Asian American Commission honors Chang-Díaz, Chan and Wong

By Cody Yiu

February 7—The Massachusetts Asian American Commission (AAC) hosted a reception honoring the newly elected and reelected Asian American legislators – Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz (D-Second Suffolk), Representative Tackey Chan (D-Quincy) and Representative Donald Wong (R-Saugus).

"For me, it is really a privilege to have both Representatives Chan and Wong in the legislature. I’ve always been very cognizant about coming in as the first Asian-American to be elected to the legislature...the first person of color in the Senate...it’s hard to be there on your own. Thank you so much to both of you personally for taking the great step of putting your name on that ballot," Chang-Díaz said.

Chan said putting his name on the ballot was a tough decision to make. Chan announced on January 31 that he has been appointed to three key committees: the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure and the Joint Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change.

"Affordable energy distribution and generation are important to job creation and keeping the economy moving in a positive direction. These committees look at reducing our needs on foreign oil, exploring innovative ways to expand renewable energy generation and efforts to lower energy bills for residents and businesses in Massachusetts," Chan said in a statement. Chan is the former Vice Chairman of the Commission.

Wong cracked a joke in his remark to illustrate the point of how far Asian Americans have come in political engagement.

"Asian Americans in politics have made a lot of in-roads. This reminds me when I was campaigning... I was knocking door to door. At one point, I knocked on a door and a child came to the door, and said, 'Dad, the delivery guy is here!' We are not here for the Republican race, the Democratic race, we are here for the human race," Wong said.

Boston remembers a Chinese patriot (Szeto Wah, 1931-2011)

By Samuel Tsoi

The popular uprising in Egypt is causing worldwide anxiety about the political future of the Middle East. Meanwhile, the longstanding struggle for democracy in another ancient civilization turned modern nation was commemorated around the globe. Thousands in Hong Kong and overseas cities paid their final respects to veteran democracy campaigner, Szeto Wah, who died last month after battling cancer. He was 79.

In Boston’s Chinatown, dozens gathered on January 30 to remember “Uncle Wah”, as he was affectionately known in Hong Kong. The vigil was held by the Association of Overseas Hong Kong Chinese for Democracy and Human Rights, and included eulogies by New Englanders who knew Szeto.

2011 Chinese New Year Celebrations

Chinatown Lion Dance Parade

Sunday, February 13
10:00AM - 5:00PM
The Chinatown Lion Dance Parade kicks off at 10am on stage in Phillips Square (between Harrison Ave and Essex Street). Free admission.

Malden Year of the Rabbit Celebration

Hosted by Asian Spectrum
Saturday, February 26
10:30AM - 2:30PM
Beebe School
403 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148
Free admission. Lunch tickets are $3.00 each. Ethnic costumes welcome. For more info, please call 617-901-3044.

23rd Annual Quincy Lunar New Year Festival

Sunday, February 13th
10:30AM to 4 PM
North Quincy High School
316 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA 02171
Free admission. For more info, please call Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. at 617-472-2200.

(Left to right) Representative Tackey Chan, Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz and Representative Donald Wong. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

SEE PANDAS, PAGE 8

(文請見反面中文第八版)
**Chinatown News**

**BPS seeks to expand services to ELL students**

By Cody Yi

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) has invested $10 million to bring more services to English-language learners (ELL) students and to improve their academic performance, according to Superintendent Carol Johnson on February 4, in a news conference.

“We’ve prioritized within our own budget for ELL students. We’ve trained over 2,000 teachers to teach ELL learners. Last year, we identified 400 ELL licensed teachers and programs—and-services/workforce-development-center.

“BPS is also working on meeting the needs of the ELL students depending on where they are. “In the past, if a student showed up at a school and they said they were an English-language learner, we said, “in order to get those services, you have to go to that school over there.” Now, we try to give the services to the student, not make the student go somewhere. Because it seems fair that if a parent chooses a school, we want the student to be able to go there and have the resources,” Johnson said.

For 24,140 (38%) students within BPS, English is not their first language. According to BPS, 10,040 (19%) are English-language proficient; 3,260 are Former Limited Proficient; 11,840 are Limited English Proficient or English Language Learners. The five most common home language of ELL students are: Spanish (6,590 students), Chinese (920), Cape Verdean (860), Haitian creole (806), and Vietnamese (770).

