Mayor talks flu season, eviction moratorium, immigrant services

By Christine Mui

Mayor Walsh reaffirmed his support in favor of the preliminary injunction blocking U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) fee increases, during an immigrant-serving media roundtable on Thursday, October 1. He also provided updates on housing stability and COVID-19 cases, as flu season starts.

The roundtable was hosted by the Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement (MOIA) and facilitated by its director Yusufi Vali, with guest presentations from Rita Nieves, Interim Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, and Katie Forde, Operations Manager at the Office of Housing Stability.

Vali kicked off the event by briefing around 20 outlets on MOIA’s two summer and fall 2020 programs: the Dreamers’ Fellowship Program for Immigrant Youth and Immigrants Lead Boston. Immigrants Lead Boston is a 12-week course teaching Boston immigrants the civic engagement tools to navigate City government, express concerns to City officials, and advocate for their local communities, especially during the pandemic. For its 13th year, Immigrants Lead Boston received 110 total applications, with representation from 41 countries of origin, 14 Boston neighborhoods, 37 different language speakers, and ages ranging from 18 to 41.

The Dreamers’ Fellowship Program ran its pilot for 50 youth recipients of DACA. Participants were divided between three nonprofits: the Caribbean Youth Club, Centro Presente, and Brazilian Workers Center. Each of the DREAMers were then given a stipend to support their families with rent, utilities, food, and other household expenses. Vali said, “Most critically, what they [the nonprofits] shared was that, especially at one of our East Boston nonprofits, some of these kids would be the same ones that would be recruited for gangs. Some of them would be getting into selling drugs if they weren’t in these programs.”

Following the updates, Mayor Walsh addressed the Trump administration’s anti-immigration rhetoric, as well as its doubling of the application cost to apply for U.S. citizenship. On September 29, a federal court temporarily blocked that fee increase, which would have raised the immigration application fee from $725 to $1,170, and the naturalization application fee from $640 to $1,160, if filed online. It would cost $1,170, in paper filing on October 2.

“I congratulate the court, applauded them. Citizenship should not be a wealth test, American citizenship, in my opinion, is about what you believe, not what you can pay,” said Walsh. In the wake of the federal injunction, there remains concern that it is only a temporary solution for immigrants worried about high fees, since USCIS and the government may appeal to the Ninth Circuit. Vali said that the Mayor’s Office would put together a more long-term strategy in the coming weeks to prepare for that possibility of the rule coming back into effect. Still, for now, their focus lies on working with Project Citizenship to ensure those who qualify take advantage of the fee waiver and apply now.

Walsh also urged people to respond to the census before the deadline of October 15. This deadline was reinstated, following a lawsuit led by several cities and civil rights groups against the Trump administration for cutting the 2020 census short. This had happened when the administration...

See page 5, MOIA Roundtable

Roxbury International Film Festival holds first virtual screenings, celebrating artists of color

By Shira Laucharoen

The Roxbury International Film Festival, now in its 22nd year, held its first virtual film festival, from September 30 through October 5. It is currently New England’s largest film festival celebrating people of color from around the globe, and this year’s festival featured three movies directed by artists of Asian background. The films “The Little Goddess,” “Furthest From,” and “A Knight’s Tour” were respectively directed by Gauri Adelkar, Kyung Sok Kim, and Marvin Choi. According to a press statement from Roxbury International Film Festival director Lisa Simmons, the festival’s focus on honoring diversity is particularly relevant during this time.

“We are excited to continue our seasonal celebration of the beauty, resilience, and artistry of people of color,” Simmons said. “We are grateful for the opportunity to produce a virtual festival to connect people and celebrate artistic expression.”

The Roxbury International Film Festival will return in person in July 2021, to continue bringing the community together to celebrate our shared cultural heritage.

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Sampan publishes every other Friday.
Preserving Chinese culture through ‘Kung Fu’—
the origin of Boston’s Eastern US Kung Fu Federation

By Carey Lin

Kung fu has come to be synonymous with Chinese culture for several reasons. The sport is not solely a means of exercise or a method of self-defense. It encompasses a lifestyle of philosophies as well as an emphasis in teaching not just the physical, but also the mental. Soo Hoo said, “We practice the internal, not the external. Internal is something you don’t see the strength until after. In karate, when they do that you see the power coming, but in Tai Chi, you don’t want that.”

Dr. Kwan said, “It’s difficult to read Chinese poetry even if you know how to read Chinese. But Kung Fu is faster, and more engaging.” Just as any cultural tradition does, it brings people together. “When you practice with each other in the school, you are not just students. These are fellow brothers and sisters,” said Dr. Kwan.

