

CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS CONNECTOR



All ages. All abilities. All together.

VOL. 2, NO. 3

A PUBLICATION OF CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS

FALL 2014



Model student

Frankie Vitti, pictured walking the runway with John Boucher, president & CEO of South Shore Bank, at the annual Springtime gala, is thriving at Cushing.

Page 6



Kennedy Hall will soon be converted into 37 units of workforce housing.

A place to call home

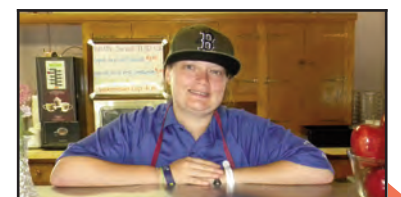
BY PAUL HALLORAN

The premise is simple, yet critically important in the eyes of Cardinal Cushing Centers CEO Jo Ann Simons: people with and without disabilities living in the same community.

The model has been in place at Cushing's Hanover campus for three decades with Cushing Residence, and is about to expand in another meaningful way.

Cushing has entered into a partnership with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA) – the nonprofit housing developer affiliated with the Archdiocese of Boston – to convert the Kennedy Building into 37 rental units of affordable workforce housing. The plan is to

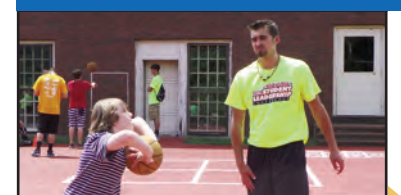
See HOME Page 2



CULINARY DELIGHT PAGE 3



DOORS ARE OPEN PAGE 4-5



SPECIAL OLYMPICS PAGE 8

Sense of community thrives at Cushing



JO ANN SIMONS

We are proud of the sense of community that pervades everything we do at Cushing. The people we support learn, work, dine, play and, in some cases, live together. It is a wonderful

environment.

There is much more to that aspect of the Cushing story, however, and you will read about it in this edition of The Connector. While we are continually focused on our efforts to foster a sense of community, we are equally proud of the role Cushing plays in the community at large.

The partnership we have entered into with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs is groundbreaking. When the renovation of the Kennedy building is complete, we will have more than 50 new residents on our Hanover campus, living among our students and adults we support, dining at our restaurants, shopping in our retail store, socializing and using our recreational facilities.

Our goal is for people with and without disabilities of all different backgrounds to



Jo Ann Simons and Paul Sullivan of Sullivan Tire found that there was plenty to cheer about at last year's Fall Fest.

coexist in a meaningful way. This project will go a long way in meeting that goal.

Also in this edition you will see many examples of Cushing's welcoming to our campus members of the local community, whether it be for a movie night, Special Olympics competition, networking event or lunch at the Bass Café. Having visitors for these and other events is equally enriching for our community and our

guests.

Our new partnership with Meeting House Montessori School, which is renting space on our Braintree campus, is working out better than we had even hoped. Meeting House Montessori has approximately 150 students (pre-K-5) in Braintree, interacting with Braintree St. Coletta students on a daily basis, helping them with academics and joining in social

activities. Both groups of students are benefitting from the arrangement.

As noted elsewhere, it is important to not only live in a community but also be of the community. That spirit is alive and well at Cushing.

Jo Ann Simons is president & CEO of Cardinal Cushing Centers.

CARDINAL CUSHING CENTERS CONNECTOR

A PUBLICATION OF:

Cardinal Cushing Centers

405 Washington St.

Hanover, MA 02339

Tel. 781-826-6371

www.cushingcenters.org

Jo Ann Simons

President and CEO

jsimons@cushingcenters.org

Jansi Chandler

Vice President of Development

jchandler@cushingcenters.org

Michelle Markowitz

Vice President of Admissions

mmarkowitz@cushingcenters.org

Laurie Maranian

Director of Development

lmaranian@cushingcenters.org

Jenna Smith Gomes

Director of Planned Giving

jjgomes@cushingcenters.org

PRODUCED BY:

PKH COMMUNICATIONS

pkhcomm@gmail.com

New residents will be at home at Cushing

HOME: from Page 1

attract a combination of individuals and families who will live on the Cushing grounds amongst the Cushing students and adults with disabilities.

