencing of the wild animal that killed local resident Amy Lord in the news these last few weeks, the brutality of it all reminded us of just how bad it was and how tense the neighborhood became during that period. This town has from time to time experienced some pretty bad crimes that linger in the memories of all. When something as evil as this happens here it shakes this community to its very foundation because it is so rare. But it also can cause us to reflect on the overall situation. It puts things in perspective and helps residents see the contrast when compared to the crime in a number of other sections of this city.

In recent weeks, there was the case of the 7 year old child wounded by a drive-by shooter while going to his store in Roxbury. Just 2 weeks ago there was the 16 year old murdered while riding his bike in the same area. The number of stabbings, gang related murders, rapes, muggings, home invasions and other violent crimes is staggering in so many neighborhoods across Boston. It’s seemingly a common occurrence. A person fearing for his or her life if they go out after dark and even during the day in many cases is no way to have to live.

South Boston isn’t perfect, but by comparison, it certainly is a relatively safe community, especially for being part of a large city. Here, people get to walk around freely and without fear. In most cases, whether it’s daytime or the dead of night. We are able to enjoy clean beaches on hot evenings and relax on our front stairs with family, neighbors and friends. Local kids can play in our parks and playgrounds and not have to worry about stray bullets from the illegal guns of gang members. Our buildings aren’t covered with gang related graffiti, and drug dealers on mopeds aren’t openly and blatantly conducting business out in public in the middle of the day as they do elsewhere.

Yes, we do have our problems in South Boston and no one here would ever say there are no crimes being committed. But overall, we can consider ourselves fortunate. Much of the credit for this town’s relative safety goes to our local police to be sure, but a lot of that credit also goes to the pride of the people here and their determination to make sure our streets never, ever turn into war zones like those that have ruined so many other places.

From time to time in this column, I like to report on the ludicrous and zany actions of the politically correct or PC types around the country. This week brings us to Portland, Oregon for a story that was carried a while back by that city’s local paper. It’s about racist sandwiches. Yes, you read that correctly. Did you know that the latest to be hit with the racist label

CONTINUED ON page 6

Who Needs Fees...

WHEN YOU HAVE OUR FREES!
AIRPORT WORKERS STRIKE, PLAN STATE HOUSE RALLY
At least a half dozen lawmakers joined Logan Airport workers who are in the midst of a 24-hour strike to bring attention to alleged unfair labor practices by their employers, ReadyJet Inc. and G2 Secure, which provide services to JetBlue, US Airways, Delta and other airlines. Roxanne Rivera, vice president of 32BJ SEIU, told the News Service Wednesday morning that the 24-hour strike stems from mounting frustration among non-union airplane cleaners and baggage staff over security, health, wage and safety issues. “The workers are stepping it up today and saying enough,” said Rivera, noting some workers began striking Tuesday night. “We feel that the airport needs to be place where workers can really speak up about their working conditions without their employers breaking the law.” According to the union, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating “whether ReadyJet illegally terminated workers for exercising their protected rights.” The union said the company fired more than one third of its workforce over the last year and a half. A union official said several lawmakers are expected to join strikers at a 3:30 p.m. rally outside the State House, including Sen. Anthony Petruccelli of East Boston and Reps. Adrian Madaro of East Boston, Christine Barber of Somerville, Steven Ultrino of Malden, Dan Hunt of Dorchester, Marjorie Decker of Cambridge, and Marcos Devers of Lawrence. - Michael Norton/SHNS

WORKERS’ UNION SAYS DYS STILL NEEDS VIOLENCE FIX
The union representing Massachusetts Department of Youth Services workers is calling for the establishment of a commission to look at ways to reduce violence in its programs, saying that efforts to address the problem with administrators have fallen short. “We have made some progress with safety, but it’s taken a very long time,” said Paul Faria, president of AFSCME Local 1368. Faria testified Tuesday in favor of H 111, a bill before the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. It would establish a special commission to evaluate current practices within the department that are used during assaults on youth and staff members. Peter Forbes, commissioner of the Department of Youth Services, said the department has “forged a constructive working relationship” with the union workers and that it has measures already in place, such as a written safety plan and a safety committee. “In our work, we take safety very seriously,” Forbes said. Senate Chairwoman Jennifer Flanagan, D-Leominster, suggested the state’s trial court system be brought into the discussion because judges are the ones who place juveniles in the programs. “It just seems the people missing from this are the people sending them,” Flanagan said. “We should probably be talking to them as well.” - State House News Service/SHNS

