Massachusetts has committed $1.1 billion to the Commonwealth’s affordable and workforce housing development and preservation programs, as announced by Gov. Charlie Baker this week. The investments in public and affordable housing will increase by 8 percent in fiscal 2017 and by 18 percent over a five-year period, as well as work to create or preserve 5,000 units of affordable housing by 2021. The funding will maintain support for existing housing programs for high-needs populations, increase support for public housing communities and
EDITORIAL

“Our Hero”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Staff

Charlie must be trying to decide which suit to wear when he’s given the Kennedy Library “Profiles in Courage” Award. So, our Republican Governor will “absolutely not vote” for Donald Trump and “seriously doubts” that he would vote for Hillary Clinton, which must mean the possibility exists that he would vote for Clinton.

Does the Governor really think it was his stated governing plan or his brilliant oratory that people voted for? Or the fact that he wasn’t part of the ruling Democratic Party? Most would say it was because he had an “R” instead of a “D” after his name. Most of those voting that way were themselves registered Democrats. Does he think that the elected officials and large enthusiastic crowd that greeted him at the L Street Tavern weren’t all Democrats, willing to take a public position that the status quo had to change and he was their choice to change it?

Trump took on 16 different variations of the present Republican strategy and defeated them all. Unlike his supporters, Baker apparently lacks the courage to be anything other than “Bill Weld Lite”.

“You cannot invade mainland USA. There would be a rifle behind every blade of grass” – Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto

Letter to the Editor

I so enjoy staying up to date with South Boston Today and always find John Ciccone’s commentaries great, because each is always right on. I just wanted to add my two cents worth on the subject of the so-called “Bathroom Bill” and the latest nonsense from President Obama, issuing his latest command that all public schools in America must allow transgendered students to use the bathrooms they identify with. There is certainly an “or else” here. Will public school districts be denied federal funding, if they don’t follow orders? Kudos to Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick of Texas telling Washington, DC, that Texas will not be blackmailed like this and President Obama can keep his thirty pieces of silver. Would that our Governor say such a thing, but that ain’t going to happen any time soon.

Recently saw a transgendered woman on the Chris Matthews Show on MSNBC debating an opponent of the bathroom bill. She said she had a right to go to the ladies room. As far as I am concerned, if she thinks she’s a woman, dresses like a woman, puts on makeup like a woman, wears high heels like a woman and goes to the bathroom like a woman, let “her” use the place. We don’t have any toilet police yet and this whole issue is a made up one by the progressives trying to change American cultural norms. If an unattractive “woman”, like the one I saw on TV, wants to use the ladies room be my guest, but don’t tell me this is normal.

I don’t have time to waste energy worrying about people peeing but I don’t think the issue is in the Bill of Rights. Pat Buchanan back in 1992 warned everyone that we were entering into a war on culture. People laughed at him but they’re not laughing now.

SAL GIARRATANI
East Boston
The Information Center

A Reflection On The State Of America’s Armed Forces

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

John Ciccone

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

This Friday, May 2, is Armed Forces Day. It’s a day set aside to honor our country’s military and thank them for all the sacrifices they have made since America was founded in the 1700’s. Traditionally, over the years, Americans have held their military in high esteem and we have been justly proud of them and all they’ve done in defense of our freedom, liberty and way of life. In 2016, that tradition continues as the armed forces of the United States is by far the most respected and trusted institution in the land.

If you follow many of the recent news reports and the results of studies done lately, we know that the US Military has fallen on some tough times. The following are not the opinions of this writer. It is information coming from professionally authored surveys and testimony from military experts, current and retired.

Though the world continues to get more dangerous from the threat of terrorism and out of control warlike nations, the numbers of active members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and even the Coast Guard are being drastically cut. The number of operational Navy war ships is way down and there were even reports of shortages of rifles and small arms for the Army. The Air Force has fewer combat planes and small arms for the Army. The Air Force has fewer combat planes and has had to resort to cannibalizing moth-balled or decommissioned aircraft for the purpose of getting enough workable parts to keep those still on the line flying. The Marines are said to be forced to do the same with their planes.

In addition to equipment and weapons shortages, it is said that morale is down among some fighting units as they are not receiving the support from the Pentagon that they need and are being increasingly restricted on the battle field in what they are able to do to take on enemy troops and terrorists who are under NO restrictions.

Retired military brass are expressing shock at what’s happening to the country’s defense capability and are openly and publically saying so now. These generals and admirals who have served our country so well and had dedicated their lives to its defense are pointing the blame at the current administration in Washington and in particular, at Barack Obama himself and the leftist radicals that he has installed in positions of decision making. The bottom line is the United States is being deliberately and methodically weakened by these leftists who have been in power for the last 7 plus years and it’s taking its toll on our national security.

