The Growth Corridor between Andrew Square and Broadway stations along Dorchester Avenue in South Boston is slowly but steadily progressing having conducted several public hearings in the community. These sessions have shared a series of sketches, visions, challenges and ideas put forth by planners, graphics artists and architects of the Boston Redevelopment Authority. The agency’s professionals have been given a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to portray aesthetically, technically and practically, a futuristic view of one of the last remaining high end development footprints in Boston;
For 98 years, through brilliant sunlit fall mornings, cold, rain or snow and through war and social upheaval, young men have played and women have cheered inspirationally for the rivals from East Boston and South Boston High Schools. It’s more than tradition. It’s a salute to those, who have gone on and contributed to community in sports, politics, the military and in education and who took this same field on all those bygone Thanksgiving Day mornings. It’s also a recognition that those, who professed their love for and defense of community and country, made their first public embrace of all that tradition in that stadium.

So it was that, despite all the trials and tribulations of a horrendous season, twelve South Boston players decided tradition wouldn’t end on their watch. Without rest, they faced a fully complemented Eastie team of 30. They were assaulted 41-0 in the first half. But, as we all know, a game has two halves and the second half is the most important. Refusing to meekly surrender, and determined to succeed, Southie scored, adding a two point conversion for good measure and won the second half 8-0 - which means at least a tie, doesn’t it?

To those of us who support South Boston High in its ever evolving form, it was a victory and those who took the field have the hearts of champions.

“Loyalty to country, always. Loyalty to government only when it deserves it” - Mark Twain
Memo to our readers: This week’s column will contain the same message that has been repeated for the three years South Boston Today has been publishing, as well as in the former South Boston Tribune. At the request of so many of you, I’ll share it once again with updates.

Even in 2015, there are still remnants of that old Politically Correct mindset that once had momentum for their efforts to ban Nativity scenes, stop school children from singing Christmas Carols at their pageants, and pretty much anything else that would purge God from the celebration. They have even attempted to intimidate shopping mall chains into removing the traditional decorations from their stores. The ACLU, among others, comes to mind here. The other group is made up of silly people, by and large, who walk on egg shells in their bizarre efforts to make the ‘holidays’ a generic celebration, so as not to offend anyone. This second group, some of whom are interchangeable with the first group, are nearly apoplectic in their looney effort not to so much as utter the word Christmas. And both groups have as one of their main targets, the Christmas Tree. Yes folks, I said it – Christmas Tree.

Whether these PC types and radicals like it or not, if it’s an evergreen decorated with lights and ornaments on display in December, it’s a Christmas Tree. They have always been Christmas Trees, they are Christmas Trees in 2015 and they will always be Christmas Trees. They are not “winter solstice shrubs” as some kooky school administrator from Cambridge tried to force her students to call them one year.

The trees that will be lit on East and West Broadway are not holiday trees they are Christmas Trees. The trees at the State House and at Boston City Hall and on Boston Common are Christmas Trees. The tree that may be put up at Medal of Honor Park at M Street is not a holiday tree. It too is a Christmas Tree. This battle has been won. The PC types and the anti-Christmas bigots lost this fight several years ago. It’s just that some of them aren’t smart enough to realize it, so they persist in their childishness.

Even Barack Obama acknowledged last year that it was the annual Christmas tree that was lit at the White House, not a holiday tree. It’s also encouraging in 2015 to see so many more people who are no longer shy or timid about openly and enthusiastically saying “Merry Christmas” instead of

CONTINUED ON page 7
Lawn on D will look to cut deficit
The 2.7-acre urban playground known as Lawn on D next to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center will continue to operate under a plan to stem the red ink, following a meeting of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. The MCCA board approved a plan to gradually reduce the deficit, which ran over $2 million this year, writes the Globe’s Jon Chesto. If all goes according to plan, the Lawn on D will come close to breaking even in 2018.

Tim Murray on Worcester: Fiber can lead the way
Former lieutenant governor and now Worcester Chamber of Commerce head Tim Murray writes in the Worcester Business Journal that the city has a critical asset to grow its economy -- a strong broadband capacity, an advantage it should expand throughout Worcester.

Worcester will buy back guns
The city of Worcester and several surrounding communities will stage a gun buyback program to coincide with the anniversary of the Sandy Hook massacre on Dec. 12, the Telegram reports. Under the program, the communities will give out gift cards in exchange for weapons, with rifles worth $25 and semi-automatic weapons bringing $75. Worcester Mayor Joseph M. Petty urged other communities to take part in the event.