"This is a model of national significance," Simons said. "This will demonstrate a successful, intentional community that will include people with disabilities as valued and meaningful members of a community."

Simons' vision is for the new residents to be integrated with the Cushing community as much as possible, whether it be enjoying an outdoor movie night, dining in Bass Café or swimming at the recreation center.

"Traditionally, people with disabilities live in a community but they are not of the community," Simons said.

"People with disabilities are important members of our community and can live successfully with others. That's why this is an exciting project."

Among the enhancements planned for the 2½-story Kennedy Building – which currently houses classrooms, offices and program space – are: new apartments with modern amenities, new heating and cooling equipment, laundry facilities, a community room, repointing of the exterior masonry, landscaping, Energy Star appliances and lighting, according to David Aiken, project manager for the Planning Office for Urban Affairs.

There will be eight 1-bedroom, 25 2-bedroom and four 3-bedroom units. An affiliate of POUA will be the owner and landlord, and POUA will work closely with a property

management company that will run the building. Four apartments will have a preference for individuals with disabilities who can live independently and receive support from the Mass. Department of Mental Health and there will also be a preference for Town of Hanover residents and employees.

"We want to make sure everything we do is consistent with Cushing's mission," Aiken said. "The Archdiocese of Boston, through the work of our Office, and the Patrick Administration have both been strong supporters of community-based housing for individuals with disabilities. There is also a demonstrable need for affordable workforce housing in Hanover, for teachers, emergency service personnel, librarians, retail sector employees, and many others. Having both on the Cushing Campus would be a tremendous outcome, and we're looking at this as a model for future developments."

The project was approved by the town of Hanover in February 2014 and has also received Community Preservation Act funding from the Town. The Town has been supportive of the proposed development and engaged in a collaborative

process during permitting. Aiken said it is anticipated that the remainder of the financing will be obtained by the POUA by the middle of 2015 and construction will begin shortly thereafter. Based on this time frame, the first residents are scheduled to arrive in mid-2016.

The property has earned eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and has been awarded Massachusetts Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, which will be sold to raise capital for the improvements. All renovations will be done in compliance with the standards set by the Secretary of the Interior, Aiken said.

Simons said some of the functions now housed in the Kennedy Building will be moved off-site and others into a new building on Route 53 that will include classrooms, offices and retail establishments.

"The Kennedy Building project is part of our vision to transform our two campuses (Hanover and Braintree) into intergenerational villages where people with and without disabilities of all ages, races and backgrounds can live, work, learn and play together as one community," Simons said.

Shoppers' and diners' delight for area residents

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

With friendly, attentive service and delicious lunches and baked goods, it is no wonder more and more community members are filing in to the Bass Village Café every day.

Located at the Hanover site at 368 Washington St., the Bass Village Café is a bakery and deli open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cushing students, ages 18-22, prepare baked goods, homemade soups and sandwiches made to order.

Jim Hurley-Bruno, a Scituate resident, has been eating at the café twice a week for the past 20 years.

"The students and staff are just great," he said. "That's why I keep coming back. It's marvelous that they have something like this."

Norwell residents Patricia Hall and Kevin Doyle dine at the café three to four days a week. "We really enjoy the soups and chowders," said Hall.

Earlier this year, Cushing received a grant from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association for café equipment upgrades. The association's primary efforts have been in the promotion of the mechanical arts and trades and it has taken an interest in Cushing's employment training programs. With the funding, the café will soon feature new freezers and storage units, as well as better display cases for the baked goods.

Barbara Packard of Whitman visits the café monthly.

"I love the food and the baked goods, especially the scones," she said. "I usually take a few home with me."

Packard also regularly brings clothes to the Timeless Treasures thrift store, where students work sorting merchandise and stocking and cleaning shelves. A

number of other diners said they frequent the thrift store to shop for bargains or to donate items as well.

