January 25 - February 7, 2013

Infrastructure.

BY LING-MEI WONG

Asian health center breaks ground for Malden clinic

THE SOUTH COVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER (SCCHC) broke ground for its Malden clinic on June 21. Malden Mayor Gary Christenson, city officials and Malden community representatives attended the ceremony at 277 Commercial Street, the former location of the Malden Evening News.

“We’re very excited to be in Malden,” said SCCHC executive director Eugene Welch. “It’s going to be our fifth location, and 3,000 to 4,000 of our patients with Malden addresses will not need to come to Chinatown for care.”

The clinic is expected to open December 2017 after renovation.

Mayor Christenson said, “Hard work and dedication are keys to success. So many people worked to make Malden a better city.”

The building was purchased on Feb. 23 and approved by the Malden Planning Board on April 12. South Cove’s Malden clinic will have more than 14,000 square feet and 76 parking spaces.

Malden City Council President Peg Croteau said, “This was really a team effort between the city and South Cove. I’m really excited to welcome South Cove to our city.”

Malden has the third largest Asian population in Massachusetts after Boston and Quincy, according to 2010 Census data. The Malden clinic will serve existing patients and reach out to community members seeking accessible and affordable health care. It will offer on-site medical services, along with social services in Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese), Vietnamese, Malay and Khmer.

SCCHC board member Mai Du said, “I’m so, so thrilled about this beautiful facility. It’s been a long time coming and it’s finally here.”

Du is a Malden resident, SCCHC patient and leader at Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Malden Academy. Her parents, who are in their 80s, take the Orange line to Chinatown for medical services.

A previous Malden site proposal fell through after the Malden Planning Board voted against the project on Sept. 21, 2016.

SCCHC is a community health center with four existing locations in Boston and Quincy serving more than 32,000 patients.

Dragonboat Festival welcomes 75 teams to Boston

THE BOSTON HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL took place June 11 at the Charles River, with 75 teams competing.

The Asian American Civic Association participated, with its Blazin’ Paddles team winning first place in F division. Other community agencies who participated included the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Chinese Young Professionals Network, Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association, Kwong Kow Chinese School, South Cove Community Health Center and Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy.

Teams came from greater Boston, Rhode Island, New York and Canada. Weather was warm and sunny, with cultural performances and food.

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Event Calendar

Chinese chat group
Fridays, Tuesdays
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
677 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
A Cantonese conversation group will meet Friday at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Kresge 201 on 2F. A Mandarin chat group will meet Tuesday. RSVP at www.meetup.com/bostonchina/.

Mulan Society classes
Saturday, June 24
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Mulan Society Center for Women’s Empowerment classes will take place at the Asian American Civic Association, 4F. Refreshments provided. Register with Hongyi Gong at (617) 426-9492 x 216 or hgong@aaca-boston.org.

Basic English classes
Mondays, Tuesdays,
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
1509 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169
QAR’s 10-week classes will focus on beginner speaking and listening skills. In the event of rain, classes will be at Morville House.

Free yoga class
Every Tuesday
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Free yoga class for everyday Bengal and hearing. For more information, call (781) 397-0404.

Free health care service
Every Tuesday
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
First Church in Malden
194 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148
The Sharewood Project offers free, scheduled health care to the medically underserved populations of the greater Boston area. For more information please call (781) 324-8991 or e-mail sharewood.director@gmail.com.

‘The Surrounding Game’ Boston premiere
Wednesday, June 28
7 p.m.
290 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02446

Eye disease workshop
Thursday, June 29
9:30 a.m.
38 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02118
Eye disease workshop and screening will take place at the Metropolitan Eye Center, 625 Washington Street. For more information, call (781) 893-0404.

QARI’s 10-week classes
1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Asian American Civic Association naturalization workshop provides free instruction on filing naturalization applications, translated study material and much more. Please register at (617) 426-9492 x 0 or melody@aaca-boston.org.

Cantonese conversation
Saturday, July 8
10 a.m.
38 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02111
An interactive health workshop on eye disease and screening will take place at the Metropolitan Community Room. Refreshments provided.

