Amid concerns over coronavirus, Philip Chong was asked if the Quincy Lunar New Year Festival would be cancelled.

“We talked to the commissioner of health and checked with the CDC and the Department of Health, and the risk was low,” said Chong, CEO and president of festival organizer Quincy Asian Resources.

The Feb. 2 event went on as planned, and an estimated 3,800 attendees came, less than the normal 10,000 in past years. Many visitors could be seen wearing masks, including Brendon Li. The North Quincy High School senior cited concerns over the first confirmed case of coronavirus in Massachusetts announced Feb. 1.

“Everyone just wants to be safe because we’re all students and we go to school tomorrow,” Li said.

Others brushed concerns aside.

“We always have this every year,” said Braintree High School student Vicky Zhang. “We’re not just gonna let like one little scare affect us, because we’re a pretty strong community.”

April Yu, a cashier at 99 Ranch Market, said, “there’s fewer people this year, but it’s still a happy time and everyone’s into it.”

Ballroom artist Wendy Leahy said her son was currently in China. “I have no fear. I think it’s a lot of sensationalism, panic, worry. And I don’t subscribe to any of that,” Leahy said.

“We shouldn’t overreact,” said Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch. “I think the right decision was made to go forward with the program and obviously we got good crowds today and most people feel the same way.”

There were people who had some anxiety about the virus, including young siblings Reese and Kai McNeely.

“There’s seven people in America that have it,” said Reese McNeely. There were eight confirmed cases at the time of the festival. “But luckily we’re here and watching things that are very fun.”

They wanted to talk about their favorite performance from the day, the lion dance.

Performed by Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy, the lion dance featured a lion saving a rat from a snake.

“In lion dance routine,” Sifu Mai Du said during the performance, “it’s very traditional that you have a killing of the snake it’s actually getting rid of an obstacle and getting rid of challenges for the year.”

Du said everyone in the audience receives the blessing. So as it turns out, it may have paid off to come after all.

Advocates urge greater immigrant protections

BY JINGFEI CUI

The bill requires authorities to inform people of their legal rights before any questioning; it bars state and county personnel from acting as federal immigration agents.

The bill defends the civil rights and safety of all Massachusetts residents, says sponsor Sen. Jamie Eldridge. “When we are talking about civil rights, we are talking about a basic sense of belonging in a society. When we are talking about public safety, it’s about making sure you don’t have to worry about being swept on the street with no notice from ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement]. That’s what is happening right now across the country due to the Trump Administration.”

When tax money is being spent on separating families, no one in the community will be left unaffected, said state officials and activists. The economic effects would significantly impact the Massachusetts workforce as well.

“We depend on a strong labor force in Massachusetts, in which one in five workers is an immigrant.” said Tom O’Brien, managing partner of HYM Investment Group, a Boston-based real estate company. “Because immigration laws are incredibly complex, the conditions are particularly difficult right now.

Many of our immigrant workers live in fear — even if they have green card or U.S. citizenship, because some of their loved ones are perhaps not so fortunate.”

Fear of deportation or family separation keeps victims of domestic violence from seeking help from the police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Event Calendar

Tufts MC Lunar New Year Celebration
Friday, Feb. 7
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
125 S. Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02111
Free meditation class for people with limited mobility are welcome to join. For more information, call (781) 874-0023.

English for college or job training
Monday, Feb. 10
8:30 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Attend testing for the Asian American Civic Association’s English classes for college or job training. For more information, call (617) 426-9492 x 250 or email intake@aaca-boston.org.

Advanced English for jobs
Monday, Feb. 10
8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The AACA’s Career Advancement Program for Professionals program is for people with a degree from their native country who needs more English and job readiness skills to attain a job related to their field of study.

Community meeting
Monday, Feb. 10
6:30 p.m.
89 Medford Street
Boston, MA 02129
A community meeting about redesigning the Charlestown Community Garden will take place at the Charles-Newtown community room.

Water drop teahouse
Tuesday to Saturday
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
711 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Water Drop Teahouse offers light vegetarian dishes, coffee and tea at the Fo Guang Buddhist Temple.