The practice struggled to survive overseas. Kung Fu, the movie and other movies like those starring Bruce Lee helped popularize the practice, but there were still challenges. Chinese martial arts schools faced stiff competition from other forms of martial arts such as karate and taekwondo that had been popular for a longer time in the U.S. Not that many people knew about Kung Fu because of the language barrier—you could not find the schools that taught it if you could not read Chinese. Over-time, the masters were convinced that they must teach non-Chinese and those outside of the community to continue the lineage. Dr. Kwan said, “I told him (Chun Pui) to advertise in the Yellow Pages. For kung fu to survive outside Chinatown, you have to advertise, you have to go and teach people, you have to accept multiple students.”

The Federation began to fizz out when each of the founders began pursuing their own goals and endeavors. Dr. Kwan went to medical school at Tufts, and is now an associate professor there. Chun Pui went to Florida, bought some land and built the Wah Lum Temple.

Today the New England’s Eastern US Kung Fu Federation is only a shadow of what it used to be. “People prefer to keep to themselves nowadays,” said Soo Hoo. “Before, kids wanted to learn martial arts. Now they would rather play video games online than practice martial arts.”

Even though the grandmasters no longer physically come together anymore, their bonds are still as strong as ever. Gin Soon Tai Chi Chuan Federation continues offering classes hidden away in Chinatown Boston. Wah Lum has a New England headquarters in Chinatown and satellites in Malden and Quincy. The Hung Gar Kung Fu and Linen Dance Academy has moved down to Quincy. Plus, many younger kung fu masters have opened schools around the Greater Boston area.

Despite the modern challenges faced by these masters, they all still share a bond built on respect. Respect is one of the most important lessons in the teachings. Dr. Kwan said, “The Chinese tradition says you can learn from a person for one day, that person is your instructor for life.”

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Youth share stories of anti-Asian racism during virtual discussion

By Shira Laucharoen

Youth speakers shared their stories of encountering anti-Asian racism in their lives at a discussion session held on September 18. Titled “Breaking the Silence on Asian Racism,” was sponsored by Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI) and the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMASS Boston). Students Yongsu Xu, Justin Chan, Annie Lu, and Aaron Huang voiced their experiences, while Dr. Carolyn Wong, a research associate from UMASS Boston, facilitated.

Xu, a senior at The Woodward School for Girls, began the conversation by describing how she had lived in Curacao when she was younger, before coming to the United States. Growing up, she was the only Asian girl in her school, and others often mocked her or made derogatory statements, telling her to “go back to China.” Her teachers and parents told her not to worry, even though this happened almost every day, and she said that she eventually got used to the remarks and did not let them bother her.

“It really impacted me and made me think, there’s a lot of different people in society…Of course there are people who don’t know it’s racism. It really made me think how different people are.”

Chan, a junior at Quincy High School, told a story about how when he was in kindergarten, parents of students came in to do a presentation or show-and-tell for the class. When his father did a balloon animal demonstration, his teacher noticed that she did not speak English well and assumed that Chan would have the same difficulties. His teacher placed him in an English Language Learner class even though he spoke proficiently. Chan said that he saw this treatment as an act of racism that ended up pushing his skills further back. Wong said that speaking up in situations like Chan’s is one way of moving forward.

“There are also obstacles to moving forward,” said Wong. “This is a really difficult time, when race, prejudice, and putting labels or assumptions on people is very hard. But a lot of times, Asians are not enough a part of that conversation about race.

The next presentation came from Lu, a junior at North Quincy High School, who described how she and her fellow students pushed to change the school’s mascot. The mascot, known as the “Yakoo,” depicted a caricature of a Native American warrior.

The students created a petition to have the mascot changed, which triggered a wave of backlash, and Lu said that she was called anti-Asian slurs as a result. Lu said that she felt she and her colleagues eventually made progress, as the school ended up changing the depiction.

The discussion wrapped up with a story from Huang, a junior at Boston College High School. He recounted an experience of exchanging jokes while walking home with a group of friends from school when one friend blurted out the term “chink.”

Huang said that this student had meant to be humorous, but he was struck by their casual usage of the word. The nonchalance behind racism, he said, really made him think how different people are.

During the conversation, the youth presenters emphasized that the importance of speaking up when encountering racism and challenging xenophobic behaviors. Chan said that to build a sense of equality, it is critical for people to come together and understand each other.

“If you really feel the need to speak up, it’s important that you do,” said Chan. “If you feel that your issue is small and not important, which I sometimes do feel, it’s not. Everybody’s issues are important. Even if you might see yourself as different than somebody else, they might have the same exact experience that you did, and it’s important for everybody to hear it.”

What do you do when stuck overseas as a green card holder?