The Millionaire Tax adds up; Rosenberg offers supportive comments
Already the tension is building over the so-called Millionaire Tax ballot initiative, the movement to put what essentially is a surtax on Massachusetts incomes over $1 million. News arrived yesterday from the Department of Revenue that the ballot proposal, which would raise the tax rate on incomes over $1 million by four percentage points, to roughly 9 percent, would generate close to $2 billion annually by the time it would be implemented. The DOR said the estimated $1.9 billion in new revenue would be paid by 19,500 filers, or .5 percent of the state’s population. It promises to be a classic litmus-test issue. Members of Raise Up Massachusetts, the umbrella group behind the ballot initiative, plan a rally today at the State House. The Massachusetts ground army in the far more competitive, and earlier, race in New Hampshire.

Transgender rights bill stalls
A bill that would protect transgender individuals from discrimination remains stalled on Beacon Hill and one reason why may be that even staunch supporters haven’t found a way to counter the main argument against it, the Globe reports. House assistant majority leader Byron Rushing tells the Globe’s David Scharfenberg that he and other supporters haven’t yet found a strong counter to the fears raised by opponents about the provisions in the bill allowing transgender individuals to choose which public bathroom they use based on their gender identity. Passage in 2016 may be even more difficult with an election cycle looming in November, the Globe notes.

Presidential primary a done deal?
Voters in Massachusetts won’t go to the polls until March, but with Hillary Clinton in a commanding lead and politicians continuing to line up behind her, Boston Magazine’s Garrett Quinn asks whether the Bay State Democratic primary still matters. In fact, Clinton may be more focused on trying to leverage her Massachusetts ground army in the far more competitive, and earlier, race in New Hampshire.
I f this week’s issue resembles a Wacko Hurley memorial issue, then so be it. Every writer for this paper knew, respected and admired Wacko and if anyone in this town deserves such an issue it would be Wacko.

The media portrayed John Hurley as some type of South Boston Archie Bunker and, even on his passing, intentionally and erroneously identified him as the “parade organizer who successfully banned gays from marching with a decision from the U. S. Supreme Court”. Character assassination, as we’ve come to see over the last twenty years, is the lingua franca for the liberal progressive media, when logic deserts their argument. As this wake and funeral demonstrated, he was loved by many from the halls of Congress, the leaders of the Archdiocese, the maintenance staff of the parish and all walks of life in between. He was not a mean man and bore no one ill will. He was simply a determined man.

Perhaps, it was growing up in this most Irish of communities that just happened to be the site of our Nation’s first military victory that gave him his ferocious love and appreciation for both. He staunchly embraced the American Constitution and lovingly supported those veterans, who had defended it and who knew and understood the Korean War Motto, “Freedom Is Not Free”.

He believed in equality for all, including his town. So over the years, Wacko and the Allied War Council had made sure that the South Boston parade celebrated the twin themes of honoring both the Irish heritage and also the military and our veterans. On at least 5 occasions since 1974, some parade applicants had been rejected as their signage was considered advocating a position in conflict with the parade themes. In 1992, a gay group demanded the right to march, carrying a sign with an explicit sexual message. They were ejected by the council as had been another group called “Irish Heterosexuals of Boston”. This led to a court action and the preposterous decision by a judge that the Veterans could not celebrate their parade as they wished. Even more unbelievable, was that eighteen more Massachusetts courts and judges did not understand the concept of the First Amendment and free speech. Either they did not understand or perhaps did not care.

Following Irishman Edmund Burke’s advice, (“all that’s necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing”), the Veteran’s Council decided to fight and Wacko would be their champion. This caused the left to delight at the thought of the all powerful American Civil Liberties Union matched up against some guy named Wacko. Delight turned to dismay when Attorney Chester Darling and Wacko turned out to be a more potent combination than Belechick and Brady.

The rest, as we know, is history. In a presentation both eloquent and powerful American Civil Liberties Union matched up against some guy named Wacko. Delight turned to dismay when Attorney Chester Darling and Wacko turned out to be a more potent combination than Belechick and Brady.

The rest, as we know, is history. In a presentation both eloquent and obvious, Chester Darling convinced all nine justices that Wacko was not a bad man representing some evil council looking to oppress. Think of Gore vs Bush, Obamacare and many others. They were all 5-4 decisions. This case was so obvious not one of these nine divergent personalities disagreed, yet, here in cuckoo land Mass, only the late Chief Justice Joseph Nolan saw the obvious.