Free evening meals
Every Tuesday to Friday
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
493 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148
Bread of Life offers free evening meals for low-income families and individuals in the metro North area. Evening meals are served Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at First Baptist Church. For more information, call (781) 397-0040.

Financial aid assistance
Wednesday, Jan. 8
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
87 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
Get free assistance on college planning and applying for financial aid towards higher education. Service offered in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. To make an appointment, call (617) 426-9492 x 20.

Chinatown Neighborhood Committee meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 12
6 p.m.
58 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02111
A community feedback session on a lighting study for Chin Park in the Greenway will take place at the Metropolitan community room.

The Chinatown Coalition meeting
Thursday, Feb. 13
9:30 a.m.
38 Ash Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinatown Coalition meeting will take place at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, visit tccboston.org.

Bereavement support group
Tuesday, Feb. 18
1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
440 East Squantum Street
Quincy, MA 02171
A monthly bereavement support group will take place at the Quincy Council on Aging.

Chinatown South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 18
6 p.m.
90 Tyler Street
Boston, MA 02111
The Chinatown South Cove Neighborhood Committee meeting will take place at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

SAMPAN Classified Ads

NEWBURRYPORT-AFFORDABLE FIRST TIME BUYER LOTTERY - PARKER ST.
(1) 3BR Unit $279,000 & (1) 2BR Unit $249,400 @ 80% AMI & (1) 2BR Unit $215,800 @ 70% AMI.
Income limits:
70% AMI:
1P $54,644 1P $62,450
2P $64,475 2P $71,400
3P $70,263 3P $80,300
4P $78,050 4P $89,200
5P $84,306 5P $96,350
Info mgt 2/5/2020, Lottery 3/18/2020, 7pm
City Hall, 60 Pleasant St. Apps LA. Assoc.
978-758-0197 krucostac@aassoc.com

Established outboard motor and snowblower shop seeks technician. Must have good mechanical skills. Outboard experience good but not necessary. 781-245-3080 Wakefield

Advertise in the Classified Section today! Call 617.426.9492 x 206 or email ads@sampan.org
**BY LING-MEI WONG AND YIMING ZHAO**

The Chinatown/South Cove Neighborhood Council met Jan. 21 to discuss a restaurant opening at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

A new restaurant Food Opera will be opened by Edward Leung at 83 Essex Street, the location of Chau Chow City Restaurant which shuttered April 2017 after 32 years in business. Leung operated East Ocean City seafood restaurant at 25 Beach Street until 2016, along with seven other restaurants and a seafood wholesale business.

The council did not vote to support Leung’s application for a common victualer license to serve food, as a Jan. 27 abutters meeting had taken no place, resulting in no community feedback. Leung will not serve alcohol and will not apply for a liquor license.

A new gate and fence will be installed around the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, with a public bid for contractors.

The owner of Friendship BBQ will apply to extend his operation hours to 2 a.m. The restaurant would also apply to serve alcohol. Residents expressed concern the restaurant would attract drunk crowds and disturb nearby residents.

Local resident Ryan Powers said, “You put a cancer like that billboard in this neighborhood, it’s going to spread to all the other neighborhoods.”

The owner of Friendship BBQ will appeal to the Boston Planning and Development Agency in February, said Councilor Ed Flynn, Councilor Michelle Wu, State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Councilor Ed Flynn, Councilor Michael Flaherty, Councilor Michelle Wu, Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Boston Director-general Douglas Ho and Mayor Walsh joined the attendees in a toast for a prosperous new year.

BY MANDY SUN

The sounds of firecrackers and drums echoed throughout Chinatown Feb. 2 for the annual Chinese New Year parade, held on the second Sunday after Lunar New Year began Jan. 25.

Marlon Violette joined Wah Lum Kung Fu and Tai Chi Academy 21 years ago. He said, “This culture is very deep, has been around for thousands and thousand of years, and this tradition will always be here.”

