On Thursday December 15, 2016, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will recognize marijuana as a legal substance for adults 21 and over, and the City of Boston reminds residents of the following rules and standards that are to be enacted with the new law:

**Possession of Marijuana**
- Adults may carry up to one ounce of marijuana in public. Five grams of that may be a marijuana concentrate.

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**CITY OF BOSTON REMINDS RESIDENTS OF MARIJUANA REGULATIONS**

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**Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell & Frank Kelley Christmas Dinner**

*Tis the Season!

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Sunday, December 25th**

11:30am – 1:30pm

St. Monica Parish Hall
331 Old Colony Avenue
(the corner of Old Colony Avenue & Prebble Street)

Hosted by: South Boston-Seaport Catholic Collaborative & Our Elected Officials
The Russians Did It and The Dog Ate His Homework

There are political operatives in this country that play on the fears and suspicions of the American public for political gain. There’s nothing new about this. It’s been going on for well over a hundred years. But since the November election, the side that lost has taken what is being called ‘Fake News’ to another level and Barack Obama is leading the charge. Never one to take the blame or responsibility for anything that goes wrong on his watch, it’s always someone else’s fault, when events take a turn in opposition to his agenda. Now, the massive election loss that his party suffered is the fault of Russian hackers and ‘fake news’.

But the problem with this theory is that there is no conclusive evidence that it happened. The C.I.A., though they brought out the possibility that it happened that way, have not and probably cannot confirm that it did. The Obama Administration has a history of manipulating intelligence for political gain and there is no guarantee, or even reason to believe, that they are not up to their old tricks on this hacking claim as well. And to pretend to be outraged that there was interference in our election, or so they say, is almost comical, when one looks at how this President dispatched his operatives to Israel a couple of years ago, to interfere in their election, because he had a personal dislike for Benjamin Netanyahu.

As for ‘fake news’, yes, it actually does exist. One only has to turn on the TV each night to sample it for themselves. The ‘Hands Up, Don’t Shoot’ story, during the Ferguson rioting, was fabricated by the press and fed to the public to stir emotions and that incident is just one example among a constant barrage of fake news we are subjected to.

“I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year” - Charles Dickens

Marijuana Contained from front page
- Adults cannot have more than ten ounces of marijuana in their residence.

Growing Marijuana
- Each resident in the state can grow up to six plants, but there can be no more than 12 plants in a household. Adults must grow plants in their primary residence in a locked or secured location.

- Plants cannot be visible from a public space without the use of binoculars, an aircraft or other visual aids.

Medical Marijuana
- The new law will not affect medical marijuana.

Smoking in Boston
- Residents and visitors cannot smoke marijuana in a public place. This includes marijuana and tobacco. “No smoking” means residents cannot inhale, exhale, burn or carry any:
  - lighted cigar, cigarette, or pipe,
  - lighted or vaporized substance in any manner or form.
  - This includes marijuana, even if it’s used for medical reasons.

Additional Restrictions
- The marijuana law prevents adults from consuming marijuana in a public place where smoking tobacco is prohibited. The law allows for a fine of up to $100 for each offense.
  - Under the law, “marijuana products” include:
    - edible products and beverages
    - topical products and ointments, and
    - oils and tinctures.
  - Under the law, resident cannot have an open container of marijuana or marijuana products in their residence or trunk.
  - The new law doesn’t change the existing state laws for operating a vehicle under the influence of marijuana. It’s still illegal, and subject to the same fines and penalties.

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The Christmas season is in full swing to the delight of most, but not all of course. Checking the news and reports from around the country, it seems that the effort on the part of those who would ban the whole idea of the holiday/Holy day completely, still exist, but not like it used to be. Several years back, there actually did seem to be a full-scale assault or ‘war’ on Christmas. Attempts to prohibit the display of Nativity Scenes, Crosses and even Santa and Christmas trees were on going and aggressive by individuals and organizations. Law suits were being filed to stop the reciting of Christmas carols in public places and they would even try to pressure shopping malls into taking down decorations and stop playing Christmas music.