One of the goals set before BPS this year is to improve the performance of English-language learners. “We’re trying to move those students to stronger and better schools and programs. When students come in to register, we try to identify choices for them because sometimes parents don’t know what choices are available. Last year, we didn’t see an improvement in MCAS scores of ELL learners. We have even more intentions for improvements this year,” Johnson said.

**SAMPAN**

_A Publication of the AACA_

**www.sampan.org**

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SAMPAN is New England’s only biweekly bilingual English-Chinese newspaper. It is nonprofit and nonpartisan. Founded in 1972, SAMPAN is published by the Asian American Civic Association. SAMPAN is distributed free in Chinatown and the Greater Boston area. All donations to the publication are tax deductible. Subscription: $60/year (1st class mail); $30/year (3rd class mail).

Scott Brown acknowledges work of Chinatown Main Street

By Diana Li

The Chinese Main Street Annual Chinese Gala was held on January 28, 2011 at Hei-La Moon.

Scott Brown, Massachusetts Senator, was present at the event. Brown gave a brief speech; however, it was more than enough to acknowledge the outstanding work that Chinatown Main Street has done to help rebuild the Chinatown community. Brown thanked Chinatown Main Street for all their effort.
The public school teacher and union leader was also the most prominent pro-democracy activist. His lasting legacy was for his leading of the annual gathering to remember the tragic events in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989 (known as June 4th incident).

It was an incident that transformed Szeto’s life and career and also galvanized many in Hong Kong, a city that was tranisting from the vestiges of colonialism to integration to People’s Republic. When the People’s Liberation Army opened fire at the students in Beijing, it became a watershed moment in Hong Kong’s collective psyche, and also reverberated loudly worldwide embodied in one single image of a young man standing in front of a tank. Immediately following June 4, Szeto became instrumental in bringing a million outraged and sympathetic people to a candle light vigil in Hong Kong, the largest assembled in the territory. The moment catapulted him into the political consciousness of many Hong Kong people and made pro-democracy a mainstream movement.

“We hope that celebrating Uncle Wahl’s life will inspire us to not give up on democratic reforms,” said Dr. Bing Ko of the Overseas Association, which hosts annual vigils in Harvard Square and public forums to raise public awareness of June 4th. As recently as 2009, Szeto Wahl toured Boston and other North American cities for a public education campaign to commemorate Tiananmen’s 20th anniversary.

These anniversaries are not marked publicly in mainland China. Since 1990, Beijing’s autocratic regime has largely silenced dissent via censorship, apprehending activists, and styling glamour of the country’s economic success. Nevertheless, China’s most prominent pro-democracy activist, Szeto Wahl, has largely displayed discontent in Tibet and Xinjiang (resistance against religious and cultural erosion), in Hong Kong (against limiting press freedoms), and the jailing of publicly-displayed discontent in Taiwan (by 2020) and direct-election of chief executive (by 2020).

Szeto said, “By improving teachers’ wages and abilities, we also advance society’s view of the profession and encourage our most talented individuals to serve in education.” Szeto also spoke about the significance of his Christian faith, which he largely remained from public discourse and was ultimately the grounds for his unsellish reputation, moral beliefs and hope for justice.

As a pragmatic politician, however, Szeto also caused internal strife among democrats in his final years after supporting a reform package that would slowly increase the number of directly-elected seats in the HK legislature (by 2020) and direct-elect of chief executive (by 2017). It remains to be seen whether the compromises which many of activists view as watered-down at best and betrayal to real democratic reform and June 4th ideals at worst, will eventually lead to full direct election for legislative and executive branches.

But perhaps the most important legacy Szeto Wahl left behind will be felt beyond the classrooms and legislative council. He became the de facto political educator for Hong Kong and advocated on behalf of the activists who were unable to do so in the mainland. The almost-aggrieved still took to the streets during what turned out to be his final months at the 2010 June 4th vigil and greeting constituents at Lunar New Year.

He is optimistic that today’s Chinese youth, albeit less idealistic than their predecessors and more pre-occupied with personal successes, will soon realize that the choices they enjoy are inextricably tied to the progress of civil and political rights.