Rambo Ren takes a photo with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh at the cultural village Feb. 2 in the annual Chinese New Year parade, which echoed throughout Chinatown Feb. 2 for the Josiah Quincy Elementary School, with a public bid for contractors.

Representatives from Media Vision presented a proposal for a 15’ by 25’ digital billboard at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Beach Street. The proposal was opposed by the residents at the meeting.

Local resident Ryan Powers said, “You put a cancer like that billboard in this neighborhood, it’s going to spread to all the other neighborhoods.”

The Chinatown meeting roundup: CNC, CCBA, CSC, CRA

**CCBA hosts Year of the Rat banquet**

BY YIMING ZHAO

City officials and guests raised a toast during the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association’s Jan. 26 banquet at Empire Garden. (Image courtesy of Gilbert Ho.)

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England hosted its annual banquet on Jan. 26 at Empire Garden, celebrating the Year of the Rat. “CCBA is the backbone of the Chinese community. It provides services to people of all ages. Thank you for keeping this tradition alive. The city of Boston and all of our elected officials will continue to work together to support the great work you do here in Chinatown,” said Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

State Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, Boston Councilor Ed Flynn, Councilor Michael Flaherty, Councilor Michelle Wu, Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Boston Director-general Douglas Ho and Mayor Walsh joined the attendees in a toast for a prosperous new year.

South Cove Community Health Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Send/FAX or e-mail resumes to Attn: Human Resources 10 South Cove, Boston, MA 02109 Fax: (617) 521-6795 E-mail: kdh@bhch.org

South Cove Community Health Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
99 Ranch Market opens in Quincy

BY YIMING ZHAO

Just in time for Chinese New Year, 99 Ranch Market opened in Quincy Jan. 18 at 475 Hancock Street.

99 Ranch is a great place to stock up for Chinese New Year. The store featured unique Asian snacks, authentic sauces and convenient frozen products. With a whole aisle just for Asian noodles and nearly 100 different kinds of soy sauce, 99 Ranch is the place to explore your options. A wide range of fresh vegetables and fruits can also be found at the store. Unique products like durian, dragon fruit that many Asians crave are all neatly placed in the produce section. The store also featured a full-service bakery and hot deli. Customers can enjoy freshly baked pastries and bento at the seating area.

Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch attended a Jan. 17 preview opening of 99 Ranch Market. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhao.)

BILL: Advocates support immigrant workers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Advocates at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition cited instances when the danger of looking and sounding different were imprinted on a 6-year-old child and when witnesses stop reporting crimes.

“In 2020, standing up for the rights of immigrants is a moral imperative,” said Carol Rose, ACLU Massachusetts executive director. “It’s clear that immigration is the founding moral issue of the Trump presidency and of this period of time in history for all of us.”

“I understand that the state legislature cannot fix national immigration policy, but there are steps we can take to make it clear that this state is a safe and welcoming place for immigrants and refugees, because that’s what Massachusetts is,” said Rep. Ruth Balser.

Also, in Massachusetts, a bill has been introduced which would expand the state’s current anti-discrimination laws to include protections for immigrants.

Newton Cantonese School rings in Chinese New Year

BY LING-MEI WONG

Newton Cantonese School celebrated the Year of the Rat Jan. 18 at Bigelow Middle School. Students born in the Year of the Rat and board member Julia Kan posed for a photo with the Imperial Lion Dance Team. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Newton Cantonese School kicked off the Year of the Rat Jan. 18 at Bigelow Middle School.

Children sang songs in Cantonese, including “Happy New Year.” “Really Love You” from pop group Beyond and “Happy Every Year.” Traditional four-word Lunar New Year blessings were performed by Level 2 students, while Level 5 students read a poem, “The Lake Is All Red.”

Boys gave a martial arts demonstration with Master Todd. Girls performed a chopsticks dance. A violin, keyboard and saxophone rendition of “God of Fortune Arrives” was performed, with singing by board members and students.

A lion dance was performed by Imperial Lion Dance Team of Worcester. Children enjoyed carnival games, lunch and a raffle after the performances.