Elsewhere, students explore other employment opportunities. At the Cushing Trader, they sell unique, student-designed items, including handmade jewelry and pottery, silk-screened clothing, framed art work and photography, handcrafted home and garden accessories, note cards and more. The boutique is open to the public Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. As part of the horticulture program, students enjoy planting and cultivating flower and vegetable gardens, and selling seasonal plants, flowers and holiday wreaths and trees to the public. The Cushing Greenery is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

At the recycling center, visitors can redeem their recycled bottles for cash every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 pm. Students count the returns and calculate refunds. When not attending to customers, they sort containers by size, brand and distributor and perform routine cleaning tasks. They also collect paper, cardboard and plastics from all school programs and the public retail areas and take weekly trips to the town recycling facility.

In addition to better servicing the community, all of the sites provide students with programs designed to meet their individual talents, interests, abilities and needs. The goal is for them to learn the skills necessary for supported employment or community placement, including following directions, working cooperatively with others, accepting supervision, meeting demands for quality and determining their preferred work environment.



Cushing student Brittany Geoghegan waits on customer Mary Mayer at the Bass Village Café.



Norwell residents Kevin Doyle and Patricia Hall are frequent diners at the Bass Village Café.



Barbara Packard enjoys lunch at the café.



Student Julie Ellis shows flowers to Jim Hurley-Bruno at the Cushing Greenery.



Grace O'Hara works at the café.

Cushing opens its doors to community

By MEAGHAN CASEY

The doors of Cardinal Cushing Centers are always open to families and community members alike.

Nearby residents have flocked to Cushing for events such as an outdoor movie screening of "Frozen," coordinated in partnership with Hanover Parks and Recreation and the Hanover Council on Aging, and a show by magician John Logan, also coordinated in partnership with Hanover Parks and Recreation. More than 300 people attended Cushing's third annual Art is for Everyone event, coordinated in partnership with Friendship Home and the Hanover

YMCA. The family-friendly, free event featured interactive art stations, craft activities, demonstrations, art for sale, live performances and a barbeque.

The South Shore Young Professionals (SSYP) used Cushing's facilities to hold a networking event on Oct. 2. Other young professionals from Rockland Trust volunteered at a field day for Cushing students in August.

Cushing's mission is to create an intergenerational living and learning village so that people of all ages—with and without disabilities—can come together in planned and informal activities.

1. The South Shore Young Professionals gathered at Cushing for a networking event. 2. Local youth performed in Cushing's Art is for Everyone event. 3. Illustrator Dan Vasconcellos entertained the crowd at Art is for Everyone. 4. Magician John Logan engaged participants in his show at Cushing. 5. Hundreds gathered for an outdoor showing of "Frozen." 6. A young visitor enjoys a petting zoo brought to Cushing. 7. Rockland Trust employees volunteered at a school-wide field day.



6

5

2

3

7

4

'Frankie' reaching her full potential

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Francesca "Frankie" Vitti, 12, has been enrolled as a day student at Cardinal Cushing Centers for a little more than a year, but she has already been thriving in her new environment.

"She has such a huge personality and she's really able to express it at Cushing," said her father, Jerry Vitti. "They'll give her the greatest opportunity and the support to reach her potential."

Frankie, who was born with a rare chromosome disorder and is also bipolar, commutes daily from her home in Milton. Before coming to Cushing, she was in the Milton Public Schools Co-Taught Program, a full inclusion model. Her parents began looking for an alternative option before it was time for her to move on to middle school.

"The gap between where she was, developmentally, and where the other students were was less pronounced when she was younger," said Jerry. "We wanted to find a place where she could thrive and where she'd have peers she could relate to. We fell in love with Cardinal Cushing Centers. It was just so open and warm and

inviting, and the staff was really equipped to deal with behavioral issues in addition to the academics. She doesn't normally do well with transition, but they've been so helpful and reassuring. It's been a wonderful experience."