END

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- Download and fill out the registration form and mail or deliver in person to Inspectional Services Division

Only toilet paper is flushable.
Agency leader changed lives as immigrant advocate

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Asian American community in Boston mourned the loss of Chau-ming Lee, Asian American Civic Association (AACA) executive director, when he passed away June 6 at age 65.

Lee grew up in Hong Kong and attended the University of Hong Kong. He moved to Boston and studied social work at Boston College. After serving as a social worker at New England Medical Center (now Tufts Medical Center) for four years, he was hired as executive director of the AACA, then named the Chinese American Civic Association.

ABCDC president and CEO John Drew first met Lee about 30 years ago. Drew said, “I loved Chau-ming. He gave his heart and soul to help this community, and I think he did a wonderful job.”

When Lee started at the agency in 1982, RFPs were being in a basement on Tremont Street leased from ABCDC. Lee joined social worker Mary Chin and judge Judy Medec. He served as board members. He oversaw the 2007 opening of AACA’s 87 Tyler Street headquarters and helped thousands of individuals with immigration inquiries.

“He was always trying to meet the needs of community members and creating career opportunities for them, and in this regard he was always patient and dogged,” said Beverly Wing, consultant. “In this regard he was always to serve immigrants and people who needed services,” Wong said. AACA celebrated 50 years this year.

Richard Soo Hoo, AACA advisory board member, said, “He’s one of the silent heroes of Chinatown.”

David Chang, retired MIT professor and AACA board member, saw firsthand how Lee put others first. Chang said, “He led by example. I never saw him yell. Even though I’m older than he is, I saw him as a mentor.”

AACA president of the Hong Kong Association of Massachusetts and a former banker, worked with Lee for AACA fundraising efforts.

“We became good friends,” Ip said. “When we met for lunch, we talked about the good old days and our fond memories of growing up in Hong Kong.”

Lee was buried June 13.

Asian Women for Health raises awareness

BY VALERIE SIZHE LI

The fifth Asian Women for Health (AWFH)’s annual meeting took place on June 12 at Impact Hub, Boston. It is a peer-led and community-based non-profit organization dedicated to raising health awareness among Asian American women population through education, advocacy, and support.

Founded by Chien-Chi Huang in 2012, the organization has grown and currently has locations in California, specialized in cheese mousse tea.

AWFH, which has grown and currently provides essential training sessions but also forms support groups that bond the community together. AWFH has increased health literacy and health care access for Asian women. The Asian Breast Cancer Project, in particular, has trained Asian women who can speak Mandarin, Vietnamese and Cantonese to help other women eliminate language difficulties when speaking to health care professionals.

The success of the project led to its expansion into the Achieving Whole Health (AWH) program. AWH not only provides essential training sessions but also forms support groups that bond the community together.

Linden Ponds, the South Shore’s premier continuing care retirement community, is pleased to announce Willard Square, a stunning new residence building currently under construction.

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Four tips to avoid fake employment emails

BY THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Online recruiting sites are becoming more and more popular every year. The job-searching process has made its way into the digital era, where those searching for a new career are able to apply to hundreds of opportunities with the simple click of a button. Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern MA, ME, RI, & VT (BBB) is warning the community to beware of employment scams if they come your way.

While this new trend is a common tactic for job seekers and has seen to be most popular to millennials, BBB’s Scam Tracker has received reports of fake job offers sent to applicants’ emails. These scammers claim to be responding to a submitted application or viewing a resume on an online recruiting site. “These cons often use real company names and can be very convincing,” said Paula Fleming, spokesperson for the local BBB. “It may look as though you are starting a great new career, but you are really giving personal information to scammers.”

1. Double check the contact information.
   An employer’s email should include a signature at the bottom with the name of the sender, their occupation, the address of the business, and a contact number. Look out for phony emails with grammar or spelling mistakes, and legitimate-looking email addresses not associated with the actual business. Double check this information with the business’s website.