Chinatown crime blotter for Jan. 20 to Feb. 7

BY THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

All reports are submitted by the Boston Police Department. The time period is from Jan. 20 to Feb. 7 for District A-1, which includes Chinatown.

Hit/run property
Jan. 20, 1:59 p.m. – The victim reported an unknown person struck her motor vehicle that was parked on Tyler Street and fled the scene, without exchanging paperwork.
February 7, 2020 Sampan

America’s Test Kitchen chef Elle Simone cooked with fifth graders Jan. 24 at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School. (Image courtesy of Phil Amara.)

America’s Test Kitchen chef visits Chinatown school

BY LING-MEI WONG

“America’s Test Kitchen” chef Elle Simone cooked with fifth graders Jan. 24 at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School in Boston’s Chinatown. Librarian Heidi Boulonge runs the school cooking club. Simone’s visit marks the third chef visiting from the PBS show, with previous visits from J. Kenji López-Alt and Yvonne Ruperti.

Chase Bank opens Chinatown branch

BY YIMING ZHAO

Chase Bank Chinatown branch manager Cheng Ji spoke at the grand opening Jan. 24. He chose the date because Chinese New Year’s Eve symbolizes new beginnings and great things happening. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhao.)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Boston Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”) d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (“BPDA”), is issuing an Invitation for Bids entitled “Landscape & Hardscape Work at the Charlestown Navy Yard” (the “IFB”). The IFB is issued in accordance with Massachusetts General Law c. 30, § 19M, as may be amended. The lowest responsible and eligible bidder will enter into a two (2) year contract (the “Initial Term”) with the BRA holding three (3) one (1) year options that may be exercised by the BRA at its sole discretion. In the event the BRA exercises the three (3) one (1) year options, the contract term shall be five (5) years.

The work generally consists of: planting, weeding and mulch, pruning, removing invasive plant material, fertilization of soil, deadheading shrubs, daily trash removal, soil building, and snow removal. ESTIMATED PROJECT VALUE: The estimated contract amount is Three Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars ($340,000). (i.e., One Hundred Seventy Thousand [$170,000.00] annually).

TIME AND PLACE FOR FILING BIDS: All bids shall be filed with the BRA at One City Hall Square, 9th floor, Boston, MA, 02201 before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on February 25, 2020, at which time and place respective bids will be opened forthwith and read aloud. No responses will be accepted after the due date and time. The award of this contract is subject to the approval of the BRA Board, and is contingent on the availability of funds.

IFB PACKAGE & PRE-BID CONFERENCE: The IFB, including site maps and requirements for this project, will be available to all interested bidders on February 5, 2020, 9:00 A.M. The IFB package will be available in digital and print form. A pre-bid conference will be held on February 11, 2020 at 10:00 A.M., at 22 Drydock Avenue, 2nd floor conference room, Boston, MA 02210.

Attendance at the pre-bid conference is optional; however, all bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. To schedule site access and visit the Charlestown Navy Yard prior to submitting a bid, please send an email to: the BRA Procurement Office BPDA.CPO@boston.gov. Richard Mulligan should be copied on the email to the BRA Procurement Office. Richards Mulligan’s email address is rich.mulligan@boston.gov. Download the IFB free-of-charge from the BPDA website at (http://www.bostonplans.org/). Under ‘Work with Us’, follow the link http://www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement to open the ‘Procurement page for “Landscape & Hardscape Work at the Charlestown Navy Yard.” Plan holders shall register by entering the information requested and then follow the prompt to start file download. Bidders must submit with their bid a bid deposit equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the total bid. The selected bidder will also be required to provide a payment bond in the amount of 50% of the resulting contract price with the BRA.

RULE FOR AWARD: The BRA will award the resulting contract to the responsible and eligible bidder offering the lowest bid for the initial term. The BRA reserves the right to waive any and all minor irregularities in the bidding or reject any and all bids if it is in the public interest to do so.