Jerry, who is president and CEO of Healthcare Financial, joined the Cushing Board of Directors earlier this year.

"I was honored to join such a group of visionary and committed individuals," he said. "I can't say enough about the organization."

He said it is gratifying to see Frankie looking forward to seeing her new friends every day. "She's like the mayor, she's made so many connections with the kids there."

"I like school and all of my friends," said Frankie, whose favorite subject is math. She also loves to read, solve puzzles and walk the visiting therapy dog.

She has an 8-year-old sister and 14-year-old brother who she looks forward to seeing when she gets home.

"It's been a much more stable, consistent home life for all of us in the past year," said Jerry.



STUDENT PROFILE

Frankie Vitti has been thriving since coming to Cushing.

New heights

Brian Crowley, whose brother, Brendan, is a 2010 graduate of Cushing, participated in Over the Edge, a fundraising event for Special Olympics Massachusetts. Wearing a Cushing T-shirt as he rappelled down a 22-story building, Crowley raised \$3,225.



Including a charitable gift in your will

BY JENNIFER MURRAY

A charitable bequest is a gift made to a charity in your will. Bequests can be a specific dollar amount, specific property or a percentage of your estate. The gift can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, artwork or other personal property. Your estate will receive a dollar for dollar estate tax charitable deduction for any amounts passing to charity on your death.

Examples:

Specific bequest – cash sum:

"I give and devise to Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover, Massachusetts, the sum of \$___ for its general purposes."

Specific bequest – stock:

"I give and devise to Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover, Massachusetts, 50 shares of GE Stock for its general purposes."

Specific bequest – percentage of estate:

"I give and devise to Cardinal Cushing Centers, Hanover, Massachusetts, ___% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, for its general purposes."

Instead of "general purposes" you can specify how you would like the charity to use the donation. For example, you may indicate you would like the charity to use the funds for building upgrades and improvements.

To learn more about the ways you can directly benefit individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities for years to come, please contact Jenna Gomes, Director of Planned Giving, at (781) 829-1223 or jgomes@cushingcenters.org.

Jennifer Murray is an attorney at Devin, Barry, Murray & Austin, P.C. and a member of Cushing's Planned Giving Advisory Committee.

Forever grateful

Former chaplain leaves gift for Cushing in his will

BY PAUL HALLORAN

No one knows better than Marilyn Zedik how much Rev. Charles Murphy loved Cardinal Cushing Centers.

“He loved the children and they loved him,” said Zedik, who served as campus minister at Cushing from 1999-2013. “He knew everyone on campus and they knew him.”

Rev. Murphy, a diocesan priest who passed away in 2011 at the age of 77, was the chaplain at Cushing for 15 years. He spent time in Braintree and Hanover, saying Mass and performing baptisms for students and marriages for staff members, among other duties.

Zedik was not surprised when she learned that Rev. Murphy named Cardinal Cushing Centers as one of several charitable beneficiaries in his trust. The gift was unrestricted.

“I’m not surprised at all that he would do something for the school (in his will),” she said. “He loved the time he spent there.”

“We are very grateful for Father Murphy’s remembering us,” said Jenna Gomes, director of planned giving at Cushing. “It is helpful for people to realize they can name many charities, and that they don’t have to leave a large portion of their estate or limit the use of the funds. We appreciate any gifts of this type.”

Being partially deaf, Father Murphy could especially relate to students with disabilities, Zedik said. He was also an accomplished hockey player who was still coaching players with hearing disabilities when he well into his 70s.

“He would use sign language in main parts of the Mass,” she said. “He worked at a school for the deaf before he came to Cushing. He taught a lot of kids who were non-verbal.”

Zedik said one of the reasons Rev. Murphy was so loved was his personality. “He had a wonderful sense of humor,” she said. “That attracted people to him.”



Rev. Charles Murphy regularly celebrated Mass at Cushing.