“As a young person, he was a teacher, a compatriot, and a guiding light on the road towards democracy” said Chai Ling, a June 4th dissent whom Szeto helped escape and now lives in Massachusetts.

“Hong Kong’s future is critical for mainland China’s future. If Hong Kong can serve as an example of democracy for all Chinese, then there is hope for Chinese democracy,” Dr. Ko said, “We hope overseas Chinese will remember Uncle Wahl and also use their voices and freedoms to keep the cause and hope for democracy alive.”

Samuel Tsai is a Sampan correspondent.

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**Join Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center for the Chinese New Year Banquet**

波士頓華埠社區中心

兔年春宴

Friday, March 11, 2011

Reception 5:30 pm | Dinner 7:00 pm

Empire Garden Restaurant

690 Washington St, Boston

Master of Ceremonies

David Brown, WCVB-TV

Friends of BCNC Award 2011 Recipients

Debra Ashton

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

BNY Mellon

Join us for a wine and dim sum reception, live and silent auctions, performances, and a ten course traditional banquet. Tickets $100 each, $1,000 per table of 10 seats.

To sponsor, advertise in the program book, purchase tickets or information, please contact Joann Yung at 617-635-5129 x1054, joann.yung@bcnc.net or go to www.bcnc.net to reserve your tickets online. Proceeds from the banquet support the BCNC programs for children, youth and adults.
BRA

overflowing joy shown through that reflexive but highly infec-

parent, it would be difficult for you to even try to disguise the

would be quite delighted right now. If you were a typical Chinese

George Clooney) in NBC's ER. If you were a typical parent, you

your close friends do nothing but praise about your son being

American, 114 Hispanic or Latino, 15 Native

Asian or Pacific Islanders, 154 Black or African

research consulting company, conducted an on

By Diana Li

By now you have probably heard of the name Amy Chua, a Jr.

The Amenities Room on the 1st floor, Boston

The Boston Redevelopment Authority

Project Proponent: Millennium Partners

Project Description: This community meeting is being held in

compliance with Article 80 of the Boston Zoning Code to present to

the community the Notice of Project Change for Hayward Place.

Handel Architects, suggests a 390,000 gross sq ft of development,

To the community the Notice of Project Change for Hayward Place.

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Cook with heart-healthy Foods

You can protect your heart and blood vessels by eating less saturated fat and by choosing the types of fats that help your cholesterol levels. The ingredients you use and the way you cook can make a big difference. Try these tips:

Cook with less fat

- Use a low-fat or fat-free way to cook. You can cut down on total fat by broiling, microwaving, baking, roasting, steaming, or grilling foods. Nonstick pans and cooking sprays also work well.
- Boost the flavor with seasonings and sauces instead of fats. Look for recipes that use herbs and spices for flavor instead of fat. Try these ways to season food:
  - Squeeze fresh lemon juice on steamed vegetables, broiled fish, rice, or pasta.
  - Try lemon pepper or mesquite seasoning on chicken.
  - Use onion and garlic to liven up meats and vegetables.
  - Try baking chicken or pork with barbecue sauce or low-fat Italian dressing.
- Trim the fat when possible. Cut away visible fat from meat and poultry. Roast food on a rack to let the fat drip off. Make soups a day ahead so you can chill them and then remove the fat that has risen to the top.

Choose lean cuts of beef, poultry, and pork

To help keep your cholesterol on target, choose lean cuts of meat and poultry. Try some of your favorite recipes with these lean choices:

- Choosing lean meats with less saturated fat can help lower blood cholesterol. When selecting beef, choose lean cuts such as round, sirloin, and flank steak; tenderloin; rib, chuck, or rump roast; T-bone, porterhouse, or cubed steak.
- Choose poultry such as chicken, turkey, or Cornish hen without the skin. The white breast meat is lower in fat than the darker meat in the thigh and leg pieces.
- Lean types of pork include ham, Canadian bacon, pork loin, and center loin chops.