Brian Connelly, Director of Finance/Chief Procurement Officer

A good sense of humor

BY VENERABLE MASTER HSIN YUN, FOUNDER OF FO GUANG SHAN TEMPLE

Humor is like a mountain spring, for it can cleanse our minds. It is like a cloud in the sky, for it can wander at will without obstruction. In today’s society, people have lost their uniqueness and the ability to think for themselves. Instead of truly thinking, people choose to become followers. Instead of exercising intellectual freedom, they choose to follow the lead of others. It is society’s nature and not the individual that decides the common standard of morality. Under these circumstances, it is important to have a good sense of humor in our interpersonal relationships, because humor is like sunshine that can brighten our day and make us smile at anyone. Humor is sometimes like a gentle breeze that can soothe a person’s pain and misery. Humor is also like a spring blossom that can warm a person’s heart and awaken his or her mind. We should strive to be like Charlie Chaplin, who has brought laughter to millions of moviegoers around the world with his genius for comedy. He has positively affected the lives of many people through his sense of humor.

There have been many eminent Buddhist monks who have possessed an excellent sense of humor. Contemporary Chinese literature is no exception; many authors have the uncanny ability to portray their subjects in a humorous light, without debasing their integrity. Their sense of humor is charming and graceful, which gives readers a refreshing sense of purity. As we strive for true peace and happiness in our modern society, we find ourselves in desperate need of a few masters of comedy; those who can enrich the present world with their good sense of humor.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a Boston Planning & Development Agency (the “BRA”), is issuing an Invitation for Bids (“IFB”) entitled “LONG WHARF SEA WALL STABILIZATION” at 206 Atlantic Avenue, (Long Wharf), Boston, MA 02110. The IFB is being issued in accordance with Massachusetts General Law c. 30, §19M, as may be amended. The IFB number for this IFB is 5014D associated with the “LONG WHARF SEA WALL STABILIZATION” project. The lowest responsible and eligible bidder for this Project will be invited to enter into a contract with the BRA to perform the scope of work as set forth in the provided bid documents, including addenda. The scope of work generally consists of: Installation of new steel sheet pile over 189-linear feet length as close as possible to the toe of the existing granite wall block, and Capping the new sheet pile bulkhead with a 4-wide concrete cap and fill the area between the new and existing walls with a flow-able concrete fill.

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT VALUE: One Million One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents ($1,130,000.00).

TIME AND PLACE FOR FILING BIDS: All bids shall be filed with the BRA at One City Hall Square, 9th floor, Boston, MA 02201 before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on March 18, 2020 at which time and place respective bids will be opened immediately and read aloud. All bids will be accepted after the due date and time. Upon a determination of the lowest responsible and eligible bidder by BRA staff, BRA staff shall recommend to the BRA Board that the Director be authorized to enter into a contract with the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The BRA reserves the right to waive any and all minor irregularities in the bidding process or to reject any and all bids if it is in the public interest to do so.

IFB PACKAGE AND PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Plans and specifications for this Project will be available to all interested parties on February 5, 2020, at 9:00 A.M. A pre-bid conference will be held on February 18, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. at the Long Wharf Shade Pavilion, 206 Atlantic Avenue Long Wharf, Boston, MA 02110. Although attendance at the pre-bid conference is not mandatory, all bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. For further information, bidders shall submit an email to the BRA Procurement Office at BPDA.CPO@boston.gov. Project Manager, Dolores Fazio, should be copied on the email to the BRA Procurement Office. Dolores.Fazio@boston.gov. Download the IFB free-of-charge from the BPDA website at (http://www.bostonplans.org/). Under ‘Work with Us’, follow the link http://www.bostonplans.org/work-with-us/procurement to open the ‘Procurement page for “LONG WHARF SEA WALL STABILIZATION.” Plan holders shall register by entering the information requested and then follow the prompt to start file download. Bidders must submit with their bid a bid deposit equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the total bid. The selected bidder will also be required to provide a payment bond and a performance bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the resulting contract price with the BRA.