HIGHER ED BOARD OKAYS PERFORMANCE-BASED $$$ FORMULA
Public state universities are taking a step towards performance-based funding as part of an accountability initiative aimed at closing achievement gaps and producing more college graduates. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education on Tuesday approved a funding formula for nine state universities that will be applied to $5.6 million expected in next year’s state budget. The funding is separate from the base appropriation for individual campuses. “This funding formula was developed at the direction of the Massachusetts legislature and with the close cooperation of and in consultation with the state university presidents,” Higher Education Commissioner Richard Freeland said in a statement. “It will reward our public campuses for helping some of our neediest students earn their degrees, and it also will improve our ability to provide graduates who are ready for work in the knowledge-based industries that drive economic growth.” Funds will be awarded based on a formula developed by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems that takes into consideration, among other things, five-year graduation rates, annual headcount, full-time enrollment, year-over-year increases in degrees awarded, and the number of students who reach 30 and 60 credit hours each year. Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts will be exempt from certain aspects of the formula that do not align with their unique missions, and will receive a “carve-out” of 5 percent of the total funds allocated, according to the board. - Michael Norton/SHNSF

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.
By 1895, South Boston had already increased its land mass by 50% due mainly to the filling in and improvement of the train trestle down A Street to the Fan Pier terminal and the construction of many abutting warehouse buildings. The Alderman for South Boston at that time was named Collins. Over the years, he had seen the creation of this land to expand docks for the shipping trade and warehouses to store what the ships brought. While it certainly aided the city and regional economy but, other than providing back breaking work at nearly starvation wages, it did little to improve the quality of life for the impacted South Boston residents. When yet another proposal was made in 1895 to fill in and create land from A Street to almost E Street, Collins seized the opportunity to win concessions for his overburdened constituents.

If developers would join in efforts to fill in the area known as Commonwealth Flats to create a park, Collins would support the whole development, otherwise he would use his considerable power to stop it.

An agreement was reached and the area between First Street and Summer Street was filled and C Street almost to E Street had 3 baseball diamonds, a football field, a cinder running oval, a large picnic area that featured concerts and the first bathhouse in Southie at D and Summer.

Today’s L Street bathhouse came later. The park was short lived however, and in 1912 the area was seized by the government. The area from E Street to the Reserve Channel became the U.S. Navy Base and the abutting area from E back to A Street became overcrowded with new warehouses to store war supplies for what would become WWI. Despite a government promise to restore the park at WWI conclusion, the warehouse space created had proved too convenient for big business and the government promise was broken and forgotten.

Jump ahead just over 100 years to 1997. The legislature passed a bill allowing the construction of the BCEC providing the City Council and residents of “impacted South Boston” supported it. To gain that support, substantial promises of community benefits were made. Nearly every promise has been broken.

Most of the deceit can be attributed to the immoral, if not illegal, action of the previous administration - most, but not all. One of the easiest, least expensive, but most desired of the “guaranteed” benefits was a park - a simple park for the community. A park promised in 1999.

A committee of local residents and BCEC officials were formed to create this park, but the meetings became fewer and spaced much farther apart and the park was forgotten by many, but not all. Over the years, at various BCEC/community meetings on different issues, residents would raise the issue of the “phantom” park. The stock answer always seemed to be money that the BCEC just didn’t have.

About 3 years ago, the BCEC started sniffing around about “expansion”. At the first meeting, the only director in BCEC history, Jim Rooney, was asked how an expansion could be considered when promised benefits from the original construction had yet to be kept, specifically a park. Director Rooney was prepared. On a large screen he had a number of “bullet” points. The very first point was “unmet community commitments”.

It was then the director announced the “Lawn on D” would be created. This was his answer to the more than a decade old promise.

It was about a year later that a newspaper article revealed the new “Lawn”, which was the supposed fulfillment of the BCEC promise for a permanent community park, was actually only “temporary” because a new development was going there. Sound like a familiar tune? Presumably, the “Lawn” would be relocated to a yet to be determined location.

Now we find out that after agreeing to allow the largest building in New England, with all the accompanying disruption, that made some millions...
June is Alzheimer’s & Brain awareness month, and Alzheimer’s disease is a subject that is very personal to me. My grandmother had Alzheimer’s and I saw firsthand the toll it takes on a family, and the love and patience that is required to care for someone with the disease.