Imagine if the ACLU had prevailed, the fact would have been that gay people could not have their own pretensions. He also saw himself as anyone’s equal. Rank and position had no effect on him. He conveyed that sense of equality to all around him, and expected it to be returned. He was a man of principle to the end. Wacko was thrust into notoriety. He did not seek it. Before, during and after the court battle, his proudest and most important role was a husband, father, uncle and grandpa. We all were proud and fortunate to have him and call him friend.

Thanks Wacko. Rest in Peace Dear Comrade.
Wacko Hurley - Rest in Peace My Friend

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Brian P. Wallace

I had heard a lot about this guy they called Wacko from my dad, who was a past commander of the Martin McDonough Post. It seems even back then, Wacko had a reputation as a standup guy and a man that other veterans looked up to. My Dad said that Wacko was a man’s man. I didn’t have a lot to do with Wacko back then. My life was busy and I wound up working in the mayor’s office for Ray Flynn.

In 1991, Cablevision asked me if I could announce the high school sports on their channel. I had been hounding them to put the Boston kids on television for years, so I had to put my money where my mouth was. I began a career that is still going strong today, thank God. I knew sports pretty well and kind of grew into my role as an announcer. In 1992 Cablevision asked if I could announce the St. Patrick’s Day parade. They had one camera and one microphone and I announced the parade in front of the South Boston Court House on East Broadway. It was a travesty. First of all it poured, the microphone short circuited and there was no sound for half the parade. In 1993, I told them I would never do another parade unless they had the proper equipment and a stage. They provided all that and the next year we went live in front of the library. I announced the parade until I was elected to office in 2002.

I found out that you can’t announce anything - sports, parades, debates, or anything else, unless you have the right information in front of you. I called Wacko in 1993 and asked if I could sit with him and go over the parade lineup. In typical Wacko form, he barked “Jesus, I’m pretty busy. How long will this take?” “An hour” I said. “OK, Come up Tuesday at 7pm at my house”. I arrived at 7pm and expected Wacko to chew my head off. It was just the opposite. He had a beer already open for me and treated me like royalty. His wife Molly came downstairs and gave me a big hug. I went back every year to Wacko’s house and actually looked forward to it. Inside that gruff exterior was a heart of gold. He would say to me “Brian, this band hasn’t paid in six years”. “Why do you keep letting them in?” I asked. “Well, they don’t have a lot of money, they travel a hundred miles to get here and it is the highlight of their year, so I let them slide.”

That was the Wacko that nobody saw. He was a man of principle. He was maligned by The Boston Globe as a bigot. He was being attacked by a hateful news media, badgered by certain elected officials to compromise in order to take the pressure off them or threatened by radicals that came in many forms, he always remained calm and in control and did things his way and got the job done. His relaxed and quiet determination infuriated his detractors, but won him tremendous respect from his many supporters.

John F Kennedy’s definition of courage was “Grace under pressure”. Wacko fit that definition perfectly. At the wake and the funeral this week, the obvious was spoken by quite a few: “They just don’t make them like Wacko anymore” and “He was one of the greats” and of course “The town just won’t be the same without Wacko Hurley”. And yes, it’s all true.

South Boston was indeed fortunate to have John Wacko Hurley as one of its leaders. No longer will he frequent his favorite bench at Castle Island or occupy his usual pew by daily Mass at St Brigid Church. But he will forever live in the heart of the grateful community that he loved and served for so long and so well. Farewell Wacko and Thank you. May God Bless you with a special place in Heaven.
Mayor’s Enchanted Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting at Medal of Honor Park!

Join Mayor Walsh and Santa Claus at Medal of Honor Park on Sunday, December 6, at 1 PM for the annual Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting! Mayor Walsh will light the tree at 1 PM sharp! Refreshments will be served and each child will receive a gift from Santa Claus! The Enchanted Trolley Tour is a beloved annual tradition. Mayor Walsh lights a Christmas tree in each neighborhood, bringing Santa Claus and Elves from the North Pole along to spread some holiday cheer. Bring the whole family up to Medal of Honor Park for some festive holiday fun! Mayor Walsh will arrive promptly at 1pm to light the tree, ushering in the Christmas season. Be a part of this wonderful neighborhood event! See you up there!