Choose low-fat dairy products

Dairy products can be part of your meal plan. To cut back on saturated fat, choose items made with non-fat or low-fat milk. Some low-fat choices are listed below:

Wise food choices: What to try and why

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instead of...</th>
<th>Try this...</th>
<th>Why?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>whole milk or 2% milk</td>
<td>1% milk or skim milk</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat, and less cholesterol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regular cheese</td>
<td>low-fat cheese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snack foods with hydrogenated oil, palm oil, or coconut oil</td>
<td>fat-free or low-fat snack foods</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regular mayonnaise</td>
<td>non-fat plain yogurt or low-fat mayonnaise in dips and recipes or mustard on sandwiches</td>
<td>less total fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sour cream</td>
<td>non-fat sour cream</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regular stick margarine</td>
<td>special cholesterol-lowering margarine or soft tub margarine</td>
<td>lowers cholesterol, fewer trans fats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fried chicken</td>
<td>baked chicken</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bologna, salami, or pastrami</td>
<td>sliced turkey, lean ham, or low-fat cold cuts</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cookies with hydrogenated oil, palm oil, or coconut oil</td>
<td>an orange, an apple, a pear, or some prunes</td>
<td>more fiber, no fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pork chop</td>
<td>pork loin</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>short ribs</td>
<td>grilled or baked salmon or tuna, grilled 1-bone steak</td>
<td>less total fat, less saturated fat; fish is a source of omega-3 fatty acids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A day of heart-healthy meals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Dinner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bran cereal with skim milk and sliced banana</td>
<td>split pea soup</td>
<td>grilled chicken breast without skin marinated in low-fat Italian dressing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rye toast with cholesterol-lowering margarine</td>
<td>tuna salad made with low-fat mayonnaise whole-grain crackers</td>
<td>raw vegetables with low-fat dip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>orange juice</td>
<td>celery and carrot sticks</td>
<td>fresh fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coffee with skim milk</td>
<td>fresh orange</td>
<td>oat bran muffin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between-meal snacks

- raw vegetables with low-fat dip
- fresh fruit
- whole-grain crackers with low-fat cheese
- oat bran muffin
- fresh fruit
- oat bran muffin

Are you ANXIOUS?

- Do you worry a lot?
- Do you feel nervous most of the time!
- Do you have panic or extreme anxiety?
- Do you feel anxious in social situations?

If you answered “yes” to ANY of these questions, you may be eligible for medication or other treatment at no cost as part of an anxiety treatment research study. Please contact us at the number below. All inquiries are kept confidential.

(866)44-WORRY www.mghanxiety.org

The Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Disorders

Are you grieving the death of a loved one?

- Are you feeling pulled down into your grief?
- Did the death occur more than 6 months ago?
- Are you finding it hard to move on after the death?

If you answered YES to these questions and are over the age of 18, you may be eligible for a 16-week research study at Massachusetts General Hospital examining the effectiveness of medication, with or without therapy, for Complicated GRIEF.

Study evaluation and treatment provided at no cost. Compensation is available for transportation and parking. All inquiries are confidential.

1866 44 WORRY or anxietystudy@partners.org
The development will consist of a total of twenty-six units: eleven condominiums, one single family home, and twelve 3BR townhouse units arranged in three clusters of four units each. Seven of these homes will be offered and sold in the North Andover Public Library.

Applications and Information available at the North Andover Public Library, 59 Kimball Court, Woburn, MA 01801, (781) 545-2233.

Applications must be picked up and submitted in person or by US Mail at Oliver Lofts c/o Winn Residential, 39 Smith Street (2nd Floor), Boston, MA 02120. Applications may be picked up and returned (weekdays only unless otherwise noted):

Monday, February 14th, 2011 to Friday, March 4th, 2011 9am to 5pm

Deadline for completed applications at the above address:

- Two 3BR Homes: $157,300 to $160,400
- Two 2BR Homes: $140,800 to $148,700
- Three 1BR Homes: $127,800 to $136,800

The development will consist of a total of twenty-six units: eleven condominiums, one single family home, and twelve 3BR townhouse units arranged in three clusters of four units each. Seven of these homes will be offered and sold through this lottery to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income.

The Maximum Income Limits for Households are as follows:

- 1 Person - $45,100
- 2 Persons - $51,550
- 3 Persons - $58,000
- 4 Persons - $64,400
- 5 Persons - $69,600
- 6 Persons - $74,750

Households cannot have more than $75,000 in assets.