My whole family suffered with her, especially my aunt who became her full time caregiver. My toughest memories of that time are those of my grandmother forgetting who we were. That’s why it became my mission as Mayor to help Bostonians dealing with the disease. There are steps we can take to encourage early detection, connection to information and resources for patients and caregivers, and to support the research needed to better understand and eventually find a cure for this terrible disease.

Boston’s older adult population is growing; in fact, older adults make up the fastest growing demographic. The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that 10,000 Boston residents suffer with Alzheimer’s disease and this number is expected to increase as our population grows. The increase in Alzheimer’s disease prevalence in our population will reach beyond the immediate circle and will impact our healthcare organizations, our employers, our neighborhoods and our residents.

That’s why last year I launched a multifaceted initiative to address Alzheimer’s disease led by my Commission on Affairs of the Elderly. The first step we took was to join the Alzheimer’s Workplace Alliance, arming thousands of City employees with the support and resources to be better informed about the disease, the warning signs and the importance of early detection. And starting this fall, we will be partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association to train first responders and other city staff to be “dementia capable.”

What we’re doing in city government is important, but together we can take even more steps to tackle Alzheimer’s. Everyone should know the 10 warning signs: memory loss that disrupts daily life; problems with words in speaking or writing; misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps; decreased or poor judgment; withdrawal from work or social activities; and changes in mood and personality. Early detection matters. Research shows that early intervention may help slow the progression of the disease.

Boston is home to the some of the best research hospitals and universities in the world. Dedicated and passionate researchers are working hard every day at many of the major research institutions in Boston. We can help make progress on this disease by participating in research trials. Clinical trials help researchers test new ways to detect, treat and prevent Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. One way to find a clinical trial is through the Alzheimer’s Association TrialMatch®. This is a free, easy-to-use clinical study matching service that connects individuals with Alzheimer’s, caregivers, healthy volunteers, and physicians with current studies in the area.

To learn more about Alzheimer’s disease, research currently being done, what life is like with Alzheimer’s disease, how to get help, and much more, go to www.alz.org/manh or www.alz.org. Businesses can also play a role in educating and supporting their workforce. I encourage all businesses to follow our lead and sign on to the Alzheimer’s Workplace Alliance and connect their employees with Alzheimer’s information and resources.

I thank health care providers, researchers, and patient advocates who are working hard every day to find a cure for this disease, and the caregivers for their patience, kindness and selflessness in caring for loved ones and clients. And we must honor the individuals who both live with or have lost their lives to this disease.

Together we can make Boston a supportive place for people affected by Alzheimer’s, and give family members the knowledge, understanding, and tools to cope with what can be a difficult situation.

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“Retiring Old Glory” SOUTH BOSTON TODAY SBT Staff Report
PHOTO CREDIT Jim Gavaghan

In South Boston, the Paul J. Saunders Post hosts the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. In ceremonies co-sponsored with the Castle Island Association, this small remembrance has grown over the recent years. What began as an event attended usually by veterans of the Saunders, Fitzgerald and Perkins Posts and their families, as well as the occasional tourist walking by, has expanded into a marked calendar day for close to two hundred people in attendance.

During the year, worn flags are dropped off at various locations by ordinary citizens. The day of the ceremony the flags are placed in a metal mesh pyramid shaped four foot container. The colors are then led in by the South Boston Jr. ROTC followed by the U. S. Coast Guard Color Guard. WWII Veteran John Scanell, still with a

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CALL 617.506.7210
Elliott Physical Therapy is a family owned and operated business. We provide orthopedic physical therapy by licensed, physical therapists to children, teens and adults.

REading Between the lines CONTINUED FROM page 5

and provided well paying jobs for many, the residents who only asked for a small space with grass and trees, despite the BCEC promise, couldn’t even get that.

We now learn that contrary to Director Rooney and BCEC claims, there were no funds for a park all these years In fact the BCEC was able to contribute almost 24 million dollars to Gov. Patrick’s travel “slush” fund, a fund created by no law or act of the legislature or even a written order from the Governor himself. When asked why, if there was no law, the BCEC would give that money, the BCEC stated “because the Governor asked”.

We went to years of meetings. We whined, sent e-mails, phone calls, yelled at meetings, all for this park, but all the governor had to do was “ask”? Fooling the people who trusted you by lying to their face doesn’t make one clever or smart. It only makes one a liar.