A recent poll of active US military members found that in the coming presidential election, they support Trump over Clinton by 56-24 percent. This comes as no surprise as Clinton vows to not only continue the policies of the Obama Administration but even to expand on them. With Armed Forces Day now upon us and Memorial Day coming next weekend, Americans continue to reflect on how important it is for our country to have a powerful national defense, second to no other country. The survival of the United States as we know it depends on it. We, as a nation can only hope and pray that our military can hang in and hang tough until a major change comes to Washington and those currently in charge are gone and replaced with people who love this country and legitimately respect those who wear the uniform and are willing to give them the tools and support that they need to keep our country safe.

This weekend begins what is called ‘Patriot Week’ and there will be events sponsored by the organization called ‘Massachusetts Fallen Heroes’. It will include road races, concerts, educational sessions with youth and even flyovers by F-16 jet fighters around the state, including the Boston area. Patriot Week will go right through Memorial Day and all of it geared to showing support to our veterans, including fallen Vets and their families, as well as current Veterans.

Now more than ever, showing support to our military, present and former, will go a long way in letting them know how much they are truly appreciated. And hopefully it will send a strong message to those currently in power in this country AND in this state that Americans are in no mood to allow those in uniform to be diminished, shortchanged or disrespected in any way any longer.
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.

Senate budget to call for increased higher-ed funding

As Senate leaders prepare to release their chamber’s state budget proposal for fiscal 2017, the Massachusetts Senate is poised in the coming weeks to press the House and Gov. Charlie Baker to make larger investments in public higher education, reports State House News Service’s Michael P. Norton. The budget proposal scheduled for release today by the Senate Ways and Means Committee will call for a $13 million increase, above funding levels approved in April by the House, for the University of Massachusetts, according to committee chairwoman Sen. Karen Spilka.

A shortage of pot? Really?

The number of people treated with marijuana for chronic pain, cancer symptoms and other illnesses has more than tripled in a year in Massachusetts, but many patients are prevented from getting herbal help due to a lack of licensed pot dispensaries and supply shortages, according to the Department of Public Health, as reported by the Eagle Tribune’s Christain Wade. At least 24,196 patients are certified to buy medical marijuana in Massachusetts, up from 7,846 a year ago.

This is one of the last things we would have anticipated about the new marijuana-dispensaries program: A pot shortage. Fyi: The story says patients bought 9,603 ounces of marijuana from six licensed dispensaries in April, up from 3,821 ounces sold by four dispensaries in January.

Non-compete bill contains a nasty surprise for large employers

A bill to limit corporate non-compete agreements with employees is once again winding its way through the Legislature. But the Globe’s Jon Chesto reports the bill now has a surprise in it: A “garden leave” provision requiring employers to continue paying workers with non-competes half of their salary until the contract expires. Big businesses, who generally support non-compete agreements over the objections of those who say they stifle competition and innovation, aren’t happy with the provision.

Our view: The vast majority of non-competes are not about protecting trade secrets and other sensitive corporate information, but are rather about preventing rivals from hiring the best workers. The best solution is a near elimination of non-competes. Short of that (as is the case with this bill), anything -- including a “garden leave” provision -- that makes non-competes more onerous to large employers is grudgingly acceptable.

Union claims victory for personal care attendants

Personal care attendants paid via contracts with the state will earn $15 an hour by 2018 under a new contract finalized between 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and the Baker administration, reports MassLive’s Shira Schoenberg. The 35,000 personal care attendants who work for the state today earn $13.68 an hour to care for low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Under the new contract, they will receive a raise to $14.12 an hour on July 1, 2016, to $14.56 an hour in 2017 and to $15 an hour in 2018.

Baker unveils $1.1 billion plan for affordable housing

The Baker administration is boosting funding for the state’s affordable housing programs, part of $1.1 billion push to preserve or create 5,000 affordable units, reports the Associated Press at CBS Boston. Under the plans, investments would rise by 8 percent in fiscal 2017 and by 18 percent over a five-year period.

Church group will end vigil after Supreme Court denies to take case

The Friends of St. Frances Cabrini will end their 11-year-long, around-the-clock vigil at the Scituate church after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take up their appeal of a lower court order to vacate the parish, Lane Lambert of the Patriot Ledger reports. The parishioners plan to form an independent Catholic church that is distinct from the diocese, which plans to sell the church property.

Springfield delays Uber regulation vote

The Springfield City Council delayed a vote on potential regulation of ride-hailing services such as Uber Monday night, with councilors saying they want to study the issue more, Peter Goonan of MassLive reports. The proposal would require all ride-sharing drivers to obtain written permission to operate from the city.

Meanwhile, Fasten, the Boston-based Uber competitor, said it would enter the Austin, Texas market, which both Uber and Lyft abandoned after that city put its own regulations in place, Brent Wistrom of BostInno reports. Fasten said it would move to sign up many of the thousands of drivers the other services had recruited in the city.