For more information on the Development, the Units or the Lottery and Application Process, please visit: www.s-e-b.com/lottery or call 617.782.6900.

Applications and Information available at the North Andover Public Library (345 Main Street, hours are 10-9 M-Th, 10-5 F-Sa, 2-5 Sun).

A Public Information Session will be held on March 2nd, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the North Andover Public Library.

The lottery will be held on April 13th, 2011.

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be received, not postmarked, by April 4th, 2011. Please take all necessary measures to ensure your application is delivered by April 4th.
A little neighborly love goes a long way

By Cody Yiu

Those days are gone when neighbors refer to one another on the first name basis and exchange local gossip during their morning walks. Face-to-face interaction has since been replaced by electronic and online communication tools.

Cries of desperation go unheard

The byproduct of technology is a deep sense of loneliness and isolation. The sting of isolation becomes even more pronounced when one is an immigrant with limited English capabilities. Many people, especially those such as going grocery shopping or getting on the bus can become quite a challenge. Some immigrants just quit trying and rely on their children and other family members to be their interpreters and drivers.

There is nothing emotionally wrong with keeping to oneself. Nevertheless, when tri- als come, social isolation can keep one from getting the help that one needs and drive one to do the unthinkable.

Melody Yang, a social service counselor at the Asian Civic Action Coalition (AACo) in Boston Chinatown, helps Chinese immigrants navigate various systems: everything from immigration to mental health problems.

“Because of the nature of my work, sometimes I see clients who have experi- enced abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, or food insecurity,” said Yang. “And they tell me they don’t have anyone to talk to. Because the historical white, blue-collar community has been through a drastic transformation in the last 30 years, Chinese immigrants have come along adding the changes that come alongside with demographic change.

A lot of people have been working hard to deal with the influx of Asians. Compared to other groups, the Asian immigrant community has come along in addressing the changes that came alongside with demographic change.

“With an incident like this that has happened, we will re-examine the changes, democratize changes in the city. Younger families in the Asian community, failed marriages...we are just human beings. We have financial hardships, we have emotional needs. We are not all that different from all other people. Local authorities, have we done enough to address the issues? I wouldn’t say that we had done a very good job at it, but I would say we would never walk away from it.”

Resources available for Chinese immigrants

Service provides in Quincy have come a long way in meeting the needs of the ever-growing Chinese-speaking population. A myriad of programs, classes, events, and literature is readily available in Mandarin.

For example, Quincy Asian Resources offers English classes; Quincy Medical Center has a large team of Chinese-speaking medical and administrative staff; Thomas Crane Library regularly hosts informative sessions in Chi- nese; traditional Chinese holidays such as Chinese New Year and August Moon Festival are duly celebrated and observed every year and organizations that do not specifically cater to Asian clientele also offer language assistance.

“In most of the cases, when people are desperate and have no place to turn to, it might be due to insecurities. They might be going through a family illness, illness or financial difficulty. Language barrier is also an important cause of isolation for non-English speaking people. I would sug- gest that the social service agencies provide more informational workshops in the com- munity to help people learn the resources out there,” said Yang.

Non-Chinese residents also pitch in ideas of ways to reach out to their Chinese neighbors. Horgan makes use of German town’s capacity by assisting Chinese-language movies nights at Germantown’s community center on weekends or running ESL classes.

Preventing domestic violence – A community responsibility

In a survey Asian Task Force Against Do- mestic Violence (ATASK) conducted in 2000 titled the “Asian Family Violence Report,” 24% of the interviewed Chinese community members have known a woman who has been shoved, pushed, slapped, hit, kicked, or suffered other injuries by her partner. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), this statistic is congruent with national statistics that 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence her lifetime. However, men can also be victims of domestic violence.

“ATASK, we define domestic violence as a pattern of power and control that one partner uses over the other. In other words, when someone is in an abusive relationship, they rarely have any decision making power and often have a fear of their partner,” said Qingjian Shi, Director of Edu- cation and Outreach at ATASK.

The danger with domestic violence, Shi points out, people associate it with just physical abuse. However, physical abuse is just one of many forms of abuse; others include emotional/psychological abuse, verbal abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, and cultural/identity abuse.