By Yu Sin Mok, Paralegal at Greater Boston Legal Services

“We are seeing many cases now,” said By Yu Sin Mok, Paralegal at Greater Boston Legal Services, “because of the pandemic, I have been stuck in China for five months already. I don’t know when I can come back because the flights keep getting cancelled,” my client Ms. Huang told me. “Will I lose my green card if I am out of the country for more than six months?”

We hear this question often on the Asian Outreach Unit phone line at Greater Boston Legal Services, where we provide free legal services to low-income people. At the start of the pandemic, we set up a multilingual hotline so community members can contact us easily. We have heard from many green card holders, like Ms. Huang, stuck overseas.

The answers for immigration questions like Ms. Huang’s depend on the specific facts and duration of time abroad. But some basic preparation could help you deal with issues you may encounter when you return to the U.S.

While you might not be questioned at all by immigration officers when you return to the U.S., in case you are, keep records of your attempts to return to the U.S. Any email or text correspondences with travel agents, screenshots of flights being unavailable or booked, records of cancelled plane tickets, or even handwritten notes of efforts made to return can be useful to show that you tried to come back as soon as possible.

You should also gather other documents proving your continuous connection to the U.S. during your time overseas. For example, you can keep evidence showing that you have kept your job and your apartment here, and your immediate family members continue to live here. Other documents such as copies of IRS tax returns, any bank, credit card, and loan statements showing regular transactions, proof of any registration and insurance, rent receipts, and copies of passport showing entry and exit stamps can also be used to demonstrate your ties with the U.S. The more records you have, the better!

In general, a green card holder who is going to be out of the country for more than 180 days should apply for a reentry permit while still in the U.S. But many did not anticipate leaving for so long before the pandemic started and did not apply for a reentry permit. So keeping records about your connection to the U.S. is important in case immigration officials question why you were out of the U.S. for so long.

Green card holders who have stayed outside of the U.S. for a year or longer may be decided to have given up their green card. Even those who have stayed outside of the U.S. for less than a year but more than 180 days may also be deemed to have given up their green card. An immigration officer may ask you questions at the airport about your intent to stay in the U.S. permanently and whether you have abandoned your green card. In that case, you can explain how the pandemic prevented you from returning, and have documents ready to prove your attempts to return to the U.S. and your continuous ties there.

After coming back, it would be beneficial to keep these documents for your future citizenship application. You may need to present these documents again when you apply for citizenship.

Remember, your answers to the questions at the airport about your connection to the U.S. are crucial. If you have given up your ties to the U.S. during your trips abroad.

Delays in international travel and the related immigration challenges can be stressful, especially in such uncertain times. Ms. Huang fortunately was able to return the U.S. after months of being stuck in China and constantly re-bookings flights. If you have any questions about your immigration situation, please do not hesitate to reach out to Greater Boston Legal Services’ Asian Outreach Unit at 617-603-1809.

Notice from The Greenway & Boston PD

We would like to remind visitors that Mary Soo Hoo Park is a smoking-free park and smoking of any kind is prohibited on The Greenway or any public parks. When using the park, we ask that you: wear a mask, maintain physical distancing, refrain from smoking, refrain from urinating in or around the park. Finally, if any illegal behavior involving drugs or alcohol is observed, we strongly encourage you to report it to the Boston Police Department by calling 911.
commitment to bringing the best in truly independent stories that cele-
brate the lives of underrepresented people around the world,” wrote Sim-
mons. “Now more than ever is the time for these stories and these film-
makers to be championed for creating films that unearth histories, but to
suces to the forefront, counter preexist-
ing narratives, and champion change.”

Adelkars film “The Little God-
dess” blurs the line between fiction and documentary, as the story, shot in rural India, is based on the actual lives of a family of folk artists that she observed. The narrative follows the trajectory of a twelve-year-old girl named Durga, who stars in her family’s local stage of mythologi-
cal tales—a performance they put to
on to earn money. When Durga is
approached by a man who offers to
feature her in a real movie, if she trav-
els to the city of Kolkata, she begins to
wonder if she can transcend the
boundaries of her impoverished life
and fulfill her dreams. Meanwhile, her
parents worry about her safety.

“She goes on a journey of real-
izing that she’s not yet ready to leave her
home,” said Adelkar. “I often see so
much coming of age stories that are essentially saying that if you can
escape your current world, you will find answers to all the questions that
you have… Often, families like this are portrayed as oppressive, but I’m
interested in characters that are more
grey and not black and white. I want
to show what this family is going through and how dreams and reality clash with each other on a daily ba-
sis.”