Home improvements

Roche, K of C provide funding for renovations

BY PAUL HALLORAN

Cardinal Cushing Centers students living in Mitton and Xavier residences are enjoying the new-home feeling thanks to the generosity of a local businessman and a service organization.

Rick Roche, co-owner of Roche Bros. supermarkets, and the Knights of Columbus each made a significant donation to Cushing, with the funds targeted for new kitchens and other renovations in those houses. The results are spectacular.

The kitchens feature new appliances, cabinets, sinks, counters, tables, chairs and lighting. They are airy and make maximum use of the space available.

Roche Bros. is a major sponsor of the Cardinal Cushing Centers Classic golf tournament. Rick Roche, who owns company along with his brother, Ed, said as a South Shore native, he has been aware of Cushing since he was a child.

“They do great work at Cushing,” said Roche, who was prompted to support the kitchen initiative after being given a tour of a few residences by Cushing President & CEO Jo Ann Simons.

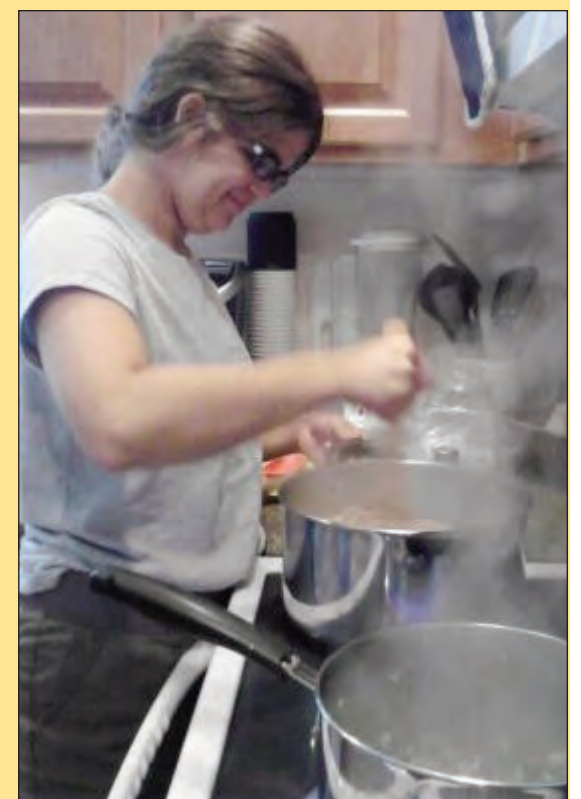
“They needed some work,” said Roche, who serves on the Cushing board of overseers. “I was glad to help them out.”

Roche Bros. was founded by Rick’s father, Pat, and uncle, Buddy. The company runs 20 stores in Massachusetts from Acton to Cape Cod, including

three Sudbury Farms and two Brothers Marketplace. The company is planning to open a store in downtown Boston next year.

The Knights of Columbus is also a long-time supporter of Cushing, having donated funds for the kitchen in the main dining hall. The K of C also helped with renovations in the Children’s Chapel in the Kennedy Building several years ago.

“This fits in with what we try to do,” said K of C State Deputy Russ Steinbach. “We are all about helping children and adults with special needs. We were glad to be able to help with this project.”



Top, a new kitchen in the Mitton residence; above, former student Kayla Roach prepares a meal.



Special athletes compete at Cushing

Guided by the oath, "Let me win; but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," athletes in Cushing's second annual Special Olympics School Day Games marched out to the fields ready for some competition.

During the event, open to all Cushing students and adults, participants rotated through a variety of sports skills stations including volleyball, the softball throw, long jump, swimming and more. High school student-athletes were on hand to assist with the games in coordination with the Massachusetts Interscholastic

Athletic Association's New England Student Leadership Conference.

Tom McElman, Cushing's director of recreation and community programs, said the Special Olympics program at Cushing is one of the largest in the state. Teams include soccer, cheerleading, flag football, basketball, swimming, track and field, volleyball, tennis and power lifting. Throughout the year, students compete against other local teams and have the opportunity to travel for tournaments and events.