“In many cases, an abusive relationship begins with emotional abuse, where the abusive partner is only kinship checking on their partner, controlling who they can see and talk to, not allowing them to participate in daily activities, not allowing them to make them feel bad about who they are. As this behavior continues, it can often esca- late further and can cause death,” Shi said.

Other signs of abuse may be the throw- ing of objects, threats of violence and previ- ous relationship violence by the abusive partner.

“Someone who is experiencing abuse can feel very isolated and alone, depressed, and sometimes even have suicidal thoughts. They may feel hopeless and sad,” Shi said.

Unfortunately, those who have spotted signs domestic abuse may choose to sweep it under the rug.

“Too often, even when we see violence happen before our eyes, with our families, friends, and peers, we don’t say anything or intervene, we don’t stop it from happening,” Shi said. “Ignoring domestic violence not only prevents our communities to talk about an issue that is very prevalent, but also makes the person who experience the violence feel invisible - like what they are experiencing is not real or dangerous.”

ATASK’s staff speaks over 12 Asian languages. ATASK hosts a 24 hour confiden- tial helpline at 617-338-2355 where those affected by domestic violence can call in for linguistically and culturally appropriate services.

Getting to know your neighbors

Local resources are always going to be limited. Love, however, is always at one’s disposal, if one is willing to give it. Furthermore, it would help if people could build better relations with their neighbors, Asians or non-Asians on the individual level. This will help people to better prevent some- thing tragic to happen. Resources are so limited,” you said.

“Another sign of that similarity, “Sometim- es, people go to the extremities. This can happen in a critical moment. If someone can talk to you and change your viewpoint or decisions,” she said.

Communication is a two-way street; so is cultural understanding.

“The best way to know your Chinese neighbors is to learn about the Chinese culture. Only when people know the culture, they would like to know about their Chinese neighbors. Of course, we have to learn the culture of mainstream society too so that we can adjust our lives and get along with our non-Chinese neighbors in this place more easily,” Tsang said.

Barrows Brook Village

Barrows Brook Village is a new development in Kingston, where you get all the privacy of a single family home with all the conveniences of a condominium. Barrows Brook Village will consist of 56 single family homes set in the most private and distinctive piece of property on the South Shore.

There will be a total of 14 affordable homes sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. Five of these homes are being offered through this lottery.

Barrows Brook Village

Kingston Affordable Housing

Five 3BR, 2.5 bathroom single family homes: $187,400

Your Total Monthly Housing Costs* are only $1,400 (approx.!!!)

* "Total Monthly Housing Costs is the estimated total of your mortgage payment (30 year, fixed rate), your property, real estate taxes, insurance and Home Owners Association Fees

Barrows Brook Village is a new development in Kingston, where you get all the privacy of a single family home with all the conveniences of a condominium. Barrows Brook Village will consist of 56 single family homes set in the most private and distinctive piece of property on the South Shore.

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4. Person - $64,400
5. Person - $69,600
6. Person - $74,750

Households cannot have more than $75,000 in assets.

For more information on the Development, the Units or the Lottery and Application Process, please visit: www.s-e-b.com/lottery or call 617.382.6800. For more information on the development please visit www.BarrowsBrookVillage.com

Applications and Information available at the Kingston Public Library on 6 Green St. (open Mon 1pm-6pm; Tue Thu 11am-6pm; Sat 11am-5pm)

A Public Information Session will be held on March 27th, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Kingston Town Hall (26 Evergreen St). The lottery will be held on April 2nd, 2011.

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered, not postmarked, by April 15th, 2011.
By Cody Yiu

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, the features of the giant panda breeding agreement with China, will stay five more years at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo, their home for the last ten years. When China’s President Hu Jintao visited Washington in January, he renewed the agreement for another five years.

Now, it is the hope of the two nations that the giant pandas would produce another cub.

“I can see how deeply the American people care for and love giant pandas,” said Chen Wangxia, wife of the Chinese ambassador during the signing ceremony. “I sincerely hope they will get a chance to bring another adorable cub.”

Chen sounded like an anxious grandmother.