The movie “Furthest From,” di-
rected by Kim, is told through the
eyes of Jessie, a young Black girl living in a trailer park. When a water
contamination issue strikes the park, her friend Lucas and her own family
are forced to come to terms with leaving
home behind. The story examines the
topic of coping with change and loss,
as Jessie learns to accept the idea of
outgrowing her childhood memo-
ries. Kim said he made important sty-
listic choices when creating the film:
for example, he used a moving hand-
held camera for the scenes where Jes-
sie is outside and playing with friends
to convey a sense of freedom. For the
more somber scenes, like when she is
inside with her family, Kim used a
stationary camera.

“There are two themes throughout this movie,” said Kim. “The first one is
that there will be changes in your
life that are sometimes unavoidable,
that may scare you. It doesn’t matter if
you’re a child or a grown-up—it will make you feel anxious and wor-
ried. … The second theme was about being able to apologize to other peo-
ple. When you’re growing up, espe-
cially when you’re younger, it’s hard
to apologize properly. But in order to
not hurt other people’s feelings, you
do have to learn to say ‘sorry.’”

Chos’s film “A Knight’s Tour” is a character study that features two
Black men who form an unlikely
friendship. In a post-apocalyptic
world ravaged by a pandemic, a young man, J.D., stumbles upon
the cabin of a hermit, Henry, in the
countryside. The two form a bond that
changes their lives, but their relationship is fraught with suspicion and
paranoia. The movie gets its title
from a game called “a knight’s tour” that Henry teaches J.D. to play using
a chessboard. One must move the knight piece in a sequence to as many
spaces possible while allowing for its event-
ual return to the original position. The
game is a metaphor for the paradox of
a situation both characters find them-
selves in.

“The knight’s tour, both as a title
and as a puzzle, meant a few things,”
said Cho. “A knight’s tour is not just a
sequence that moves in a very odd way. A lot of people equate J.D. as poten-
tially becoming a knight. He’s a very odd presence in Henry’s life. From a mech-
canical point of view, I wanted there to be a puzzle that could both be solitary
and two-player… What this form that comes out psychologically is that
it’s actually not a particularly difficult puzzle. … But Henry has never fig-
ured it out. I wanted that to imply that Henry is the type of person who would
try the same approach again and again. He doesn’t know how to change. …
But J.D. is hyper adaptive and able to figure things out—strange, dangerous
new situations — very quickly.”

Adelkars said that being part of a
festival that celebrates people of color
color is a meaningful experience for her.
Film has the power to break down bar-
riers and draw people together, she
said.

“For me, it’s important to screen
my work at film festivals that bring communities, especially communi-
ties of color, to watch films,” said
Adelkar. “I make films about people of
color, and I want people of color to
come watch my films. The Roxbury
International Film Festival offers that
platform and brings in the Boston community.”

HARMONIOUS

By A 22-year Old Female From Boston, MA

I grew up with my stepfather. He
was a violent, abusive pedophile. As
a result, this damaged my self-esteem.
I felt like nothing I did was good
enough. I was the invisible kid in my
class, because I really can live without
saying a word for three months. I feel
that I am a “good person,” and yet
my mother hates me for not having a
back bone. Anyone can make me do anything that they don’t want to
do, and somehow I would be willing to do
whatever they asked. Gradually, I got
used to giving up and resigning myself
to adversity.

In 2010, I was sent to the United
States as a young international student.
My mom decided to do so because
my abusive stepfather was becoming more and more unstable and he
wanted to protect me. I was 12. I didn’t know what I
was going to face. I didn’t know what
it meant to be independent abroad. I
went to middle school and high school in the mid-west. I went to a prep
school that never took international students before so the management of
the school was flawed. When there is a
weekend or a holiday, the whole town
becomes empty. Usually in these circum-
stances, some things happened that
damaged my life dramatically. An older
classmate of mine sexually assaulted
me and raped me for three years. Like
before, I let things happen to me be-
cause somehow, I felt that this kind of
behavior was justifiable. What he did
to me is similar to what my stepfather
did to me. Like before, I always re-
signed myself to adversity. However,
paper can’t hold fire. Secrets have a
way of coming out. I chose to hide
myself from reality. I transferred
secretly, only wanting to have a place
where no one knows me.

My life after transferring to my
new school seems peaceful. Years of
living as an international student shaped me from a girl with
such low confidence, always timid and
suspicious of standing out for anything, into a young, extroverted woman that some-
times even seems a little bit too tough.
However, deep inside I know that my
stepfather’s shadow over my life never
go away. The experience of rape and
sexual assault triggers episodes of
acute anxiety even when something
totally irrelevant happens. It’s the only
thing that I can do is grovel on the
ground and try to recover from the
choking feeling. The night I thought
about killing myself, I am lucky I had
a friend whom I really trust.