T board hears of ‘discrepancy’ in parking funds

The MBTA is continuing to
Reading Between The Lines

“The Community Waits”

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY

Brian R. Mahoney

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

Recently this column detailed the long battle to return truck route traffic to Summer Street and off of First Street where the previous administration had been re-routing it on a “temporary” basis in an attempt to make First Street a permanent truck route. Historically, before the port’s development First Street was occupied by residences still existing on First between P and N Streets. With the goal of returning residences to the First Street community, residents and BRA officials met for over 2 years to hash out new zoning rules to make that goal a reality. Not only was the goal to bring back residential, but to set guidelines that would eliminate the constant need for community meetings to listen to yet another developer to try to make a case that they were “special” and deserved a variance. A variance, of course, is a device by developers to change the zoning regulations to their advantage.

The Mass. Supreme Court has ruled that a “variance only be issued in rare hardship cases”. An example might be a family in a two-bedroom house with a boy and girl and parents. When the kids are little, the same bedroom for both children is acceptable. However, as the kids get older they obviously need their own room. A homeowner, at that point might request a “variance” in order to build a dormer with a bedroom. Neighbors, in many cases, believe that exemption should be granted, particularly if it keeps a family in the neighborhood.

When the First Street zoning committee was meeting all involved were aware of the industrial uses that once, or in some cases, still reside on First Street. With that knowledge in mind, the committee determined that 45 feet height on the community side of First Street and 50 feet on the harbor side would address the ability of present owners to develop and profit handsomely, while still protecting the quality of life for residents.

Despite false, misleading, documents that have appeared from an unsigned coward, no variances, particularly, from St. Vincent’s Group, have been supported under article 68. Presently a proposal has been made for F and W. First Streets. and, as you guessed, it is seeking a number of variances, among them a height over 50 feet. The organization and community at large, in the majority, oppose the granting of any variances of article 68.

Councilors Flaherty and Linehan have also taken a public position opposing the granting of variances under Art. 68 and supporting the position of the community, for which all South Boston residents can be grateful. The reason “all” should be concerned is because at the present time the BRA has been hosting meetings throughout the town with the goal of rezoning all of South Boston. Besides the obvious need of modernizing zoning to address the ongoing development in our town, the BRA agrees with the community that zoning should be set to eliminate constant meetings to discuss variances. In other words, “live and develop within the rules”.

One suggested change is allowing a 45-foot height limit would prevent a developer from seeking a variance for 50 or even 150 feet Mark explained it wouldn’t, because everyone has a right to seek a variance. He went on to point out, however, that using Art. 68 as an example, the city would demonstrate that no variances had been granted under art. 68 on First Street.

So now the community waits. Will the BRA abide by zoning they themselves created and their stated position that no variances will be granted? If the answer is NO and that agency finds yet another “exemption” for this project then why bother with a rezoning throughout South Boston that will only give developers an even greater height to start their “variance dance”, from? Why not keep it as it is and continue with the old, frustrating, constant meeting game that, sometimes, seems more designed to wear people down and out, than to actually address resident’s concerns? The community watches and waits.

Take care till next week.

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BOSTON – Senate Chair Linda Dorcena Forry and House Chair Kevin Honan of the Joint Committee on Housing in the Massachusetts State Legislature commend Governor Charlie Baker on his housing announcement.

“As Chairs of the Joint Committee on Housing, Representative Honan and I have been working to create housing that is safe, affordable and stable for Massachusetts families of all incomes. We thank Governor Baker for including in his capital budget resources for the preservation and production of more housing that is affordable. As Chair of the Joint and Special Senate Committees on Housing, I was tasked with recommending a series of policy changes to address these issues. A number of the proposals from the Special Senate Committee Report, Facing Massachusetts’ Housing Crisis<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/Senate/SD2473>, are incorporated in the five-year capital plan,” said Senator Forry.

“We are very pleased with the Governor’s announcement to prioritize state investments in affordable housing, particularly investments that would preserve the affordable units we already have. Keeping families in stable housing continues to be a top priority for the Joint Committee on Housing and we appreciate having the Governor’s support in that effort. Because of the housing affordability crisis, we are seeing in Massachusetts, it is critically important that we continue to focus our efforts on the production of new housing for all income levels. Our committee has reported out legislation that would make it easier for communities to build more multifamily housing and offers incentives for communities that plan for denser, transit oriented developments. We look forward to working with the Baker administration, local officials, and housing advocates as we collectively confront our housing affordability challenges” said Representative Honan.