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian were born at the China Research and Conservation Center for Giant Pandas in Wolong, Sichuan Province in China. They were both born in captivity and their parents were from the wild.

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian have produced one cub, Tai Shan, who was born on July 9, 2005, as a result of artificial insemination. Tai Shan now resides at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in Wolong.

According to Dennis Kelly, director of the National Zoo, if the pandas produce another cub, it will remain at the zoo until the age of four.

Giant pandas have one very brief breeding season each year, with only a day or two of actual mating. The zoo’s staff is keeping the giant pandas on watch around the clock through cameras and webcams.

“We just let pandas do what comes naturally. And they tell us when they are ready,” said Brandie Smith, Curator of Mammals at the National Zoo.

Smith said that the staff watches for the pandas’ change in behavior and hormones for signs of readiness to breed.

“Mei Xiang...she makes different noises; it’s called the ‘bleating.’ She makes this noise particularly just around the time when she is receptive [and] in the mood,” Smith said.

The male counterpart inhibits his desires in a different manner.

“Tian Tian, our male, becomes extremely restless. He is patrolling, he is looking and knows when there is a receptive female nearby,” Smith said.

These two giant panda enjoy a delicious meal of homegrown bamboo and "fruitsicles."

“We harvest the bamboo in a huge facility in Front Royals, Virginia,” said Smith. “We have great stems of bamboo. We can harvest bamboo all year-round. It meets the needs to our pandas, elephants and gorillas, and everything else that likes the taste of bamboo here.”

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Smith describes Mei Xiang as much more laid-back and calm while Tian is more active.

“Tian Tian has a little more energy, especially now, during breeding season. He has a little more electric personality. Tian Tian actually means ‘more’ and more [in Chinese].” And when I see Tian Tian, that’s what I see, more and more,” Smith said.

According to Pandas International, there are only about 1,600 giant pandas in the wild. This low number makes them one of the most endangered animals on earth. The Giant Panda’s habitat was once widespread over southern and eastern China, Vietnam and Myanmar (Burma), but their habitat has been greatly reduced over time.

Today, their habitat is limited to the mountains in only a few provinces of southwestern China. Most are in the Sichuan Province, but they are also found in Shaxian and Gansu Provinces.

Currently, there are eleven pandas living in the U.S.

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Feature

Giant pandas at National Zoo are here to stay for another five years

Giant pandas Mei Xiang (left) and Tian Tian play at the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park. (Photo by Ann Batdorf, Smithsonian’s National Zoo)

By Jody Yiu

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, the features of the giant panda breeding agreement with China, will stay five more years at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo, their home for the last ten years. When China’s President Hu Jintao visited Washington in January, he renewed the agreement for another five years.

Now, it is the hope of the two nations that the giant pandas would produce another cub.

“I can see how deeply the American people care for and love giant pandas,” said Chen Wangxia, wife of the Chinese ambassador during the signing ceremony. “I sincerely hope they will get a chance to bring another adorable cub.”

Chen sounded like an anxious grandmother.

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian were born at the China Research and Conservation Center for Giant Pandas in Wolong, Sichuan Province in China. They were both born in captivity and their parents were from the wild.

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian have produced one cub, Tai Shan, who was born on July 9, 2005, as a result of artificial insemination. Tai Shan now resides at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in Wolong.

According to Dennis Kelly, director of the National Zoo, if the pandas produce another cub, it will remain at the zoo until the age of four.

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HEART, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

• Cheese: cottage cheese, grated Parmesan, and any cheese with 3 grams of fat or less per ounce
• For a frozen treat, try low-fat ice cream or frozen yogurt instead of ice cream. You can also freeze regular yogurt for a treat.
• Substitute lower-fat ingredients in your favorite recipes
  Try extra lean ground beef or ground turkey instead of ground beef. Use low-fat mayonnaise and salad dressings instead of

PARENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

a parent and a child. It is hard to imagine a lender placing a borrower’s own interest before her own. In closing of her argument on this point, Chua stated, “[t]he desire that is most noble is to do well for others at the expense of the Western parent,” as if a relationship is a transaction. This dangerous seed of thought is looking and knows when there is a receptive female nearby,” Smith said.

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Kenneth Kan is the outreach assistant at the Asian American Association.