Maeve In Concert Returns to South Boston on December 16th.

By popular demand, the angelic vocals and music of Maeve will be returning to South Boston for its annual Christmas Concert on December 16 at 8pm at the New Covenant/South Baptist Church located at 80 L Street. Maeve has thrilled South Boston audiences for several years with its beautiful singing and instrumental parts and is guaranteed to put all in attendance in the Christmas spirit. The audience loves the performance and the members of Maeve love performing in South Boston; especially at Christmas time.

Maeve has a unique sound that perfectly combines music and lyrics they have created themselves with traditional Christmas favorites that have stood the test of time for generations. Audiences are held spell bound throughout the concert. It’s that beautiful.

The doors will open at 7:30 pm as the church will fill up fast and the concert will begin promptly at 8pm. You can buy tickets online or at the door. For ticket information you can log onto the New Covenant Church of South Boston at www.nccsouthboston.org or call 617-855-9673

CHANGE IS ON ITS WAY CONTINUED from page 6

Dorchester Ave. corridor, the results of walking tours and workshops where residents piled poker chips on maps to show what they’d like to see where.

The BRA’s preliminary plan would radically remake this corridor into a place of new housing and retail establishments. After more community feedback and study, BRA officials aim to approve the new zoning next spring. Full build-out could take 10 or 15 years. There will be more community feedback early next year, a market study to measure demand, and detailed study of utility lines and potential pollution underground. But the change it envisions is already coming.

Real estate agents and brokers have been knocking on the doors of many of the dilapidated buildings, both vacant and occupied. Some of these businesses are second or third generation family owned light manufacturing and industrial use companies that never envisioned such a transformation. They stand to make a lot of money should they sell. Their problem is “where to go” if they need or want to stay in the City. The price of growth is steep and climbing. The City planners have to weigh the make-up of the tax base. As commercial and industrial uses diminish, along with them are the blue collar jobs.

Will the South Boston community bury their collective heads in the sand and hope that this high speed growth is sustained and then simply capitulate and cash in? Not a bad fall back plan, given the market. If they do so, what happens to the next generation?

Many in South Boston have the capacity to contribute to the planning, so that the policies that the Walsh administration puts in place mirror the commitments made to the community during his campaign for office. He has a quality team of local residents in high positions in his administration, who are dedicated to keeping the core of South Boston vital. Will the wide-eyed urban planning cowboys and cowgirls in the BRA pay attention to the down home townies? Hopefully. Go Chippewas!

CICCONE - CONTINUED FROM page 3

the safe and soulless ‘Seasons Greetings’ and proudly sharing photos of their own Christmas Trees on their Facebook and other social media sites.

Now I know, with all the problems facing the world today, some might ask does it really matter what people call a Christmas Tree? Yes, I believe it does. Because, it’s so very important that the world never, ever, lose sight of what this season means to so many. It is sacred, it’s holy and those who strive to make it fade out need to be stood up to or one day they just might be successful. Fact: Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. It doesn’t mean that everyone has to celebrate Christmas as a religious time. Not everyone is a Christian. But those who are so quick to work hard to deliberately dilute the true meaning so as not to offend non-Christians don’t seem to care in the least about offending the more than two and a half billion people around the world who are Christians. Again, to believers, this is a sacred and holy time. Efforts to marginalize the true meaning are to the vast majority of Americans insulting, insensitive and disrespectful.

And just one more thing to that fast dwindling number of people who seem to have a problem and get offended when someone wishes them a Merry Christmas. Whether you like it or not, Christmas is also a federal holiday. It comes around each year on December 25th. Whether you celebrate it or not, it’s still coming, so get used to it.

When someone thinks enough of you to make an effort to wish you a Merry Christmas, they want you to have one. It doesn’t matter what your faith is. All are included and all are welcomed in the sincere greeting during this festive season. Anyone who has a problem with that really does have ‘issues’ and might want to seek counselling. And now that we have set the tone for the season, may it be enjoyable to all.
GIVING THANKS TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY

(L-R): Alaina Coppola, Manager of Charitable Giving, Massport; Susan LaPaglia, SBCHC; and Bill Halpin, CEO, SBCHC

Last week, families and friends throughout the Boston area gathered to give thanks for each other - and the food that symbolizes our national holiday of Thanksgiving. From turkey and stuffing, to cranberries and pumpkin pie, most of us were fortunate enough to enjoy full tables.