Take care till next week
Waterside Place
505 Congress Street • Boston, MA 02210

Affordable Rental Opportunity

<table>
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<tr>
<th># of Units</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>$1365</td>
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<td>$1560</td>
<td>Up to 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 Bed</td>
<td>$1755</td>
<td>Up to 80%</td>
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Maximum Income Limits for Households is 80% AMI which is as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HH size</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>$85,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$91,400</td>
</tr>
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</table>

From Thursday June 18th through June 24th applications can be requested by phone (617.936.0004) or email (watersideplace@bozzuto.com) supplying Waterside Place with your name and mailing address.

Applications may also be picked up at Waterside Place (505 Congress Street, Boston MA) in person on: Friday, June 19th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Deadline for returning applications is 5 pm on July 1st. Applications can be returned in person to: 505 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210 by 5pm until July 1st, or by mail postmarked by July 1, 2015.

For more info or reasonable accommodations, Jackie Chancholo, Bozzuto Management Company 617-936-0004

Gate of Heaven Neighborhood Association

“SAVE GATEY SCHOOL
- KIDS BEFORE CONDOS”
TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD @ 9:30 A.M.
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS HEARING
BOSTON CITY HALL, ROOM 801
Please come and support a most worthy cause!

We need to have as many people attend this to ensure the Archdiocese is aware of intentions to “Oppose the developer’s zoning board hearing request for re-zoning the school.” Please join friends and neighbors, old and new alike, in our efforts to preserve “The Old Gate of Heaven School” zoned as a school.
Respectfully,
Gate of Heaven Neighborhood Association
Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property/Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sale Date</th>
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<th>Baths</th>
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Former Gulf Station - 57L Street, South Boston aka: 607 East 3rd Street

Cumberland Farms, Inc. will be holding an informational community meeting to present the results of response actions conducted to date at the referenced MCP Site.

Meeting Date/Time
MONDAY, June 29, 2015 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Meeting Location
South Boston Branch Library 646 East Broadway – S. Boston

TOPIC:
The referenced location is a former retail gasoline service station that is being assessed and remediated under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 21E (M.G.L. 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). Remediation activities were performed under a Release Abatement Measure (RAM) and an Immediate Response Action (IRA) during the period of January and February 2015.

Interested parties may view information relating to this project at the established information repository located at the South Boston Public Library, 646 East Broadway, South Boston, MA

For further information on this project please contact John Harvey, Environmental Compliance Services, 10 State Street, Woburn, MA, 781-246-8897, jharvey@ecsconsult.com
Brian Wallace
Writing Steve Ross Story
“The Boy the Nazis Couldn’t Kill”

Steve Ross is the only boy in history to have survived ten Nazi death camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Dachau. His entire family was killed by the Nazis when he was eight years old. He survived the Nazi massacre and spent six months, by himself, hiding in the woods, avoiding Nazi patrols and surviving on berries, grass and as few nuts. He also survived eleven attempts on his life in the concentration camp in five years. He was liberated from Dachau by American soldiers on April 29, 1945. He was the subject of an episode of “Unsolved Mysteries” in 1979, as they attempted to locate the American soldier who carried Steve out of Dachau and handed him a small American flag.

When Steve Ross arrived in Boston, he did not speak English. He worked three jobs and when he had enough money, he hired a tutor to teach him how to speak the English language. He paid his way through Goddard College, Boston University Graduate School and received his Doctorate from B.U. He worked with underprivileged youth in high crime areas, where other youth workers were afraid to go. He was so successful that Mayor White appointed him Director of Education for the City of Boston. He was responsible for the building of the beautiful New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston across from Boston City Hall, which is named in his honor.

Steve proudly stood in a packed auditorium in 2014 and watched his son Michael announce his candidacy for Mayor of Boston. Michael served as Boston City Council President in 2009-2010. Steve has received over 100 awards and honors and has told his story of survival, hope and education to over 500 high schools, colleges, civic groups, veteran organizations, Jewish organizations, as well as the Mass. House of Representatives and the Boston City Council.

June 18, 2015

Family Friendly Beaches And Pools Open This Saturday

On the first official weekend of summer, the City of Boston's two outdoor pools, the BCYF Clougherty Pool in Charlestown and the BCYF Mirabella Pool in the North End, are opening for the season! These pools, along with 15 others that are open year-round, are operated by Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) the City of Boston's largest youth and human service agency. The outdoor pools will remain open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to dusk (around 7 p.m.) until Labor Day. Also opening Saturday is the City's first "Family Friendly Beach" at the BCYF Curley Community Center in South Boston. The beach will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. All locations will have experienced, certified lifeguards on duty.
magnificent voice, joins us from the Dorchester McKeon Post and leads the assembled in the Star Spangled Banner. Leaders of the Scottish Highlander Regiment, Claymore Swords at their waist, are piped forward by Pipe Major George Martin.