I sought help. I went to a psycho-
therapist. I did not talk to my mother
about any of the things mentioned above, because I thought that she had
her happy life now. She left the deformed
“love.” However, while a good child-
hood brightens up your whole life, a
cup as long as it has the whole life-
time of healing. I am a student in the
healthcare field. I know that I can’t

See page 5, Harmonious
As of the morning of October 1, “only 8.8% of Boston’s households have self-responded,” according to Ana Vivas, the Deputy Press Secretary for Mayor Walsh. The actual number could be even lower because census takers are still going door to door, she said. Walsh expressed that, “But we’re still relatively low in Chinatown. We are under 10 years ago at this point.”

Another area of concern discussed was recent increased COVID-19 activity, in terms of the number of cases and positivity test rates. September 30, the night before the event, Boston moved into the red zone, meaning they had more than 8 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 14 days. “Right now, we’re at about 8.5 per 100,000 population — roughly 60 cases per day that we’re seeing here in Boston... It’s not a concern of shutting things down at this particular moment. But we are keeping a very close eye on that.”

In-person learning started the same day as the open table, when the COVID positivity rate was still 3.5%. Walsh stipulated that “Keeping our students and teachers and school safe is our number one priority. We are moving forward on a phased-in approach, only if the positivity rating stays below 4%.” Since then, Boston has delayed plans to reopen the city’s schools, after rates climbed higher than 4%.

Rates are exceptionally high in East Boston, which had a 7.7% positivity rate during the week of September 20 to 26. “We’re seeing about half our cases coming from pediatric communities, for which the rate is now about the same as that of African Americans, specified Walsh. “We’re seeing about half of our cases coming from people under the age of 29. Part of that is due to colleges, and part of it is due to people still having parties, large gatherings, and not being safe.”

Rita Nieves, Interim Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, confirmed that as of September 30, 52% of new cases are in residents younger than 29. She highlighted that while younger people tend to have a lower risk for the virus, they do have a greater chance to spread COVID-19 to higher-risk populations, which is particularly worrisome as flu season approaches.

Because different viruses cause COVID-19 and the flu, it is possible to have both at the same time. A test may be required in that case to confirm which one you have due to them sharing similar symptoms. With competing resources and systems for the flu and COVID-19, Nieves stressed the importance for everyone to do their part in “preventing hospitalizations from both.”

Masking and social distancing behaviors for the coronavirus also help prevent the spread of the flu. “There are resources, tests, and systems for the flu that are independent from COVID. Getting vaccinated,” for which the rate is now about 45% “will protect you from the flu.”

Harmonious

Couples are encouraged to attend this open meeting to learn more about the IBC, its regulatory functions, and biosafety risk management. Questions or comments are welcome before or after the meeting and can be submitted to IBC-Office@tufts.edu, or they may be asked during the meeting itself. For more information, please contact the Tufts IBC Office by email or by phone (617-636-6982). The IBC website can be found here: https://viceprovost.tufts.edu/about-ibc.
Bilingual Myth Buster Series: “I think emotions are the same in Chinese and English—angry is still angry, right?”

By Shirley Huang, speech-language pathologist and bilingual researcher

When my sister and I were little we used to get into a lot of trouble. We cut the carpet in our living room because we thought it would grow like grass. We took turns using the washing machine to try and wash ourselves, like we did our clothes. We melted chocolate bars in a microwave until they exploded everywhere, because we wanted to drink hot chocolate. In these moments, my mother would scream “Noh fogwan!” How wonderful it is that we can express “white-hot-burning-fire-boiling-over-the-top-rage” in one Chinese word: fogwan! There is no word in English that can capture that same emotion!

Saying that basic emotions like happy, sad, angry, are the same across different languages and cultures oversimplifies the complexity of emotions. Our cultural and language experiences shape how we understand or express emotions. Bilingual children are exposed to their home language at home and in their local community (e.g., China-town), with family and community members. They are also learning English in a mainstream American classroom environment with their teachers and peers. Bilinguals vary in when, where, how often, and with whom they are exposed to each language. They may show distributed language skills; they may know some emotions words in one language and not the other or know the word in one language over the other. This is true for adults too! Research shows that bilingual adults prefer expressing their anger in Chinese because it feels more powerful in Chinese than in English. But bilingual adults prefer talking about embarrassing things in English because English feels more distant than Chinese (Chen et al., 2012). What can parents do at home to support their bilingual children’s emotions?

Research shows that children’s ability to understand and talk about emotions is important for school success, developing social skills, and positive well-being. Parents are important in helping their child learn about emotions at home, which can help children understand and talk to their peers at school. And, many ways parents can support their bilingual child’s emotional language learning. Parents can label and explain emotions in themselves, in their children, and in other people. Labeling and explaining emotions help children understand what they are feeling and why they are feeling this way. For example, books have many opportunities for parents to label and explain characters’ emotions that drive their actions. Since bilinguals may know some emotional words in one language and not the other, parents should label and explain emotions in either or both languages. When children understand and express their emotions, it helps them to better manage their emotions.