But like many efforts to eliminate cherished traditions, a backlash by the majority of citizens usually follows. This was the case with the movement to dilute or, even eventually, relegate Christmas to being nothing more than an average or ho hum event.

And though their numbers have declined drastically, there are still a few grinches, for lack of a better word to call them, who still say they are offended, when someone takes the time to wish them a Merry Christmas. Really?? How foolish is that? The way most people see it, if someone thinks enough of another person to take the time and go out of their way to wish another person - friend, acquaintance or stranger, it doesn’t matter - a Merry Christmas, it’s usually because they sincerely want that person to have one. Some people, because of the grinches, are still uncomfortable wishing others a Merry Christmas for fear of offending another, so they have taken the cautious approach and resorted to saying the safe and generic ‘Happy Holidays’ or even worse and more bland and boring – ‘Seasons Greetings’. Even on Christmas day itself.

To those few of you, who still might be afraid to use the greeting Merry Christmas, we have come up with the perfect response to those dwindling few, who still take offense. Try this response out. ‘You shouldn’t take offense at being wished a Merry Christmas. Christmas has been designated as a legal federal holiday by the government of the United States. It comes around every year on December 25th. Whether you like it or not and whether you choose to celebrate it or not, it’s still coming. So, my/our wish to you is that your Christmas day be Merry’. That should work to silence the perpetually offended. If not, make a wish that they find a lump of coal in their stocking and be on your way.

The Police Revolt of 2016

By Lawrence C. Mackin

On sale now in eBook form on Book Baby, Barnes and Noble, iBooks and electronic book outlets worldwide. $4.99 in eBook form. Will be available in hard cover and paperback in 'Print on Demand' form at Book Baby. Print On Demand paperbacks can be ordered from Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other book outlets starting September 29, 2015
Lynch: While Dems discussed bathrooms, Trump talked jobs

U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-South Boston, thinks Donald Trump won the election partly because his campaign did a better job than Hillary Clinton’s in addressing the concerns of the average American worker, reports WBZ News at CBS Boston. And what were Dems doing? “We were talking about which bathroom to use, we’re talking about free-range chicken, all these other issues out there, GMOs, that I don’t think really affect in the short term what Americans worry about most on Election Day,” Lynch said on Keller at Large on Sunday.

Romney says it was an ‘honor’ to be considered for State

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney last night conceded on his Facebook page that he wasn’t going to get the Secretary of State job under President-elect Donald Trump, who instead is going with one of the more unlikely cabinet picks in recent memory: Rex Tillerson, CEO of ExxonMobil. Tillerson is likely to face tough confirmation hearings due to his close corporate ties to Russia, the Washington Post is reporting. In his Facebook post, Romney writes: “It was an honor to have been considered for Secretary of State of our great country. My discussions with President-elect Trump have been both enjoyable and enlightening. I have very high hopes that the new administration will lead the nation to greater strength, prosperity and peace.”

Again: Romney never stood a chance. He should have known that and stayed clear of the Trump threering circus. But he just couldn’t resist.

Mitt Romney Facebook

Keating: ‘We were under attack’

Over the weekend it was U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton warning that Russia is an ‘enemy’ of the United States. Yesterday, U.S. Rep. Bill Keating, a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, was saying that the U.S. was ‘under attack’ by apparent Russian hackers determined to influence the recent presidential election and that he supports an investigation, the Herald is reporting. Meanwhile, some presidential electors are demanding that they be briefed on the investigation into Russia’s cyber antics, in a move supported by Hillary Clinton’s campaign, reports Politico.

What timing: Healey isn’t going to Texas

Though there’s no way to prove it, we can’t help but think that a federal judge’s decision yesterday to rescind his own order that Attorney General Maura Healey testify in Texas has something to do with, somehow, somewhere, the selection of ExxonMobil chief Rex Tillerson as Donald Trump’s secretary of state. The timing is too coincidental, in our somewhat cynical view. No matter, Healey won’t be testifying today in a Dallas courtroom over her climate-change investigation of ExxonMobil and Trump will likely be trumpeting Rex’s appointment later today. Shira Schoenberg has more on the Healey-ExxonMobil feud at MassLive.