A solemn epitaph is read and then the honored flags are put to the torch. In the background a 100 foot American Flag has been draped from the Castle wall and atop that parapet a lone bugler concludes the ceremony with “Taps”.

It is always an open invitation and more people every year are making this a unique South Boston tribute to America.
Painters Local 35, was recognized and thanked for coordinating repairs and improvements to the school. The students treated him to a rendition of the union song, Solidarity Forever.

Other sponsors and supporters included Ironworkers International Local 7, IBEW Local 103 and other members of the Building Trades Council of the Metropolitan District. Lan-Tel Communications, ProJeCtion, Turner Construction, John Hancock, City Of Boston Youth Fund, SB Community Development Foundation have all played a role in Saint Peter’s spectacular year of renewal.

A shout out went to Bob O’Shea and Arthur Fritch both of South Boston and both members of the BCEC team that arranged for the use of the Lawn. Rep. Nick Collins sponsored the luncheon which included refreshments from J.Pace and Sons, hot dogs, chicken tenders and cheeseburgers from Sullivan’s, coffee and donuts from John Gillespie’s Dunkin Donuts. Massport was represented by Jose Masso and Alaina Coppola, who were thanked for the awarding of a technology grant of I-Pads that will give the students an important educational tool. The Southie Shuttle provided transportation for seniors, students and others in attendance.

The event was not just a celebration of ten years of growth, it was also a recognition that when the community comes together to benefit our children, good things can, should and do happen. Thanks you South Boston, one and all.

St Peter Academy, an independent community based private school, is celebrating 10 years of service to the community. It is South Boston’s only Pre-K through Grade 8 School. Class size is limited to 20 students which is ideal for creating a nurturing environment filled with interactive learning opportunities. The school is located at 371 West Fourth Street and is currently accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year – To learn more about the school and all programs visit www.stpeteracademy.com or schedule a private tour by contacting Ms. Doreen Brown at 617-268-0750 or email SPA@StPeterAcademy.com.
Over 150 Friends Attend Donald F. Higgins Memorial Street Hockey Rink Dedication

On Saturday, June 13, 2015 at a special event honoring Donny Higgins, a South Boston man who passed away after a ten month battle with colon cancer, Governor Charlie Baker joined with Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Carol Sanchez, State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry, State Representative Nick Collins, local officials, and members of the Friends of Donny Higgins Memorial Fund in officially dedicating a street hockey arena in Donny’s name.

The dedication of the Donald F. Higgins Memorial Street Hockey Rink celebrates and memorializes a man who had a vision to better his community,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Donny Higgins was a community leader, a wonderful husband, a loving father, and remained dedicated to his friends and family. Sadly he was taken too soon, but his memory will live on.”

Well rooted within his community, Donny Higgins grew up across the street from the Francis L. Murphy Memorial Skating Rink, where he worked as a Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) skate guard. Donny Higgins, who passed away in July 2010 at the age of 37, pushed to transform an underutilized tennis court located behind the ice skating rink into the now popular street hockey arena in South Boston.

“Because of Donny Higgins’ vision, generations will be able to utilize the Donald F. Higgins Memorial Street Hockey Rink for years to come,” said Commissioner Carol Sanchez. “The Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Conservation and Recreation remain committed to improving the state’s parks, recreational facilities, and visitor services throughout the Commonwealth to facilitate a healthy, active lifestyle.”

Like so many young people in South Boston, Donny Higgins had a passion for hockey both on and off the ice. At the age of 10, Donny fought hard to have this court shifted from tennis to street hockey, showcasing his civic involvement which is a hallmark of the Higgins family,” said State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry. “While Donny was taken away from his beloved family and community, this rink will now allow his legacy to live on forever. I want to thank ‘The Friends of Donny Higgins,’ led by his brother Billy, and his parents Billy and Rachel, for their incredible work to make this day a reality. Finally, I want to thank Donny’s wife Trish and his four children Delia, Ronan, Sheamus and Liam for sharing this special man with all of us.”

“I was proud to sponsor the legislation naming the street hockey rink at Farragut Park in honor of Donald F. Higgins,” said State Representative Nick Collins. “It is my hope that by memorializing the rink in Donny’s name we will ensure that his work in transforming the street hockey rink into a haven for the youth of Boston will be remembered and inspire generations of young hockey players for years to come.”