Another way parents can support children’s emotions is to teach strategies to manage their emotions. One way is reminding children to pause and breathe. It is natural to react immediately when we experience strong negative feelings (e.g., fight or yell). However, teaching children to pause and take three deep breaths gives time for children to assess the situation and reflect before reacting. As children practice pausing and breathing, they begin to learn that they are in control of their actions, their thoughts, and their emotions. Lastly, parents can create a safe and non-judgmental space for children to talk about their emotions. With COVID-19 and racial justice uprisings, children may be experiencing a range of emotions—from fear to anger. It may be confusing for children to feel these emotions. Parents should ask their children questions about their emotions. Parents can reassure children that it is okay to feel this way. When you validate your child’s feelings, they may be more likely to come to you again to talk about their feelings. Bilinguals may feel more comfortable expressing certain emotions in one language over the other, so encourage your child to talk about their emotions in whatever language they want! The important thing is that they are sharing their emotions with you, which will help their emotional well-being.

Participate in Paid Online Research!

You can help contribute to our knowledge about bilingual children’s emotion language skills by participating in a paid online research study! Due to COVID-19, the whole study will take place on Zoom to protect you and your child and follow physical distancing orders! Shirley is recruiting 5-year-old Cantonese-English bilingual children. Your child will play word games and tell fun stories in Cantonese and in English! The whole study will take about 2 hours. We will schedule two days: 1 day for English games and 1 day for Chinese games! Parents will get a $40 gift card and children will get a book! If you are interested in participating, contact Shirley by email: shirley.huang-1@colorado.edu or WebChat: Shirley_Huang.1

Shirley Huang is a doctoral student researcher at the University of Colorado Boulder and a bilingual speech-language pathologist. She used to work as a clinician in Boston’s Chinatown. She speaks Cantonese and English.

Next Sampan issue will be published on Nov. 9

Woburn Affordable Housing Lottery

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This is a lottery for the two affordable condominium units being built at Battlebridge Market in Woburn, MA. These two homes will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. The homes feature 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ample living space, highly efficient HVAC systems, gas fired forced hot air systems, central AC, and thoughtfully laid out kitchens that include granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and 36 inch upper cabinets. Battlebridge Market condominiums will be built using “low-maintenance” vinyl siding, 30-year architectural asphalt shingle roof, and high end windows with insulated glass. Unit owners will find themselves in close proximity to various area amenities which include multiple shopping options, various restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops, outdoor spaces such as Middlessex Fells, fitness centers and gyms, and much more.

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Compiled Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received, or postmarked, by 2 pm on November 26th, 2020. Applications and Pre-Approvals postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days after the deadline. 

A Public Info Session will be held on October 21, 2020 at 6pm via YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHT28QOA4s8 (or search for “SEBH Housing in Youtube”) and via Conference Call – (425) 436-6280, Code: 862267. The lottery will be on December 7th, 2020 at 6pm.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call 617-762-8600 x2. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible

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Affordable Housing Lottery

www.sebhousing.com

The first affordable home will be ready for occupancy in Winter 2020

This is a lottery for the 17 affordable townhomes being built at Stockbridge Landing in Scituate. These 17 homes will be sold at affordable prices to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. The homes feature 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ample living space, multiple shopping options, various restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops, outdoor spaces such as Middlessex Fells, fitness centers and gyms, and much more.

17 2BR Townhomes for $298,700 (Condo/HOA fees are $154/mo)

Stockbridge Landing

96 Stockbridge Road, Scituate MA

Affordable Housing Lottery

www.sebhousing.com

The first affordable home will be ready for occupancy in Winter 2020

This is a lottery for the two affordable condominium units being built at Battlebridge Market in Woburn, MA. These two homes will be sold at an affordable price to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. The homes feature 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ample living space, highly efficient HVAC systems, gas fired forced hot air systems, central AC, and thoughtfully laid out kitchens that include granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and 36 inch upper cabinets. Battlebridge Market condominiums will be built using “low-maintenance” vinyl siding, 30-year architectural asphalt shingle roof, and high end windows with insulated glass. Unit owners will find themselves in close proximity to various area amenities which include multiple shopping options, various restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops, outdoor spaces such as Middlessex Fells, fitness centers and gyms, and much more.

Maximum Household Income Limits:

$67,400 (1 person), $77,000 (2 person), $86,850 (3 people), $96,250 (4 person)

The Maximum Household Asset Limit is $75,000.