2. You sense urgency.
   If a valid business has posted an open position online, chances are they will receive numerous amounts of applications and will only reach out once to those they are looking to pursue. Scammers want their emails to stand out, so they may contact applicants multiple times to offer a chance for an interview.

3. They ask for a payment.
   You shouldn’t have to pay to be considered or hired by a business. Never give out banking or credit card information. This information is not needed by a legitimate employer. A major red flag that you’re dealing with a scam are upfront fees for promises of guaranteed income.

4. They want you to work from home to start.
   Many scams have included text along the lines of, “Required to work from home for the first 15 business days while the office is under construction.” In this case, ask where the office is located. If they can’t give you that information, then there probably is no office, and also no business.

If you know of or have received any emails relating to fake employment, report the scam at bbb.org/scamtracker/boston.

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Shame keeps Asian Americans from reporting domestic abuse

BY SARA BROWN

Domestic abuse is an unsettling reality that many Americans face in their homes every day. It does not discriminate and Asian American families face this as well.

According to a Pew Research Center report, Asian-Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in the country, making up 36 percent of all immigrants. Latinos were second, at 31 percent. While they are a growing population, they often don’t seek help. The Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health found that Asian victims of domestic violence were at least four times less likely to use mental health services than whites, blacks or Latinos.

This doesn’t surprise Jennifer Ho, director of education and outreach at Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK).

ATASK is a nonprofit, community organization serving pan-Asian survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence. It provides services in greater Boston and greater Lowell and offers limited assistance in other cities throughout Massachusetts and New England. The mission is to prevent domestic and intimate partner violence in Asian families and communities and to provide hope to survivors. ATASK embraces and represents all ages, cultures, abilities, and sexual preferences.

Ho said language barriers are often a reason why people don’t seek help.

“Understanding the system can be difficult enough if you speak English,” she said. “However, if English isn’t your first or even second language, it can be daunting.”

ATASK currently provides services in 18 Asian languages and dialects. However, victim blaming can be another reason why people don’t seek help.

“It can be very shameful for people to admit they are dealing with this. They feel they are bringing shame to the family.” Ho said. “People of all backgrounds can feel this way. Our society tends to blame victims and that is why it is so hard for them to ask for help. They think it is their fault.”

ATASK offers emergency shelters, outreach, programming and education and training.

Ho said for people to help victims, they need to be understanding, even if victims do not want to leave their abusers.

ATASK has a multilingual 24 hour hotline at (617) 338-2355.

TV series raises concerns about teen suicide

BY TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER

“It’s [‘13 Reasons Why’] is realistic. It’s honest. The problems are real,” he says, noting that the main character’s concerns could have been managed in ways other than taking her own life. “Media efforts concerning adolescent suicide should always avoid glorifying or romanticizing the individual and present resources for those who may need help.”

He added, “The show suggests that other people are the cause of suicide. That is a particularly problematic point of view because ultimately, the cause of suicide is an individual deciding to end his or her own life.”

Dr. Sargent says it’s critical for parents, educators and others to support teens who watch the show and of those who may have difficulties and conflicts.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Lifeline offer help and hope to those in crisis.

“Netflix has responded to the concern raised by many about the show. Netflix has added the URL 13ReasonsWhy.info – a global resource center that provides information about professional organizations that offer support.”

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Know the signs of emphysema

BY SARA BROWN

Millions of Americans suffer from emphysema every year.

According to Mayo Clinic, emphysema is lung condition that causes shortness of breath. For people with this disease, their air sacs in their lungs are damaged. Most people with emphysema also have chronic bronchitis. Chronic bronchitis is inflammation of the tubes that carry air to your lungs (bronchi, bronchial tubes), which leads to a persistent cough.

The main cause of emphysema is long-term exposure to smoke of any kind. Emphysema is most likely to develop in cigarette smokers, but cigar and pipe smokers also are susceptible. The risk for each type of smoker increases with the number of years and amount of tobacco smoked. According to the Mayo Clinic, tobacco-smoke-related emphysema symptoms start to show up around the ages of 40 and 60.