The second bill establishes an Office of State Veterans’ Homes and Housing to address long term housing and support, including a provision for veteran preference in public housing. It also updates existing law so that “Veterans Status” is a clearly protected employment category, and ensures that all children of POW’s are eligible for the Public Service Scholarship. “Our veterans deserve the best, and I am proud to reaffirm our commitment to comprehensive and accessible Veteran Services in the Commonwealth” said Rep. Collins (D-South Boston). “These bills continue to improve the services and opportunities provided to our brave men and women that have sacrificed so much.” Understanding the sacrifice that military personnel and their families make, the Massachusetts House has consistently provided a continuum of employment, health care, educational, and housing support for its veterans. Both bills now move to the Senate for consideration.

Representative Nick Collins joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to pass two separate bills which place renewed emphasis on Veterans Services. The first bill, the FY17 budget, includes more than $77 million in Chapter 115 funding for cities and towns, allowing them to fully fund veterans’ benefits, and includes an overall increase of more than $6 million since FY14. In addition, the House budget provides $3.66 million for veteran outreach centers and $2.9 million to combat veteran homelessness, a growing problem in the Commonwealth.

“Veterans Status” is a clearly protected employment category, and ensures that all children of POW’s are eligible for the Public Service Scholarship. “Our veterans deserve the best, and I am proud to reaffirm our commitment to comprehensive and accessible Veteran Services in the Commonwealth” said Rep. Collins (D-South Boston). “These bills continue to improve the services and opportunities provided to our brave men and women that have sacrificed so much.” Understanding the sacrifice that military personnel and their families make, the Massachusetts House has consistently provided a continuum of employment, health care, educational, and housing support for its veterans. Both bills now move to the Senate for consideration.

Herald report. In all, 114 ships are expected to deliver 320,000 passengers to for brief visits to the city during this year’s cruise season. That’s a lot of cash-spending tourists, folks. **Debate heats up over graduated income tax**

Even though Massachusetts voters over the years have repeatedly rejected imposing a graduated income tax on residents, advocates of the current “millionaire tax” are more optimistic than ever that they can finally get their long-sought tax policy passed. They’re right to be upbeat: An overwhelming majority of respondents in a recent poll said they’d back a constitutional amendment to allow a graduated income tax.

Meanwhile, the Globe’s Joshua Miller has a piece on how opponents are struggling hard to find a counter-message to the “millionaire tax” proposal.

**Cruise lines bring bucks to Boston**

Two cruise lines will dock ships in Boston for the first time this week, providing a major boost to local tourism and the economy, Donna Goodison and Chris Villani of the
The Preakness Stakes horse race is an American tradition now 138 years old. It’s one of the most prestigious races in the world and known as the Second Jewel in the ‘Triple Crown’ of racing events along with The Kentucky Derby and The Belmont Stakes. Held on the 3rd Weekend of May; this year it’s this Saturday, May 21st, at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore Maryland; though in past years it has been run in other locations around the country, it is a grade 1 race over a distance of one and 3/16th miles.

Preakness was first run in 1873 and has been growing in popularity to this day. It holds the interest of literally millions of fans across America and is watch carefully by horse racing fans in Europe, the Middle East and in parts of Asia. And though some fans may not know this, only 3-year-old horses are run in this event. Though horse racing at one time was often thought of as a sport that only held the interest of the very wealthy; especially races as famous as Preakness, people now of all walks of life pay close attention and often wager sums of money of all sizes on its outcome. Not all the betting is legal of course but that’s for another time and a different story.

This year, the race will be covered by live TV and by Pay Per View Cable etc., and the list of potential starting horses is impressive to be sure. Strong, healthy and very fast, the most likely lineup is as follows: Abiding Star, Awesome Speed, Cherry Wine, Collected, Exaggerator, Fellowship, Lani, Lao Ban, Nyquist, Stradivari and Uncle Lino.

These names of horses may not be all that familiar to the casual fan or those not familiar with the sport at all, but to the avid – serious racing fan; especially when it comes to any one or all of the Triple Crown races, they are well known. Race followers are aware of the names of the trainers, the jockeys and even the owners of these fine thoroughbred steeds. They follow the stats and records of each of the top contenders closely and can tell you where they placed in previous races and what their actual times were. And for the winner of the race, the much sought after ‘Woodlawn Vase’ is the prize that has attracted so many but let’s not forget the cash that’s on the line with approximately 2.5 million dollars in prize money as the frosting on the cakes of victory.

The Preakness Stakes race is a festive time for many and often whole families gather to make a day of festivities of it nationwide. Here in South Boston, there are many locals who look forward to this event. For those not familiar with The Preakness and want to know more or for those who are and want to be part of the fun while not traveling to Baltimore, you can join friends and neighbors at ‘Touchies’ Shamrock Pub at 501 East Eighth Street in Southie this Saturday. They’ll have the race on the big screen. The race starts at 6:00 pm but get there early to enjoy some of the great food and drink that the Shamrock is so famous for.
BRA Continues Record Pace Of Real Estate Development Approvals

The real estate market continues unabated and the BRA is approving projects at a steady pace. Neighborhoods, the waterfront and downtown Boston see no signs of abating as commercial and industrial building are being gobbled up and no eyesore seems to detract from property values as the convenience, safety and local amenities overshadow limited views and marginal aesthetics. The square, box-like architectural designs complete with exaggerated and compromising overhangs stand in contrast to the charm of the classic 3-deckers and the brick town and row houses.