MassLive

‘More dumb and impulsive than hate-based’

Babson College’s case against two pro-Trump students – accused of everything short of starting World War III after Donald Trump’s election last month – is falling apart at the seams, both the Globe and Herald are reporting this morning. The Globe’s Joan Vennochi rightly notes that the students’ actions were actually “more dumb and impulsive than hate-based.” Meanwhile, in a Globe op-ed piece, Firmin DeBrabander, a professor of philosophy at the Maryland Institute College of Art, says college “liberals and their young apprentices must lose their sensitivity” and start dealing with harsh realities if they’re going to defeat policy changes pushed by the incoming Trump administration.

Report: Higher-education funding cut by 14 percent since 2001

From State House News Service’s Katie Lannan: “Massachusetts has cut its higher education funding by an inflation-adjusted 14 percent since 2001, as both tuition and fees and student debt have increased, a new report found. The declining support for the University of Massachusetts system, four-year state universities and two-year community colleges comes amidst ‘growing importance’ of public higher education to the state’s long-term health, according to the report, released Tuesday by the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center.”

SHNS (pay wall)

What does NAIOP know that we don’t know?

David Begelfer, head of NAIOP of Massachusetts, the commercial real estate and development association, beats everyone to the punch with his early 2017 predictions. He has some interesting ones, some of them a little disconcerting. But here’s the one that caught our attention: “A new Fortune 500 corporate HQ will relocate to Boston.” Hmmm. It was only 11 months ago the GE announced it was moving to Boston. So, who’s next?
State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry and State Representative Nick Collins lauded the MBTA’s decision to invest additional money into a complete overhaul of Red Line trains. Previously under contract to replace only a portion of the aging train cars, the MBTA Fiscal Management and Control Board voted unanimously to instead replace the entire fleet, and add up to an additional 30 cars, bringing the total from 220 to 252 cars. The cars are expected to be in use by 2023.

“The investment in new Red Line trains will significantly improve efficiency and reliability for all commuters, in particular my neighbors in Dorchester, South Boston and Mattapan,” said Senator Linda Dorcena Forry. “I commend the MBTA for taking steps to modernize the system and improve the service for riders.”

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The Red Line is the system’s busiest branch, carrying up to 22 percent of the total riders and servicing Cambridge, Downtown, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, and Braintree. The new cars are expected to cost an additional $280 million, but reduce the cost by up to $310,000 per car. In addition, the new fleet is expected to reduce time between trains from five minutes, to three minutes, increasing efficiency, reliability, and service for riders, some of the main goals of the lawmakers’ transportation agenda.

“This is an important step forward for the system, and one that will greatly enhance the quality of life for commuters in South Boston and Dorchester” said Representative Collins. “I applaud the MBTA’s decision to make such an important investment to bring in new riders and to provide the best possible service to all its customers. The Red Line is a key transit corridor that keeps our city and our region thriving, and this sort of investment will ensure that it will be a reliable connection for residents, businesses, and commuters for years to come.”

**SEN. FORRY, REP. COLLINS APPLAUD MBTA INVESTMENTS**

$280 Million for New Red Line Cars
The Wait is over

Major David Davis and Major Margaret Davis, Divisional Commanders of the Massachusetts Salvation Army and House Speaker Robert DeLeo

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND FOX 25 TEAM UP FOR NEEDY

To raise awareness of Red Kettle Campaign

WHAT: Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and others will take over The Salvation Army Red Kettle in Downtown Crossing over the next two weeks to help those in need. Speaker DeLeo will try to defend his title as the reigning Celebrity Bellringer Champion, having raised the highest amount in 2015 – standing up to strong challenges from Governor Baker and Mayor Walsh.