RULE FOR AWARD: The resulting contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

Brian Connelly, Director of Finance/Chief Procurement Officer
Tufts Medical Center announced its five community partners Jan. 17 for nicotine cessation at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Tufts Medical Center announced its five community partners Jan. 17 for nicotine cessation at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. The medical center’s Asian Health Initiative is focusing on smoking cessation from 2017 to 2019, with an added focus on vaping for its 2020 to 2022 three-year grant cycle. “Because of your work, more people are taking action to quit for their loved ones,” said Tufts Medical Center president and CEO Dr. M. D. Aziz. “We’re all about helping people thrive in health. We hope prevention puts us out of business.”

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancers for Asian Americans in Boston, said Sherry Dong, director of Community Health Improvement Programs at Tufts Medical Center. The five agencies are the Asian American Civic Association, Boston Asian Youth & Education Service Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center and Josiah Quincy Elementary School. District 2 Councilor Ed Flynn represents Chinatown. “Chinatown has the highest asthma rate in the state,” he said. “Diabetes is high, along with gambling addiction. The neighborhood is just one mile from the Back Bay, which has completely different public health needs; it’s time to close the gap of public health issues.”

A certificate of recognition was presented to the Asian Health Initiative by Marty Martinez, Boston Chief of Health and Human Services. AACA is developing an evidence-informed anti-smoking mass media campaign by compiling, customizing and translating existing graphic and compelling tobacco- and nicotine-related content adapted from effective past national mass media campaigns, said Edward Hsieh, AACA director of business growth. New content is being created to more specifically cater to Boston’s Chinatown community. AACA leverages its property manager, local business owners and community organization networks to promote smoke-free areas throughout Chinatown.

Boston Asian: Youth Essential Service (BAYES) engages youth in a range of activities to learn about the risk factors of tobacco and nicotine use, the negative impacts on physical and mental health, the marketing strategies used by the tobacco industries to entice young people, and tips to live tobacco- and nicotine-free, said Trinh Britton, youth worker. The youth use what they learn to develop and implement a public health education campaign centered on tobacco and nicotine that reaches hundreds of community members per year. The youth identify, modify and create new tobacco- and nicotine-related content that resonates with American Asian youth, publishing it on community media and other accessible platforms.

BCNC, through its Smoke Free Chinatown Initiative, aims to mitigate the negative impacts of tobacco use and smoking among Chinese families in Chinatown and Boston, said Grace Su, director of family services. BCNC engages children, youth, parents and other adults in tobacco education through arts programs, parenting classes, and other workshop presentations. BCNC disseminates information through newsletters and other methods to build community awareness of the health hazards of smoking and tobacco products, secondhand smoke and resources for smoking cessation. BCNC’s family services team also provides individualized case management and counseling to current smokers to support their cessation journey.

The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center (GBGCAC), through its Smoke Free for Healthy Living program, promotes prevention and cessation of tobacco and nicotine use among Chinese adults, said Catherine Chang. The program empowers smokers through community events and educational workshops to lead healthier lives by reducing and stopping smoking. GBGCAC also assesses smokers’ health and behavioral needs, creates individualized smoking cessation/reduction plans, and provides one-on-one support with family engagement and regular follow-up to support the quitting process. Smoke Free for Healthy Living engages public and private housing developments to promote the program, recruit participants, and help maintain a smoke-free environment for all residents.

Josiah Quincy Elementary School (JQES) provides a comprehensive tobacco and nicotine awareness of the health and economic impacts of smoking and vaping, including secondhand smoke, as well as techniques to protect themselves and their families from these impacts, said instructor Sally Connors. JQES is partnered with the Josiah Quincy Upper School to deliver a similar curriculum to sixth and seventh graders, equipping them with knowledge and skills at a time when they may begin to experience peer pressure to try smoking or vaping. JQES is exploring innovative methods of engaging families to support students’ abstention from tobacco, and JQES will work with colocated services to promote a full smoke-free environment on the school’s campus.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 PARK PLAZA
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. T25CN01: On-Call Track IV, Green Line & B&M; Branch, CLASSES 1 – 4: GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION $10,000,000.00, CLASS 3 – TRACKAGE, $10,000,000.00, PROJECT VALUE - $21,214,000.00 can be submitted at www.bids.com until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on February 27, 2020. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Work consists of providing construction-related services on an on-call basis to support state of good repair needs of the Authority. Work is anticipated to be performed throughout the MBTA service area in Massachusetts and will primarily consist of track repair and reconstruction work for the Green Line B and C lines.