Massport and its employees remembered those in our community who were not able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast: neighbors who are homeless, ill, injured, jobless, or alone. The Greater Boston Food Bank reported a 21% increase in requests for food between 2008 and 2014. One in nine residents of Eastern Massachusetts does not know where their next meal is coming from.

This year, Massport was pleased to provide food donations to three programs in our community: Crossroads Family Center in East Boston; Winthrop Community Food Pantry; and South Boston Community Health Center Food Pantry. Combined, these three organizations serve more than 500 families and individuals each month. Their support can mean the difference between paying for heat and having a meal on the table.

As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded that programs like these and many others provide critical assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community.

SOUTH BOSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER FOOD PANTRY
provides assistance to patients of the health center, and receives approximately 400 visits each month.
409 West Broadway, South Boston, 617-269-7500, www.sbchc.org

WINTHROP COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
serves an average of 90 Winthrop families per month and donations are always needed.
222 Bowdoin Street, Winthrop, 617-846-6884

CROSSROADS FAMILY CENTER
provides shelter, case management, housing search, stabilization services, and food pantry assistance to homeless, formerly-homeless and low-income families.
56 Havre Street, East Boston, 617-567-5926, www.ecrossroads.org

For more information on Massport’s commitment to our neighboring communities visit: massport.com
### Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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The Senior Connection

By Lu O'Brien

Thanksgiving has come and gone. I hope that everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends. Christmas is next... Speaking of holidays, the next month will be filled with holiday events that are going on in Southie.

I am still taking reservations for the First Night New Year's Eve celebration hosted by Mayor Walsh at the Seaport Convention Center. Call me at 617-464-1910 to reserve a seat on the bus. There will be a turkey dinner and entertainment. Deadline for event is December 7.

Events that will take place at the South Boston Neighborhood House.

December 9 at 10:00 am Wellness Ambassador Sandy Hay from Rite Aide will talk about the services Rite Aide Pharmacy provides for you. At 10:30 there will be a blood pressure screening.

Friday, December 11 at 12:00 The Wreath Making & Lunch will take place. Call Carole Sullivan at 617-268-1619 for details and to sign up. Cost is $15.00

Tuesday, December 15 is the Life Line Screening. This screening is for Carotid Artery, Heart Rhythm, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Screening and Osteoporosis Risk Assessment. All programs will be closed in the main room. Conference room will be open. No yoga on that day. If you are interested in this screening, call 1-866-579-5069. Please have your Medicare card ready when you call.

Sunday, December 20 is the Christmas Luncheon. This year we will be serving a prime rib dinner. Dru Errico will provide the music for your enjoyment. Hours for this event is 12:00-4:00 pm. You must sign up for this by December 14 by calling Carole Sullivan at 617-268-1619. Cost is $25.00

The Neighborhood House will be closed on December 24 & 25.

Friendly Reminders

Fair Foods: is every Tuesday, 115 Orton Marotta Way. $2.00 for a bag of food. Please bring bags with handles because fruits and veggies are heavy to carry. Hours are from 1:00-2:00. Everyone is welcome.

Fair Shoes: Fair Shoes is no longer taking applications for this year. Hopefully this program will start back up next year. I will keep you posted when it starts up again.

The Curley Community Center/BCYF: is serving Kit Clark hot lunches on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:30 - 12:30. A $2.00 donation is appreciated.

Senior Discounts:
Goodwill: 470 W. Broadway---25% off every Tuesday
Pat’s Kitchen: 402 W. Broadway---cup of coffee with any item on menu
Dewberry Dogs: 357 W Broadway---20% off on all dog services and $5.00 for kitties nail cut
I Service Computer Repair: 314 W. Broadway---10% for all computer service. Not on parts.
Broadway Lock: 313 W. Broadway---free key cap with any purchase
Pizzeria 260: 260 W. Broadway---10% off any order
Foodies: 230 W. Broadway---10% on Tuesday
Subway: at Broadway Station---10% off any regularly priced sandwich. 60+ years of age
Molly Moo’s: 687 E. 2nd Street---$1.00 for cup of coffee OR $5.00 ice cream sundae (one size only)
Rite Aide Pharmacy: 710 E. Broadway---20% off first Wednesday of the month on selected items with Plenti Wellness 65 card
Bringing Up Baby: 663 E. Broadway---$10.00 off your purchase of $50.00 or more off of full priced merchandise
South Boston Animal Hospital: 659 E. Broadway---10% off on all animal services
Federico’s Bike Shop: 126 Emerson Street---$5.00 of any service