The Celebrity Bellringer campaign picked up speed last week with mascots from all five New England professional sports teams. The campaign continues this week with Speaker DeLeo and Mayor Walsh scheduled to take their annual turn at the Red Kettle on Tuesday, December 13th. Other celebrity bellringers coming soon to Red Kettles this year include Auditor Suzanne Bump, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, and news anchors, reporters and meteorologists from Fox 25.

They will have their work cut out for them given the high bar set by this year’s Red Kettle Campaign Chair, Jay Ash, Massachusetts’ Secretary for Housing and Economic Development. Ash and his wife, Susan, contributed to the campaign, and Susan’s company matched the couple’s $300 donation at The Salvation Army Red Kettle Kickoff last month. Red Kettle corporate partner, Star Market, immediately offered to match the Ashes’ gift – resulting in an impressive total of $1,200.

The Red Kettles are a vital source of funding for Salvation Army programming and services for hundreds of thousands of children, families and seniors across Massachusetts each year. This includes meals, toys and other holiday support for those in need, along with funding for food pantries, soup kitchens, social services, and education programs. The Salvation Army has set a statewide Red Kettle campaign goal of $3.5 million this year. The Red Kettle campaign ends on Christmas Eve.

WHO: Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker
Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
Treasurer Deborah Goldberg
Auditor Suzanne Bump
Fox 25 anchors and reporters

WHEN: Tuesday, December 13
   House Speaker Robert DeLeo – 11 a.m.
   Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh – 12 p.m.
   Thursday, December 15
   Fox 25 Red Kettle Takeover – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
   Auditor Suzanne Bump – 12 p.m.
   Monday, December 19
   Treasurer Deborah Goldberg – 12 p.m.
   Tuesday, December 20
   Governor Charlie Baker – 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Salvation Army Red Kettle Downtown Crossing (outside Macy’s Department Store) Boston, MA
Welcome Home Ed Hamilton!!

Well known and beloved World War II veteran and South Bostonian, Ed Hamilton returned home this week from his most recent visit to Hawaii. Ed was invited back to help mark the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He travelled to the islands with family members and was not only an invitee, but an honored guest as well.

He was a speaker at a local Hawaiian grade school, the Mokulele Elementary School and thrilled the young students with his presentation and his knowledge of those historical WWII events. He was even selected to light the official Christmas tree for them. The respect and gratitude that was shown each and every one of them was truly heartwarming.

As many Americans are aware, the Hollywood actor Gary Sinise has been active in quite a few veterans’ causes. He travels to different bases and visits wounded vets in hospitals and gives most generously, wherever there is a need to help out America’s heroes. Mr. Sinise spent time with Ed Hamilton and it was apparent that they enjoyed each other’s company.

As most know, Ed was in at least two major battles in the Pacific Theatre during that conflict and saw plenty of action during his time in the service. As he travelled around the island with his fellow WWII veterans, the bonds that they all shared during that conflict were just as strong now as they were then. Ed Hamilton was reunited with many other surviving WWII veterans, most of whom also travelled great distances to get there for what was a true reunion of American heroes.

Once again, South Boston’s own Ed Hamilton was a welcomed visiting dignitary by the United States Navy where he served honorably during dangerous times. It was clear by the reception he received wherever he went on this and past visits to Pearl Harbor that his service, like every veteran’s service is very much appreciated by members of today’s military as well. He makes them proud just as he makes his South Boston neighbors proud.

In fact, on his return to Boston, he and the other veterans he travelled home with were met at Logan Airport by a State Police escort to welcome them back. South Boston and America itself are fortunate to have him and could not ask for a better good will ambassador.

Congratulations Ed, thank you, welcome home and have a Merry Christmas.
Thank you to all who attended and participated in the third annual Holiday Tree Lighting at South Boston Maritime Park! Many toys were collected and will be donated to the Labouré Center and Toys for Tots to celebrate the holiday season. A special thanks to Representative Nick Collins, Councilor Bill Linehan, and Santa!