Doctors suggest if light physical activity like climbing stairs leaves you out of breath, you should see a medical professional to get your lungs checked out.

People who suffer from emphysema are more likely to have a collapsed lung, heart problems and large holes in their lungs.

There is medication for the disease to help coughing and reduce inflammation, which may help with the shortness of breath.

Depending on the severity of emphysema, someone may need a lung transplant.
Eastern Bank is committed to celebrating the good in our communities. We proudly support the Asian American Civic Association.

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AACA celebrates 50 years

The Asian American Civic Association (AACA) celebrated its 50th anniversary on June 9 at the Park Plaza Hotel. About 450 guests attended the event. Gov. Charlie Baker said, “Thank you to the AACA, for all you do to help folks move forward and pursue their American dream. Organizations like this one are a big part of what makes Boston and Massachusetts special. And I want you to know as your governor, that we are a global city, a global Commonwealth and a global community.”

The nonprofit mourned the passing of executive director Chau-ming Lee, who died June 6 after served AACA since 1982. Baker honored Lee’s service with a citation, which was accepted by Lee’s daughter Rachel. State Rep. Don-ald Wong and Sen. Joseph Boncore also presented citations from the Statehouse.

Sherry Dong, director of Community Health Improvement Programs at Tufts Medical Center, said of Lee, “We at Tufts Medical Center were fortunate to have him as part of our team, sharing his compassion with our patients as a young social worker prior to joining AACA. He will be dearly missed.” Baker also recognized long-term board member Mary Chin’s contributions with a citation. Chin was also recognized with an award from AACA for volunteering.

“Truly, any award that I get is not my award,” Chin said. “For the 35-plus years I helped and worked at AACA, I did it side by side with Ming. He was very deep and he was extremely committed to the community.”

The agency raised $375,000 at the gala. A short film on the agency’s history directed by Kenneth Eng was screened. WCVB anchor Karen Holmes Ward hosted the event. Entertainment was provided by Celestial Dragon Dance performers and Phoenix Nirvana dancers.

AACA is the oldest nonprofit community organization for Asian Americans in New England. Established in 1967 as the Chinese American Civic Association, AACA serves economically disadvantaged Americans and immigrants from 125 countries by providing unparalleled skills training, career counseling and job placement, ESOL, and immigration.

Josiah Quincy Elementary School
celebrates 170 years

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Josiah Quincy Elementary School celebrated 170 years in the community on June 8 at the China Pearl with about 450 guests. Principal Cynthia Soo Hoo said, “I could not be more excited and happy to be part of this community. We are here celebrating a 170-year legacy. I’m proud the Quincy School continues to serve immigrants.”

A short film about the school by Loose Canon and Scribe & Co. was screened. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said in a prepared statement, “The passion and commitment of our students, faculty and staff are evident every time I visit JQS. Whether it’s for a Chinese New Year celebration or for another school event, I continue to be impressed with this school and its energy.”

The school opened in 1847 as the Quincy Grammar School, the first American school to separate pupils by grade, rather than have all students in a large room, along with being the first to give each student their own desk. It moved to its current site at 885 Washington Street in 1976 built as a community center housing a clinic for South Cove Community Health Center.

Josiah Quincy Elementary School celebrates 170 years

BY LING-MEI WONG

The Josiah Quincy Elementary School celebrated 170 years on June 8 at the China Pearl. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

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KKCS celebrates class of 2017 graduation

Keong Kaw Chinese School held a graduation ceremony for its 2017 graduates in its auditorium on July 17. (Image courtesy of Roofing Su.)

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The Boys & Girls Club honors Helen Chin Schlichte

Boys & Girls Club of Boston recognized Helen Chin Schlichte on June 14 at its Charles-town location. (From left) Eleanor Chin, May Chin, Helen Chin Schlichte, Josh Knaiff, Philip Chin, Tom Chin, Dana Smith. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Sail Boston comes into harbor

Boston celebrated a fleet of tall ships coming to the city and Sail Boston, pictured on June 19. (Image courtesy of Sara Brown.)
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