Taxi Coupons
Msgr Powers: 120 L Street---Dec. 15 @11:00-11:30 am
Carson Towers: 1410 Columbia Road ---Dec. 15 @10:00-11:00 am
Waterview Apts.: 1350 Columbia Road---Dec. 15 @12:30-1:00 pm
Castle Cove: 225 W. 2nd Street---Dec. 17 @ 11:00-11:30 am
West Broadway Task Force: 115 Orton Marotta Way---Dec. 22 @ 10:00-11:00 am
Foley Apts.: 199 H Street---Dec. 22 @ 11:30-12:00 noon
Old Colony: 265 E. 9th Street---Dec. 22 @ 1:00-1:45 pm

If this is your first time getting coupons, please bring with you a photo id with your birth year on it.

BINGO!!!

Castle Cove Co-op. 225 W. 2nd Street. Wednesday night from 6:30-9:00

St. Vincent Church: Saturday night from 6:30-10:00

My name is Lu O’Brien. I can be reached at 617-464-1910 OR email me at obielulu@yahoo.com. If you can’t reach me, call Anne Brennan at 617-464-1910 and leave a message. I will get back to you.

Seniors Alert: Be very careful with all the scams that are happening at this time of year. People like to prey on seniors especially at this time of year. During the year, seniors have been educated on how to handle a scam. I know you all will know what to do. Also, shred all your personal papers before putting them into the trash. If your kids don’t know what to get you for Christmas, ask for a shredder. You are protecting yourself from having your identity stolen. Same with medicine bottles. Tear the label off the bottle, put on a piece of junk paper and shred it.

Have a wonderful week...
Artists Holiday Sale and Open Studios December 11-12

The artists of the 249 A Street Cooperative and their guests are opening their studios for a Holiday Studio Sale on December 11th and 12th. As part of the Fort Point Holiday Stroll, Fort Point’s original artists building will hold a mini-open studios for holiday shopping. More than twenty artists, both cooperative members and invited guests, will be opening their doors in the building. Visitors will find handmade gifts of art, craft, and design made by local artists in one building in the historic Fort Point section of South Boston. There will be jewelry, paintings, pottery, drawing, photography, prints, handmade-clothing and accessories, as well as ornaments, greeting cards, and holiday gift items. Shop in a relaxed studio setting, meet the artists, and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

Free to the public

Hours:
Friday December 11th: 4-8pm in conjunction with Friends of Fort Point Channel Fort Point Holiday Stroll
Saturday December 12th: noon-5pm

About the 249 A Street Cooperative: 249 A Street Cooperative in the Fort Point neighborhood of South Boston is Massachusetts’s first limited-equity live/work cooperative for artists. The building, which is home to more than 45 artists and their families, has served as a model for artists’ housing nationwide and was key in the growth of the Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC). The Cooperative celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2014. More information at: www.249AStreetCoop.com

Participating artists at the 249 A Street Holiday Art Sale include:

Anna Leliwa watercolor and oil painting  
Lenore Tenenblatt sculpture from found wood and metal, unique print and photo-based projects  
Lisa Knox sea-inspired artwork and gifts, holiday cards & ornaments  
Kristen Alexandra silver jewelry with attitude and fanciful metal flatware  
Jessica Doucha works on paper, artists’ books and bronze sculptures

The Cooperative’s Gallery will also be open during the event
The Gallery at 249 A presents: For the Birds
A group show with works by eight artists, curated by Bonnie Mineo. Laura Davidson, Becky Dwyer, Ian Kennelly, Lisa Knox, Bonnie Mineo, Miklos Pogany, Bruce Rogovin, Gabrielle Schaffner

The Fort Point Holiday Stroll, organized by Friends of Fort Point Channel, is in its fifth year. Local businesses, shops, restaurants, galleries and art studios will be open on Friday December 11th with special offers and treats for visitors. For a complete list and map, visit the Friends of Fort Point Channel website.

Other places to find art in Fort Point on December 11th and 12th:
The Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC) Gallery at 300 Summer Street is planning its annual Paper Chase exhibition, with works on paper on sale to benefit this local arts organization.

Made in Fort Point will be open at 315 A Street. Made in Fort Point sells the art, design, and craft of local artists year-round.

FPAC’s Holiday Sale will take place at the Envoy Hotel, with more artists set up showing and selling their work.