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Recent South Boston Real Estate Sales

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Seniors Celebrate Christmas at the Condon Community Center

The City of Boston’s Condon Community Center (BCYF) and the Condon Council hosted a fantastic and very festive Christmas luncheon celebration to honor the neighborhood’s senior citizens this week. Christmas carols were playing and could be heard throughout the event and everyone donned their best Christmas attire. Laughter and good cheer was in abundance as nearly 100 attendees enjoyed delicious pasta, meatballs, salad, rolls, finger sandwiches and a delicious Christmas cake, cut by Betty Flaherty, President, Condon Community Council.

In attendance to meet, greet, break bread and celebrate with the seniors were Chris Byner, BCYF Deputy Commissioner, Joe Curran, Condon Site Coordinator, Bill McGonagle, BHA Executive Director, Annissa Essaibi George, City Councilor At Large, Rob Chisolm, Condon School Principal, Bill Stoddard, P.A.L. Director and John Allison, Neighborhood Services, South Boston Liaison. Mrs. Claus’s helpers; Sherie Cope (BCYF Regional Manager), Deb Flaherty (BCYF), Jerry O’Neil (BCYF), Pam Collins, Condon Community Council Secretary, Isabel Alicea, Condon Community Council Treasurer did a great job keeping the buffet lines flowing and the crowd fed and happy. Condon students were chosen to assist in the luncheon and help serve food and cake to the seniors.

Continued on page 11
These young gentlemen did a great job, displayed impeccable manners and were very polite. Good job!

After lunch, Barbara Kelly (BCYF) and Billy Higgins (friend of the Condon) announced it was raffle time. Seniors got out their tickets and the numbers were called and the winnings dispersed. Just when you thought the raffles were over, Billy Higgins asked Barbara to pull one more number. Barbara did and the winner of that number received a $100 bill from Billy Higgins.

Needless to say, Pat O’Malley was delighted to receive Ben Franklin as the crowd clapped and cheered.

Ann Brennan, West Broadway Task Force Senior Coordinator, along with her Christmas Elves took the floor next. Ann announced that Santa had left gifts for everyone since they had all been on the nice list this year! The seniors enjoyed opening their gifts and were very happy and pleased with what they received. Gifts ranged from slippers, sweaters, housecoats, blankets, jackets, decorative mugs with teas, Continued on page 15
Gingerbread House Contest and Toys For Tots

The South Boston Arts Association held its fourth Annual Gingerbread House Contest fundraiser for Toys for Tots on December 12th at the South Boston Public Library. Registration and voting ability was the cost of a new, unwrapped toy and the event collected 2 large boxes of toys. The houses were amazing this year and clearly showed all the hard work that went into them. The judges; Carol O’Connor, Co-Host Chefs Table Series (R) Cooking Show and Glenn Quirion of our own Sweet Tooth Bakery had some difficult choices to make! The library was filled with Christmas cheer and music as the judges, neighbors and participants walked around to look at the entries and pick their favorites. When the finalists were chosen, Deb Putnam and Dan McCole were like Santa’s elves giving out the prizes and awards to the winners in each category. The holiday spirit was alive and well at this festive event.

This year’s winners!

Non-profit/Business:
1. First Place Trophy (and bragging rights) went to our new neighbor on East Broadway, Dedham Savings Bank, Vallerie

Individual/Family:
2. First Place – Leslie Sachs and Sam Robinson
3. Second Place – Madeline Bonannio
4. Third Place – Nancy Maggs
5 & 6. Fan Favorite Ribbon (voted by the visitors)

South Boston Catholic Academy students Olivia and Andrew Arana. Andrew described their gingerbread creation as Christmas Trees being delivered by train to the houses in the village. At the end of the competition the peep trees were gone from the display. When asked what happened to the trees, Andrew replied they were all delivered! And that’s what it’s all about folks.

The South Boston Arts Association would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who participated and to all their wonderful and tireless volunteers who put the event together. Also, thank you to the Library for their continued support!
St Peter Academy-Hear the BUZZ?

The buzz of children busy as bees can be heard in the classroom and seen on the Kindergarten 1 Student Bulletin Boards in the corridors at St Peter Academy.

So what’s all the buzz about? Well, these 4 year old students have immersed themselves in the learning process in a big way!