Compiled Applications and Mortgage Pre-Approvals must be received, or postmarked, by 2 pm on November 26th, 2020. Applications and Pre-Approvals postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days after the deadline.

A Public Info Session will be held on October 21, 2020 at 6pm via YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHT28QOA4s8 (or search for “SEBH Housing in Youtube”) and via Conference Call – (425) 436-6280, Code: 862267. The lottery will be on December 7th, 2020 at 6pm.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call 617-762-8600 x2 or leave a message, or postal mail SEBH Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. Free translation available. Traduzione gratuita disponibile
Movie theaters face challenges reopening after months of closure

By Karen Mai

During the pandemic, the movie theater industry has taken a substantial hit. Even as other businesses have begun reopening, questions remain about whether we should prioritize entertainment or minimizing risk during this time? Local theaters struggle with striking this balance, even though many guidelines and safety precautions have been taken along with alternatives. According to the National Association of Theater Owners (NATO), theaters are doing the very same thing. They have to make. It is complex. It is every company in whatever decision they have to make. It is complex. It is unique, and it is hard. And I think this is the time for us to just support each other as we make these decisions and these really difficult choices.

Huntington Theatre Company (HTC) was shut down on Friday, March 13, said Temple Gill, Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at Huntington Theatre in Boston and over 50 other companies have been meeting with artists, show producers, and programmers. Wilson commented that "everyone in the industry is doing the very same thing." He said, "I have every confidence to think that when we do a reopen, the industry will rebound. And it will be a great time." There are many predictions on when the industry will come back sometime at the end of this first quarter of next year. Others are saying it's going to be more of the second quarter," Wilson added.

**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.bidx.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. X02CN04 SILVER LINE COURTHOUSE STATION WATERPROOFING RESILIENCY AND REPAIRS, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, (CLASS 1, GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION, $20,000,000 AND CLASS 7 – BUILDINGS, $20,000,000, PROJECT VALUE - $25,160,000) can be submitted at www.bidx.com until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on Thursday November 12, 2020. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

The Work consists of waterproofing and waterproofing repairs, replacement of pump rooms, replacement of mechanical systems and duct work, replacement of electrical equipment and installation of new conduits, installation of an access door and sump pump in the air intake structure, drain line cleaning, and installation of an electronic bids for MBTA Contract No. X02CN04 SILVER LINE COURTHOUSE STATION WATERPROOFING RESILIENCY AND REPAIRS, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, (CLASS 1, GENERAL TRANSIT CONSTRUCTION, $20,000,000 AND CLASS 7 – BUILDINGS, $20,000,000, PROJECT VALUE - $25,160,000) can be submitted at www.bidx.com until two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) on Thursday November 12, 2020. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

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The Work consists of waterproofing and waterproofing repairs, replacement of pump rooms, replacement of mechanical systems and duct work, replacement of electrical equipment and installation of new conduits, installation of an access door and sump pump in the air intake structure, drain line cleaning, and replacement of damaged architectural features.

Bidders attention is directed to Appendix 1, Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Insure Equal Employment Opportunity; and to Appendix 2, Supplemental Equal Employment Opportunity; Anti-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action Program in the specifications. While there is no DBE goal associated with this contract, the Authority strongly encourages the use of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as prime contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in all of its contracting opportunities.

http://bc.mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/

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

MBTA General Manager

Steve Pofuk

October 16, 2020

SAMPAN
Since traveling abroad has been shut down by the pandemic, I have increased my exploring around our lovely Massachusetts state. Recently, we went to the fishing town of Wellfleet (only two miles wide) and Chaplin (in the Southeastern tip) in the lower part of Cape Cod.

We headed to the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, spread over 650 acres of salt marshes, with pines and moors to check out. We were able to walk one or two of their nature trails. It was a gorgeous and sunny day. We got the Moby’s famous scallop sandwich ($17) off the Today’s Specials list and the must have lobster roll (market price - $25), with fries and coleslaw. Delicious and lightly fried local and sweet sea scallops in a toasted Philly roll came smothered in Monterey Jack cheese and crispy bacon, served with a generous helping of crispy fries. Our lobster roll was a simple lobster salad with scarcely any mayonnaise, but the sweetness of the lobster tail and claw meat packed into the roll was the star. We were glad to opt for more coleslaw over the fries. Personally, I adore coleslaw, and theirs tasted out of this world, better than any we have dressed with a chock full of fresh and crunchy slivers of cabbage and carrots. All the seafood was local, very fresh and simply seasoned.