Templeton General sells beautifully designed gifts, home decor, and works of art, at 25 Channel Center Street.

press contact:
Gabrielle Schaffner gsos@rcn.com, 617-283-6458
1. images attached: Holiday Stroll illustration by Laura Davidson  
2. Lisa Knox, painting additional images available upon request
Coppersmith’s Honors Homeless Vets with a Thanksgiving Feast

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

The Holiday’s bring out the best in people and the good folks at Coppersmith’s Restaurant at 40 West Third Street in South Boston were certainly in the spirit this Thanksgiving. They provided a traditional Thanksgiving feast fit for kings, prepared by renowned chef Chris Henry in an effort to give back to the community and to recognize homeless veterans for the service they gave to their country. So often in today’s environment, our veterans; especially those among the homeless population are forgotten. But not here and certainly not on this day.

In attendance and also welcomed to the dinner with the veterans were homeless non veterans as well as Coppersmith’s owner Gerry Curtin, Chris Curtin, City Councilor at-large Michael Flaherty, Veterans advocate Dan Magooon, Ed Flynn, Former Mayor and Ambassador to the Vatican Ray Flynn and wife Cathy Flynn, Quincy Roberts, City of Boston Veteran Service Group, Craig Galvin of the Galvin Group and Ryan Spitz from Councilor Flaherty’s office.

Chef Chris Henry, as expected prepared a sumptuous meal with all the trimmings and followed it as only he can with delicious pumpkin and custard pie. Mayor Flynn and Councilor Flaherty were the hard working servers and made sure that everyone had as much to eat of this fantastic cuisine as they desired with leftovers to go for those who wanted.

This was an event that warmed the hearts of all in attendance. A relaxed and happy atmosphere was complimented with kindness, respect and dignity shared all around. And of course an excellent meal in one of Southies finest restaurants and hotspots – Coppersmiths. Well done to Coppersmith’s owner Gerry Curtin for his thoughtfulness and generosity and to all those who gave of their time and energy to make this year’s Thanksgiving a very special day indeed.
Need and giving thanks is not a season that really ever ends as “Foodies Market” demonstrated by donating 30 turkeys to the South Boston Community Health Center for distribution to the community.

“Foodies” reputation as a giving commercial neighbor is well deserved.

St. Monica’s Thanksgiving

South Boston Students Earn Boston College High School Honors
The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) is organized under the authority of the National Defense Act of 1916. JROTC was established in Excel High School (formerly South Boston High School) by a contract between the Boston Public Schools and the U.S. Army in 1993. The Program of Instruction (POI) is based on a systematic progression of learning that is designed for the cadets’ development at each grade level. The goal of JROTC is for cadets to graduate from high school; practice good citizenship; demonstrate leadership; achieve positive self-esteem; think logically and communicate effectively; maintain good health and appearance; acquire proficiency in basic military skills (such as drill and ceremonies, first aid, and map reading) that are necessary for working effectively as a member of a team; and learn about the dangers of substance abuse.

ANY HIGH SCHOOL CAN PARTICIPATE IN EXCEL HIGH SCHOOL JROTC PROGRAM. As in any type of program, enrollment in JROTC program requires that certain conditions be met: Be in a grade above the eighth grade level; be physically fit to participate in the JROTC physical education program; and be able to maintain an acceptable standard of conduct and academic achievement.

Cadets participate in extracurricular activities such as Precision Drill Teams, Color Guards, Raider Challenge and Physical Fitness Teams, Air Rifle Teams (Civilian Marksmanship Program), and the National JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB). Cadets perform a variety of community and school service throughout Boston.

As you can see, Junior ROTC is more than just another high school elective course. It doesn’t fit in a textbook because the subject of JROTC is YOU. JROTC is all about you. You are the whole point. It’s devoted to your growth, both as a student and as a person. JROTC is a challenging, one Wellness elective credit, which prepares you for life, NOT THE MILITARY. No JROTC Cadet is under any obligation to join the military. Military uniforms are issued to Cadets in JROTC. These uniforms are the property of the United States Government, provided under bond to Excel High School. All uniforms must be returned at the end of the schoolyear or at any time the Cadet leaves enrollment.