Bidders are required to submit a Notice of Intent to Bid to the Authority. Bidders must submit an assurance with their Bid that they will make sufficient and reasonable efforts to meet the stated DBE goal of 17 percent.

http://bc.mbta.com/business_center/biddocs/solicitations/current_solicitations/3trkrgtn.bat

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders.

Steve Polfak
MBTA General Manager

January 22, 2020

Five agencies work to kick nicotine out of Chinatown

BY LING-MEI WONG

Tufts Medical Center announced its five community partners Jan. 17 for nicotine cessation at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals for the following project will be received through the internet using Bid Express until the date and time stated below, and will be posted on www.bids.com forthwith after the bid submission deadline. No paper copies of bids will be accepted. Bidders must have a valid digital ID issued by the Authority in order to bid on projects. Bidders need to apply for a digital ID with Bid Express at least 14 days prior to a scheduled bid opening date.

Electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. T25CN01: On-Call Track IV, Green Line & B&M; Branch, CLASSES 1 – 4: GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION $10,000,000.00, CLASS 3 – TRACKAGE, $10,000,000.00, PROJECT VALUE - $21,214,000.00 can be submitted at www.bids.com until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on February 27, 2020. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Work consists of providing construction-related services on an on-call basis to support state of good repair needs of the Authority. Work is anticipated to be performed throughout the MBTA service area in Massachusetts and will primarily consist of track repair and reconstruction work for the Green Line B and C lines.

Bidders are required to submit a Notice of Intent to Bid to the Authority. Bidders must submit an assurance with their Bid that they will make sufficient and reasonable efforts to meet the stated DBE goal of 17 percent.

http://bc.mbta.com/business_center/biddocs/solicitations/current_solicitations/3trkrgtn.bat

On behalf of the MBTA, thank you for your time and interest in responding to this Notice to Bidders.

Steve Polfak
MBTA General Manager

January 22, 2020
Josiah Quincy Elementary School hosts Lunar New Year celebration

BY YIMING ZHAO

Josiah Quincy Elementary School students performed the lion dance at the Lunar New Year celebration on Jan. 30. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhao.)

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh wished everyone a happy New Year in Cantonese at the annual Josiah Quincy Elementary School Lunar New Year celebration on Jan. 30. Children from all grades performed singing, folk dancing and lion dance. City Councillor Ed Flynn also attended the event.

Six Boston Asian: Youth Essential Service youth leaders and a youth worker brought awareness to underage drinking during a Jan. 6 outing to Truong Thanh Liquors on Beach Street. Underage drinking during a Jan. 6 outing to Truong Thanh Liquors on Beach Street.

“Keep it legal” stickers on cases of alcohol. The Sticker Shock campaign aims to educate adults about underage drinking and not to purchase alcohol for youth under 21.

Adult learners complete English program

BY LING-MEI WONG

Adult learners in the Next Step Transitional English Program level 10 class celebrated graduation Jan. 17 at the Asian American Civic Association. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

Affordable Housing Lottery

The Aver

385 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA

*Affordable Housing Lottery

The Aver is a new 53 unit rental apartment community located in Watertown on 385 Pleasant Street. There will be 8 affordable apartments made available through this process, with the first units ready for occupancy starting in the Spring of 2020, and the balance of units coming online over the next year. Two 2-bedroom units will be rented to households with incomes at or below 65% of the area median income, and one studio unit and two 1 bedroom units will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. The affordable units will be spread out among four first-class residential buildings. Parking is located within the community via covered parking and additional surface parking spaces. Units interior boasts custom cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, wood-plank style flooring, granite countertops, walk-in closets, and in-home washers and dryers.

80% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:

1 Person $62,450 (1 person), $61,620 (2 people), $60,800 (3 people), $59,200 (4 people)

75% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:

1 Person $53,950 (1 person), $53,055 (2 people), $52,155 (3 people), $51,255 (4 people)

65% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:

1 Person $45,400 (1 person), $44,500 (2 people), $43,600 (3 people), $42,700 (4 people)

60% AMI Units MAXIMUM Household Income Limits:

1 Person $39,500 (1 person), $38,600 (2 people), $37,700 (3 people), $36,800 (4 people)

A Public Info Session will be held on February 13th, 2020, at 6:00pm in the Lucia Mastrangelo Meeting Room in the Watertown Public Library, 123 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on March 18th, 2020. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

The Lottery for eligible households will be held on March 30th, 2020, at 6:00pm in the Raya Stern Trustees Room in the Watertown Public Library, 123 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.averb.com/lottery or call (617) 782-6901 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Middlesex Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible. Applications also available at the Watertown Public Library.

The Chinese New Year was celebrated Jan. 21 by David Wong Reading Room friends and supporters at Empire Garden. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

David Wong hosts Chinese New Year luncheon

BY LING-MEI WONG

Real estate manager David Wong hosted a Chinese New Year luncheon at his eponymous reading room Jan. 21, downstairs from Empire Garden. Wong received honorary citations from the Boston City Council and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, who was represented by Chinatown and Downtown neighborhood liaison Lisa Hy. At-large councillors Michelle Wu and Michael Flaherty attended the celebration, along with District 2 councillor Ed Flynn.

The David Wong Reading Room offers Chinese newspapers and reading materials at no cost for community members.

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FOOD

ENROLLMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 IS NOW OPEN!!!
Application Deadline is February 29th

February 7, 2020
Sampan
8

Chalawan packs flavor with elegance

BY LING-MEI WONG

Chalawan adds fresh flavors of Southeast Asia to Porter Square. Thailand is well represented on Chef Palm Amatawat’s menu, but you won’t see pad thai or noodles among the main courses. The cuisine draws inspiration from his travels to Indonesia and Vietnam.

The Aunty Wang steamed snapper dumplings ($11) were an exquisite appetizer, with four dumplings dressed in black vinegar and slivers of chili. My companion declared the snapper dumplings one of her favorites.

The seared Alaska scallop with green nahm jim, ginger, scallions, shallots and caramelized crispy duck ($4) was a fabulous spoonful. My scallop was fresh, with the duck heightening the scallop’s sweetness and the crunch of the fried shallots.

Chalawan’s red duck curry ($24) combines lychee, apple, eggplant, okra, limeleaf, cherry tomatoes and Thai basil for sublime flavor. It’s fiery and soulful curry, complementing the unctuous roast duck. The curry is a generous portion, ideal for sharing.

Thai black sticky rice with taro, lychee and mango ice cream. (Image courtesy of Ling-Mei Wong.)

For dessert, the Asian banana cake ($8) was moist with cinnamon, palm sugar caramel and coconut ice cream.

Another hit was the Thai black sticky rice with taro, lychee and mango ice cream ($8). It was decadent without being sugary.

The staff is happy to suggest wine pairings with the succulent dishes. Chalawan focuses on food flavors and beautiful presentation, making it an elegant addition to the greater Boston restaurant scene.

Chalawan
Asian Eatery
1780 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
(617) 547-8888
www.thechalawan.com

Buds & Blossoms daycare welcomes Year of the Mouse

BY YIMING ZHAO

Children from Buds & Blossoms daycare welcomed the year of the mouse at Kwong Kow Chinese School auditorium on Jan. 23. (Image courtesy of Yiming Zhao.)

Children from Buds & Blossoms Early Education and Care Center welcomed the year of the mouse at Kwong Kow Chinese School auditorium on Jan. 23.

They held percussion instruments and performed songs in Mandarin. At the end of the celebration, the children put on a lion dance performance with the teachers.

Chin Park Lighting Study

Community Feedback Session

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
6:00pm to 8:00pm

Please join the Greenway Conservancy and engineering team AECOM for a community meeting to provide your input on possible lighting upgrades on The Greenway in Chinatown.

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