Afterwards, we picked up some goodies at P&B Boulangerie (a touch of authentic French food and baked treats), and this ended up being a delightful, sweet ending for our fun day on Cape Cod. The staff was very quick to clean and sanitize frequently. Service was friendly and efficient. We sampled cup each of their clam chowder ($5.75) and lobster bisque ($6.25) to start. Their creamy clam chowder had delicious clams but needed a bit more seasoning in the broth. There was not much lobster found in the bisque, but it was more flavorful of the two, without the usual strong shrimp wine flavor. Next came out oysters pesto ($15 for 6) and a grilled crab cake ($15). Six local Wellfleet oysters were shock full of a basil pesto and topped off with melted Romano cheese for an added flavor. The lightly grilled crab cake was more of a lump, with minimal breadcrumbs filling it. Each was mouthful was packed, with crab meat in every bite. The staff was very quick to clean and sanitize frequently. Service was friendly and efficient. We sampled cup each of their clam chowder ($5.75) and lobster bisque ($6.25) to start. Their creamy clam chowder had delicious clams but needed a bit more seasoning in the broth. There was not much lobster found in the bisque, but it was more flavorful of the two, without the usual strong shrimp wine flavor. Next came out oysters pesto ($15 for 6) and a grilled crab cake ($15). Six local Wellfleet oysters were shock full of a basil pesto and topped off with melted Romano cheese for an added flavor. The lightly grilled crab cake was more of a lump, with minimal breadcrumbs filling it. Each was mouthful was packed, with crab meat in every bite. The staff was very quick to clean and sanitize frequently. Service was friendly and efficient. We sampled cup each of their clam chowder ($5.75) and lobster bisque ($6.25) to start. Their creamy clam chowder had delicious clams but needed a bit more seasoning in the broth. There was not much lobster found in the bisque, but it was more flavorful of the two, without the usual strong shrimp wine flavor. Next came out oysters pesto ($15 for 6) and a grilled crab cake ($15). Six local Wellfleet oysters were shock full of a basil pesto and topped off with melted Romano cheese for an added flavor. The lightly grilled crab cake was more of a lump, with minimal breadcrumbs filling it. Each was mouthful was packed, with crab meat in every bite. The staff was very quick to clean and sanitize frequently. Service was friendly and efficient.

After working up an appetite during our 90 minute walk, we went for a quick drive to Moby Dick’s Restaurant, owned by the Barry Family. Having been around since 1983, Moby Dick’s is a seasonal, BYOB, and casual restaurant, serving up seafood favorites to locals and tourists alike. It was very busy - everyone had to line up outside the entrance before being able to enter and order to pay for food in advance. From there, you could choose from outdoor or indoor seating. The line moved quickly, and social distancing rules were observed. The staff was very quick to clean and sanitize frequently. Service was friendly and efficient. We sampled cup each of their clam chowder ($5.75) and lobster bisque ($6.25) to start. Their creamy clam chowder had delicious clams but needed a bit more seasoning in the broth. There was not much lobster found in the bisque, but it was more flavorful of the two, without the usual strong shrimp wine flavor. Next came out oysters pesto ($15 for 6) and a grilled crab cake ($15). Six local Wellfleet oysters were shock full of a basil pesto and topped off with melted Romano cheese for an added flavor. The lightly grilled crab cake was more of a lump, with minimal breadcrumbs filling it. Each was mouthful was packed, with crab meat in every bite. The staff was very quick to clean and sanitize frequently. Service was friendly and efficient.

One hour later waiting in the hot sun, and we were able to nab the last “weekend only” strawberry croissant, a whopping $8, and other goodies for to go for later at home. There were lovely red bands on the croissant, with a sweet and thick strawberry jam filled encased in the airy, buttery and flaky puff pastry dough. The almond croissant ($4.75) had lovely almond paste, filled with gorgeous layers, and topped with almond slivers and powdered sugar. I got the “lunette” cookie (French for “sauvelace”), with two holes filled with delightful raspberry jam in a rich butter round shaped cookie sandwich, dusted with powdered confectioner’s sugar. The “coup de soleil” ($5.50) had a short bread base, vanilla mascarpone cheese mousse with blueberries, blueberry jelly, and blueberry cream, and it was decorated with purple chocolate squares. Unbeknownst to us, we got an extra 20% discount off our order, and thoughtfully thrown in was a free beet and goat cheese salad with walnuts ($5.50), as a thank you for our patience.

Finally, we ended our day trip by walking around the quaint, summer resort and seaside town of Chatham. Their old main street was full of local shops with an array of souvenirs, art, gifts and apparel, with eateries dotting the main shopping street. We ended our stroll at the home of Chatham’s only homemade ice cream shop, at the heart of the old downtown area, Buffy’s Ice Cream. We shared the two scoops of ice cream at a hefty price tag of $8 for coffee Oreo and the seasonal special pumpkin flavors. Their ice cream was creamy, delicious and a delightful, sweet ending for our fun day trip to Cape Cod.