A 36-unit apartment building — to be called of all things a presumptuously named SOBO Place — was approved for 55 W. Fifth Street. Boston Real Estate Capital’s proposed $10 million project, designed by Choo & Co. Inc., would be built on a commercial lot currently occupied by E&S, an auto repair shop at the corner with B Street.

The new building would house 31 market-rate studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, and an additional five units would be affordable. Unit sizes range from 500 square feet to 975 square feet. A 2,045-square-foot, ground-floor retail space and a parking garage with 36 spots are included in the plans. “Our project will clean up and utilize an out-dated commercial property, which is currently an eyesore for the community,” Boston Real Estate Capital’s project filing states.

Meanwhile, across town a 340 foot mixed use commercial, retail and residential tower is planned for the site of the Trans National Travel headquarters building in the Fenway section, right next to Fenway Park near the Longwood Medical Area. The area is also home to a cross section of the arts community, including the Boston Arts Academy High School, a new studio building for the Boston Conservatory and the Fenway Studios artist housing complex.

“It’s just such a fantastic corridor, but it’s also a forgotten corridor,” Justin Krebs a spokesman for the company said. “Our goal is to really improve the look and feel of it.” The plan is for a rounded, terraced tower of glass and brownstone, with about 125 condominiums and 200 apartments on the upper floors — final numbers haven’t been determined — and retail and restaurant space at street level.

Trans National has begun speaking with neighborhood groups to build support for its plans. It has talked with Fenway Studios and the Fenway Community Development Corporation about ways to use some of its city-mandated contribution to affordable housing programs to help finance affordable apartments in the neighborhood. And it is talking with Boston Arts Academy about programs for students.

TRAFFIC & PARKING ADVISORY
Mass Fallen Heroes 5K Run & Ruck

WHAT: On Saturday, May 21, 2016 the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will close William J. Day Boulevard in South Boston to all traffic to accommodate the Boston Marine Corps Honor Run on William J. Day Boulevard. All four lanes on Day Boulevard will be used for the race. Traffic will be detoured to adjacent roadways: Columbia Road, Farragut Road and Shore Road will serve as a route to Castle Island. Parking will also be prohibited along the Day Boulevard.

WHEN: Saturday, May 21, 2016

WHERE: Day Boulevard will be closed from Kosciusko Circle to Farragut Road from 8:30 am to approximately 10:30 am. There will be no parking on Day Boulevard from I Street to Farragut Road from Friday, May 20th at 10:00 pm through Saturday, May 21st at 10:30am.

Temporary overnight parking for residents with a valid City of Boston South Boston Resident Parking Sticker will be provided at the angled parking spots located between Shore Road and the Castle Island parking lot beginning Friday, May 20, 2016. This temporary parking area will be staffed and vehicles will be checked for resident parking stickers.
## Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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FORMER MAYOR RAY FLYNN, elected officials, and children from the South Boston community helped the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) celebrate the 30th anniversary of Cruiseport Boston. Cruiseport Boston opened in 1986 and welcomed 13 cruise ships and a total of 11,723 passengers in its first season. More than 320,000 passengers are expected to come through the port on 114 ship calls this season. Cruise operations at Massport provide over 950 direct jobs and generate nearly $80 million in economic impact each year and $25 million in annual local, state, and federal tax revenue. “This is an exciting milestone for not only Massport, but for the cruising community and the entire region,” said Massport CEO Thomas P. Glynn. “Cruiseport Boston has grown into a well-established launching point for quality cruises, whether you’re heading to Canada or Bermuda. In the meantime, the industry is recognizing Boston as a significant embarkation port, in part because of our engaged cruising community. This will help keep Massachusetts among the top 10 states benefitting from the cruise industry.”

Glynn went on to praise Mayor Flynn for his dedication to the preservation of the South Boston waterfront. Flynn, a native and longtime resident of South Boston, served as Mayor of Boston from 1984 until 1993 before being appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. In his younger days, Flynn and several family members were dock workers in South Boston. “This is an exciting milestone for not only Massport, but for the cruising community and the entire region,” said Massport CEO Thomas P. Glynn. “Cruiseport Boston has grown into a well-established launching point for quality cruises, whether you’re heading to Canada or Bermuda. In the meantime, the industry is recognizing Boston as a significant embarkation port, in part because of our engaged cruising community. This will help keep Massachusetts among the top 10 states benefitting from the cruise industry.”