To commemorate the dedication, Saturday featured a full day of family fun, which included a street hockey tournament and cook-out where visitors came to celebrate the life of Donny Higgins. Donny is survived by his wife Tish, and their four children, Delia, Ronan, Sheamus and Liam who at the time, the oldest was only five years of age.

The South Boston Leadership Initiative will be hosting youth baseball clinics every Saturday in the month of June at Moakley Park. Local college coaches and players will lead the clinics which will cover all of the basic fundamentals of baseball with a focus on proper throwing, pitching, hitting, and fielding. The clinics are free and open to any South Boston resident or student between the ages of 7-12. The schedule is as follows and will take place at Diamond #2:

Saturday June 20th 10am-12pm (10-12 years old) 12pm-2pm (7-9 years old)
Saturday June 27th 10am-12pm (10-12 years old) 12pm-2pm (7-9 years old)

For more information please contact Ryan Sweeney at RSweeney@SouthBostonLeadership.org
DANNY PICARD: We all know what the real elephant in the room is. And that's the fact that you have a decision to make, Jack. It's the NHL, or it's going back to Boston University. I think an interesting aspect to this whole thing, there's two actually. One, is that a week-and-a-half ago, you said that you were still weighing your options. And the other thing is, going back to April, you were named one of the alternate captains for next year's BU team. Are you still weighing your options as of this morning [Monday, June 15]? 

JACK EICHEL: Yeah, I'm still weighing the options. I have to wait until I get drafted. It's not totally set in stone because you don't know what's going to happen at the Draft, but it's looking a lot like I'll be going to Buffalo [with the No. 2 overall pick]. It's a tough decision. Both options have a lot of pros and cons. 

DP: What are those pros and cons? Are you looking back at BU and the way the National Championship ended, is that still fresh in your mind? Is that something that's in your head? 

JE: There are a lot of things. BU has so many great things about it. It's such a great group of guys that I love being around. I think it's just a lot of fun to play in Boston. You get a lot of opportunities to play in things like the Beanpot and Hockey East. It's pretty close to my house, and it's college too. It's a lot of fun to be with the guys every day. But then you have the option to potentially play in the NHL. And it's the NHL, so, both are really good options, and I think at the end of the day it's going to be a tough decision. 

DP: Do you look at that team that we all think is going to draft you, the Buffalo Sabres at No. 2 overall, and does that factor into your decision, where you would be going? 

OK, you'll be going to the NHL, everybody's dream, but does the place that you're going to be drafted to factor into your decision, or no? 

JE: No, I mean, anywhere you go in the NHL, every organization is so good. I think Buffalo is actually a pretty good fit for me. It's only six-and-a-half hours from here. They have a lot of really good up-and-coming young prospects. And I think everyone's really excited about the future there. So it is a good fit, if that were where I would get drafted. 

DP: So you've done your homework on Buffalo. You've done your homework on the Sabres. 

JE: Yeah, well, I mean, the NHL Combine was there last week, so I got to spend about a week in Buffalo. I've been there a few times. So I have some connections to the city. I think it's a good situation. 

DP: So when will you make your decision? 

JE: The Draft is June 26. I'll probably make a decision after. I imagine that within two weeks, my decision will be made. 

DP: First person you will tell is who? 

JE: I have to obviously talk to my parents about it, so, when the decision is made, they'll know about it. I think the first person that deserves a call would be my coach [David Quinn], whether I'm coming back to BU or not. I spoke to him about the situation a few times. 

DP: What's his advice? 

JE: He's all about doing what's best for me. I think the thing that he talks about most is just go where I'm going to be happy. He doesn't want me to be playing in the NHL if I want to be back at BU, and he doesn't want me to be back at BU if I would prefer to play in the NHL. So I think at the end of the day, you've got to make a decision with your heart. It's going to be a tough decision. I'll definitely need my parents to help me make it, and my advisors, and people that are close to me. 

DP: Is there something that you're working on, specifically? Like, are you paying more attention to faceoffs this summer? Are you working on that? Is there an aspect of your game that you say, "Hey, if I do go to the NHL, this needs to improve." What are you focusing on this summer? What's the main point of emphasis? 

JE: Probably just making plays quicker, and moving my feet without the puck. Those are things that you can work on. A lot of us play in a summer league down in Foxboro. Brian Boyle, Jimmy and Kevin Hayes all play in it. There are a lot of pro guys. It's a pretty good league. Just in those games, I think you can work on playing away from the puck and moving your feet. In terms of skill, I think you can always work on your shot and your skating and try to get faster. Just basic things. 

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