Here’s what they’re learning during second quarter at St Peter Academy.

Students are working on Writing through the Year Unit 1. This unit introduces students to the world of writing. Kindergarten 1 teacher, Ms. Erin Sawyer, creates an environment where students’ efforts and approximations are encouraged and applauded. She masterfully ensures that students feel safe in their abilities to take risks as they embark on their writing journey. The tone Ms. Sawyer sets on this first unit will lay the foundation for future units. As Ms. Sawyer says: “It is okay to make mistakes and my only expectation is that they try their best. My students truly love writer’s workshop and they write daily. They get very excited when having the opportunity to sit in the author’s chair and share their writing piece in front of the class during ‘sharing’.”

Literacy work continues and is currently focused on beginning and end sounds. Students are having a lot of fun building words and sentences together in circle time. The writing desk is very busy in the mornings, there are a lot of independent writers in K1!

Students have progressed to Literacy Component Domain 3: Animals. The K1 children are very enthusiastic about this domain, especially about the animal hospital in the dramatic play center. Syllable blending and segmentation, sequencing and narrative storytelling, fine motor skills and handwriting strokes and initial sound identification are particular skill areas addressed in domain 3.

K1 students have moved onto Math Module 2 and are learning about 3 dimensional shapes. The children are identifying, analyzing, sorting, comparing and building with solid shapes. Students will continue to deepen their learning on patterns, greater/less than, measurement, ten frames and adding. Then, of course, students will take all their knowledge and BUZZ right into an exciting STEM project!
The annual ‘Toys for Tots’ drive has been in full swing for a few weeks now and reports coming in show this year’s effort is going to be a big success. Boston Firefighter Sean Coyle has informed us that their efforts this year are record setting. Though the Toys for Tots program is nationwide and spearheaded by the United States Marine Corps Reserves, locally, organizations have been working non-stop to collect as many new toys as they possibly can in time for Christmas.

As was reported in South Boston Today in a prior story, Boston firefighters from Ladder 19 at K and E. Fourth Streets and Engine 39 from D Street have been working in cooperation with the Massachusetts State Police at the Old Colony Division on Day Blvd. Also, working with the ‘Staties’ are members of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) Police, who have been fantastic in the toy drive once again this year and very proud of it too. And why not? It’s a great cause for some very deserving children who otherwise might not receive gifts at Christmas.

Massport CEO Thomas P. Glynn is also proud of the role his police play in this worthy cause. He stated the following – “Massport and the Massachusetts State Police work together every day to ensure the safety and security of our employees, vendors, customers and neighbors is protected. Massport is pleased to continue that partnership to help provide toys to children this holiday season through the State Police’s work with the United States Marine Corps ‘Toys for Tots’ program.

There is still time to donate toys for distribution this Christmas, but the deadline is fast approaching. Massport has set up drop off locations. They are as follows: The Conley Container Terminal at 940 E. First St. and at the Massport Maritime offices in the East Building of the Boston Fish Pier at 212 Northern Ave. You can also look for signs in the windows of various business’s in the area that signal that they are also designated drop off locations. You can still bring toy donations to our two fire stations at Ladder 19 and Engine 39 and of course to the Old Colony State Police Station.

Massport Police, Boston’s Firefighters and The Massachusetts State Police for the caring they show each year in this effort to bring that added Christmas cheer to so many deserving children. Oh, and let’s not forget the United States Marines who started it all so many years ago, and continue to make it so successful to this day.
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pajamas, perfumes, jewelry, gift cards, etc.

Wrapping up the luncheon, BPD’s finest from C6 along with Jake Manning said goodbye, clean up began, rides were arriving, photos were taken for great memories and an abundance of Merry Christmas and Thank you could be heard. It was a first class gathering that brought smiles to the faces of all, even the youngster of the group!

The mood was festive and it reminded everyone there just why Christmas in South Boston is so special. With good people gathered to have a great time in each other’s company, which is tradition and so common in our neighborhood, it makes memories that will last forever.
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