On behalf of Mayor Marty Walsh, the City’s Chief of Economic Development named May 16th - 20th “Cruiseport Boston Week” and it is a special week for cruising in Boston. On Wednesday, the Disney Magic will call Boston for the first time as part of her 15-day journey from Florida to Dover, England. Disney Magic is 984 feet long, sports 11 decks, and carries 2,400 passengers. On Thursday, Royal Caribbean’s Anthem of the Seas will also arrive for its inaugural call to Boston. The ship will be the largest ever to call Boston with 4,180 passengers and is one of the newest ships in Royal Caribbean International’s fleet.

At the event, Massport unveiled community art murals created by local children from the Laboure Center, South Boston Boys and Girls Club, South Boston Catholic Academy, South Boston Community Health Center and the South Boston Arts Association. The children worked under the leadership of South Boston artist Dan McCole. McCole is a watercolor painter, as well as the co-founder and president of the South Boston Arts Association.
There Are Places I Remember; Some Have Gone But Some Remain

SOUTH BOSTON TODAY - By Brian R. Wallace

For those of you who don’t know those lyrics, they are from one of my favorite Beatle songs, which I think about a lot when reminiscing about things in my past. One of those memories is the West Broadway of my youth. It certainly was a much different time back then we shopped West Broadway with our parents or by ourselves. I remember sitting on the stool at the lunch counter in Woolworth’s and ordering a hot dog from an old rotary cooking machine and a coke from the waitress. Even though I was eight or nine years old I thought I was pretty grown up and I enjoyed feeling that way even if it was just for a few minutes.

I remember accompanying my mother into Kennedy’s Butter & Egg Store and running to the ice cream cooler as my mother ordered our eggs, cheese, butter and milk and then into the Manhattan Market where we got our meat for the week. We would get our fruit next door at the outdoor fruit stand and directly across the street my mother would do her banking at the South Boston Savings Bank and then into the Supreme Market next door to get the rest of our weekly order. I remember my mother paying her gas, electric and phone bills on West Broadway.

When I needed shoes I got them at Sullivan’s Shoes, Petchell’s or Thom McCann’s next to Sands. A new shirt brought me into Gorin’s next to Liggett’s Drug Store. There was also a Grant’s and Stukas’ Photography studio next to Dr. Levitan’s, which was next to Sands. We sometimes got our fruit at Mignosa’s or from the fruit man truck. He would sing what he had to sell that day. “Watermellow half a quarter watermellow, peaches.” We would go next door into Taylor’s Market (Where Your Grandmother Shopped) the sign said. Taylor’s Market was located on the corner of E and Broadway.

A weekend was never complete without a trip to the Broadway Show (AKA the Bug House) and some popcorn and a vanilla tubby from Mrs. Gagin. We mailed our letters at the Post Office next to the Broadway Show, where ABCD is now located. We got our gas at Charlie & Chris gas station, which is now the West Broadway parking lot. I will never forget the bowling alley on the second floor next to the gas station. There was a donut shop and a Brigham’s on that block of West Broadway as well. Johnny Cunniff, Al Shaugnnessy, Billy Baker and Mike Larkin all at one time or another ran the sporting goods store next to the fruit market on Broadway.

Pober’s was the only place for first communion outfits and the Bay View Men’s shop was always the place my father got his new hats. Carey’s furniture store was at the corner of F & Broadway across from Mary Anne’s. Broadway Tile and Linoleum was a few doors down the street and Mike’s Lunch was directly across the street where the Community Health Center is now located, as was Ellis Furniture. Joe’s Spa, Cantor’s and Cabot’s Drug store were all located at Dorchester and Broadway across from the Bay View Pub. There was also another small butcher shop on that corner where we got our skirt steak, tenderized of course.

My father was known to join some of his WWII friends at the Car Stop, The Heights Tavern, The Bright Star or The Casino. The Colonial Room was above The Elite Restaurant. There weren’t a lot of realty businesses back then on Broadway.

World Famous Blinstrub’s anchored the corner at D & Broadway across from Rosengards Drug Store. Fint’s Drug Store was on the other side of D & Broadway near the First Tavern, next to Sonny and Whitey’s, just up the street from the old Station 6. Also a just up from D & Broadway was the Penn Tavern, The Italian Villa, the Carmen’s Post and the International were all next to the Penn Tavern at one time or another. The McDonough Post moved down Broadway after a tragic fire and was above Irving tailor shop where my aunt Jeannie Geary worked. And I always wondered how that little Eliot typewriter repair shop stayed in business all those many years. Same with that little religious book store just up from E and Broadway. I never saw anyone go in to that typewriter store or that religious bookstore my entire life.

There was a barber shop, another cobbler shop and a Lithuanian market where Shenanigan’s is now located.