JROTC provides preparation in skills that are necessary whether you are college bound or if you are planning to start work after high school. It helps you earn what you learn. JROTC teaches a subject you usually don’t study in school – REALITY. For further information contact Excel High School at 617-635-9870 Ext-1000 or 1024.
Introducing Nate Fishman, SBT’s Newest Sports Writer

Please join us in welcoming new contributing sports writer to South Boston Today, Nate Fishman. SBT is excited to start working with Nate. He will be contributing Boston Celtics, Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots analysis to SBT. He also currently contributes to Boston Sports Then & Now.

Like so many local Bostonians, Nate idolized the greats in Boston professional sports growing up, watching the Red Sox, Celtics and Patriots. Nate often looks back at the iconic teams in Boston sports as a reflection of what Boston stands for as a city – the resiliency of the ‘04 Red Sox team, the heroism of ‘13 Red Sox, the grit and leadership of the ‘08 Celtics squad, and the perfection of the Patriots dynasty under Brady & Belichick that still exists to this day.

Born and raised in Sharon, MA and attended Sharon High School, where he played third base on the baseball and small forward on the basketball team. He would later attend RIT in Rochester, NY, majoring in New Media Marketing. His whole family has immersed themselves in sports. Nate has one brother, Jake, who stars at Union College as a pitcher and first baseman. He has also played for the Brockton Rox for the past two summers.

Between Nate and Jake, the Fishman parents had learned to love the games of baseball and basketball through the support of their sons.

Nate hopes to bring a fresh perspective on Boston sports to the SBT reporting. He appreciates the teams, ownership groups and fan bases as the most authentic in the world. He knows how many people in the area are as passionate about Boston sports teams as he is, and he hopes to relate to them by covering and delivering on stories that peak the interest of fans.

Nate currently works at a Boston-based digital marketing firm and is very experienced in online media. He realized with his online media experience, and his in-depth sports knowledge, he had the tools to work in sports journalism. He began to write analysis pieces and humorous blog pieces for Boston Sports Then & Now in 2014. The SBT team is very excited to work with Nate and are glad to welcome him to the team.

Red Sox Planning for Next Season with Craig Kimbrel

By Nate Fishman

Since his arrival in Boston, Dave Dombrowski has repeatedly told the media that his first priority, to the surprise of many, was to bolster the bullpen. So at the onset of the offseason, it was a surprise to none to see rumors of the Red Sox trying to go after him for big name closers.

The Red Sox and Dombrowski ultimately opted to trade for Craig Kimbrel from San Diego Padres. In return, the Sox parted ways with 4 prospects, including the sought after OF speedster Manuel Margot. But the Red Sox have a deep farm system with promising young prospects, the Red Sox were willing to part with Margot. With the addition of Kimbrel, the Red Sox are leaps and bounds better from their opening last year, which was 26th in ERA last year.

Only 27, Kimbrel is a proven closer and 4-time all-star with the ability to touch the high 90s with his fastball. The Red Sox now have their long-term closer in Kimbrel, who is under team control through the 2017 season with a $13 million team option and $1 million buyout for 2018. The Red Sox also are less reliant on 41 year old Koji Uehara, who assumes the role of set-up man in the pen.

The acquisition of Kimbrel also solidifies Boston’s set-up man, and seventh inning guy. Koji Uehara assumes the role of set-up man. Uehara was able to gain 25 saves, and posted a respectable 2.25 ERA as the team’s closer last year, before going down with a wrist injury in August. In a less-pressure role as set-up man, the Red Sox are expecting Koji to post a similar output. He is however 40 years old, so if injuries continue to plague Uehara, last year’s setup man Junichi Tazawa, presumably slides back into the set-up man role.

Might not be done with the bullpen additions. The Red Sox have a need for a lefty specialist out of the bullpen that needs to be addressed. As of now, Robbie Ross Jr. is the only left handed reliever in the bullpen.

The Red Sox are also actively looking for an “ace” starting pitcher this offseason in addition to their rotation from last year that is still under contract for 2016. Assuming the Red Sox go through free agency for say, David Price, they may find themselves with an extra starting pitcher. If the front office does not trade a pitcher away in the offseason, this could open up the idea of putting Joe Kelly in the pen - an idea discussed time and again last season. Like Kimbrel, Kelly could reach upper 90s as a starter, but may actually be better suited as a reliever.

It’s still early in the offseason, and Dombrowski has some tricks up his sleeve. It will be interesting to see how the bullpen progresses and what other pieces he will get his hands on. But Dombrowski is a guy that stays true to his word-if he has intentions of building a strong bullpen, he’ll do it. Kimbrel is a pretty good starting point.
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