Legendary Matty Landy’s, which got most of its business after hours, was on the corner of B and Broadway and that went through a series of name changes like Barney Grogan’s, Street Lights and Patchessi’s before

settling on Sturgis Cleaners. Frank’s Barber Shop was next door. The South Boston Supply company was between E and F on Broadway near Ketvirtis Jewelers and Billy Long had a florist shop at E and Broadway while Theresa Mullen’s florist shop was located where Station 6 is now located. The Royal Café, The Transit and The Tunnel were on Broadway near Broadway Station across the street from PJ Cronin’s.

What do all of those places have in common? They were all once a major part of West Broadway or Big Broadway, as some called it, once, and most are now gone. A few, however, still remain. I haven’t even touched the bars, which were as plentiful as the Churches at one time. With all the changes South Boston has been through, I thought a stroll down memory lane might be in order. They can replace the businesses and the Churches, but they will never be able to replace our memories.

“These are places I remember; some have gone but some remain.”
Tim Smyth Performs In Scotland And Ireland

Tim Smyth of South Boston, a sophomore member of the Boston College High School’s Concert Choir, performed with the choir during the Spring vacation on a tour in Scotland and Ireland.

The twenty-five-member choir under the direction of Marina Rozenberg first sang at Edinburgh Castle and the Palace at Holyrood House in Edinburgh Scotland, then Saint Giles Cathedral, where several people in the audience were moved to tears, coming to speak to the choir and calling out their favorite pieces, including Ave Maria de Caccini.

Next on a boat cruise they surprised tourists by singing Loch Lomond with the majestic Ben Lomond mountain in the background. They sang the Scottish national anthem, Flower of Scotland, at the base of Sterling Castle.

After travelling to Ireland, they performed at Saint Canice’s Cathedral in Kilkenny, where they moved the audience with their rendition of Danny Boy. In addition to the 25 students, faculty members Mr. Gene Holmes and Ms. Tonya Winter of the English Department, Haeshin Shin, pianist, traveled with the group, as did five parents. The overall experience traveling as a group united in song and prayer is what these students will remember most. One junior said:

“While we were performing, I felt that we were all in the presence of God. Like last years’ trip to Spain, I was in awe of the beauty of the cathedrals and churches we visited and performed in. The castles and museums, along with the architecture, were very different from the United States. Learning about other cultures and witnessing the friendliness of people of other nations first hand gives us knowledge that cannot be found in textbooks. Although I may visit these countries again in the future, the opportunity to sing in these majestic cathedrals is a once in a lifetime experience.”
Mass Fallen Heroes/ Patriots Week Events Begin This Friday

Schedule of events

SOUTHBOSTONTODAY - By Staff

In South Boston, news has traditionally always traveled fast; especially when it’s about an event(s) pertaining to honoring America’s veterans. And the news that a unique series of gatherings to honor fallen veterans known as Mass Fallen Heroes Patriot Week will be highlighted in our area beginning this Friday, May 20th is the talk of the town.

The 10-day period is sponsored by the group that is itself called ‘Massachusetts Fallen Heroes’, whose executive director is South Bostonian Dan Magoon. Before we list the upcoming events, please read the following description according to it’s website of this very active and hardworking organization with the goal of serving veterans and their families:

‘Massachusetts Fallen Veterans was established in 2010 by Boston Firefighters, local veterans, Gold Star Families, police officers and other patriotic citizens. We ourselves are combat veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and we are committed to memorializing our fellow service members who did not return home to their families. Our work began with a goal to construct a public memorial to honor all Massachusetts fallen heroes since September 11th, 2001. The memorial will include an outdoor park and an indoor interactive media display honoring the lives of our fallen. The work we do to honor the fallen was our beginning and we since evolved from a charity, strictly geared to building a tribute honoring fallen heroes, into a multifaceted organization.

Massachusetts Fallen Heroes has developed a ‘veteran’s edge’ program and now also acts as a liaison in acquiring educational, employment, medical, legal, financial and numerous additional services to local military veterans, their families and families of the fallen. Veterans Edge insures that all heroes returning home receive the support and services they have earned and deserve. Our outreach efforts, programs and events have united the Massachusetts Gold Star and Veterans’ communities in a unique bond of shared loss and healing’.

Featured Patriot Week Events:

- May 21st – Armed Forces Day: Massachusetts Fallen Heroes will cross promote Armed Forces Day throughout the Commonwealth’s 351 Communities utilizing student involvement.
- May 21st- Massachusetts Fallen Heroes 5k Run and Ruck: CARSON BEACH, SOUTH BOSTON. This road race will begin at 9am with registration taking place from 7-8:30am. There will be live music by the group called ‘Cask Mouse’ and an awards ceremony to follow.
- May 24th- Mass Fallen Heroes First Fashion Show Featuring Lindsay Tia: This event will be held at Coppersmiths Restaurant, located at 40 West Third Street in South Boston and will run from 6-11pm.
- May 27th- Dedication of the Memorial: Site located at 85 Northern Ave: This will commence at 10:30am with the Opening Ceremony, Dedication Program at 11:am and Closing Ceremony at 11:30am.
- May 28th- Fenway for the Fallen: Mass Fallen Heroes will conduct its annual Softball Classic at Boston’s Fenway Park. Gold Star Family members and veterans will take the field for 9 innings while fans cheer them on. Registration will be at 10am. First pitch will be at 11am.
- May 28th- Patriot Fest Concert: Blue Hills Pavilion: Excellent live entertainment featuring top name bands. Gates open at 3pm; the concert begins at 4pm.
- May 29th- Post Race Celebration on the Provincetown ll: There will be a cruise around Boston Harbor and celebration from 11am till 1pm on the Provincetown ll, located at 200 Seaport Blvd. in Boston. Registration and boarding at 10am. Departure at 11am. Live music by ‘Cactus Attack’.
- May 30th-Monday/Memorial Day: Massachusetts Fallen Heroes will participate in media conferences throughout the day. F-16 Fighter Jets will conduct a statewide flyover following the national moment of remembrance. Americans are asked to pause in an act of national unity for the duration of one-minute beginning at 3pm during Memorial Day.
- May 30th-Monday/Memorial Day: Massachusetts Youth Salute to our Fallen Heroes: Massachusetts Fallen Heroes, in partnership with the Rendon Group are co-sponsors of this youth salute to our fallen heroes which will feature essays and musical tributes. A massive mural of the American Flag created by 50,000 middle and high school students in the aftermath of 911 will be on display. This event will take place at 85 Northern Ave in Boston and will include a flyover by F-16 Fighter Jets. Program: 2pm, Aerial Salute:3pm

The above schedule of events confirms just how hard the members of Massachusetts Fallen Heroes work and have been working on behalf of veterans and their families all across the state. The goal is of course to bring help and services to those who need it and certainly deserve it. And with a line up like this; especially stretching from Armed Forces Day to Memorial Day it is bound to stir the patriotism which always lies within the hearts of so many South Bostonians and most Americans nationwide.

And what better place to have several of these events than in and around South Boston itself, where honoring our veterans has always been so high on the list of priorities? The Massachusetts Fallen Heroes organization invites the public to join in the ceremonies and festivities and hopes for a big turnout.
The BCYF Tynan community Center will be hosting the Fun-In-The-Sun Program (Summer Camp) from July 5th through August 19th. It is a 7-week program for Girl’s and Boy’s ages 7-13. Hours of operation will be 9am to 3pm.

Registration will be first come first serve basis, so please if interested drop by the BCYF Tynan and pick up an application. The program provides campers with the opportunities for growth and development in physical, educational, social and cultural skills.

The South Boston Senior Babe Ruth will be holding tryouts this coming weekend. The dates are Sunday May 15 and Monday May 16. They will be held at King Field in Moakley Park from 5 PM to 7 PM. To be eligible to play you must be a resident of South Boston or the section of Dorchester that boarders South Boston.

You must be 16 years old before May 1. You also may play if you turn 19 this year. Of course 17/18 are able to play. This is the 56th year of baseball for this age bracket in Southie. We, as always, need help coaching this travel team and if you’re interested, please come down to the tryouts. Coach Connor would like all of last year’s player to come to the tryouts as well, to be sure you are returning this year.

The season begins on June 6 and ends about July 30 including playoffs and all-star. Any graduated players are asked to drop off their uniforms at the tryouts. See you at the field.
Celtics Need a Really Big Man

Can the Celtics snag the next Robert Parrish or Kevin Garnett or Bill Russell? With all due respect to Cousy, Jones, Havlicek, DJ, Byrd, McHale, Allen and Pierce, to win another championship they need one. It was the key to all of their previous seventeen.

This year, the Celtics landed the No. 3 overall selection in the upcoming draft during the lottery held in New York on Tuesday night. The Celtics acquired this first-round selection in a 2013 trade with the Brooklyn Nets, who finished with the third-worst record in the NBA during the 2015-2016 season.

The Philadelphia 76ers secured the No. 1 overall selection, and the Los Angeles Lakers have the second selection. Both the 76ers (10-72) and the Lakers (17-65) finished this season with a worse record than the Nets (21-61).

Boston fans have had one eye on the NBA lottery for months, checking the standings to see just how bad the Nets would be. Ultimately, Brooklyn finished with the third-worst record in the league, meaning that Boston was handed the third-best odds at the first overall pick. Boston is also slotted with the 16th and 23rd overall selections, along with five second round picks. There’s got to be a Big Boy among them.
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617-765-8636

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355 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210
617-357-LUCK

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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
One Marina Park Drive
Boston, MA 02220
617-295-0001

Jerry Remy’s Seaport
250 Northern Avenue
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617-856-7369

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