A community will rise at Bethany

On Oct. 23, ground was broken on a truly groundbreaking project.

The Bethany Apartments at Cardinal Cushing Centers in Hanover will be a place where people with and without disabilities live, learn, work and socialize together. Cushing is partnering with the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA) – the nonprofit housing developer affiliated with the Archdiocese of Boston – to convert the former Kennedy Building into 37 rental units of affordable workforce housing.

Among those participating in the groundbreaking were Cardinal Seán O’Malley, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, Lisa Alberghini, president of the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, joined funders and students for the groundbreaking.

By Paul Halloran

Amazon delivers for Cushing

Students gain employment at Weymouth warehouse

By Paul Halloran

Cardinal Cushing Centers vocational services staff members work hard at identifying employment opportunities for students, but it isn’t often that the employer comes to them.

That’s what happened in the case of FBA Associates – Fulfillment by Adam – in Weymouth, where operations manager David Kelly was proactive in his desire to form a working relationship with Cushing, a partnership that is greatly benefitting both sides.

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PHOTO: MARK SUTHERLAND

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PHOTO: MARK SUTHERLAND
Traveling to find Franciscan roots

By Leah Salloway

While spiritual in the yoga-loving, mindful-living, kind of way, I had never really acknowledged a religious connection before. I started my career at Cardinal Cushing Centers, I had a vague sense of knowledge that included our Franciscan heritage and values, but no concrete picture of how those could manifest. Within a few months with the organization, a key theme became clear. My staff were passionate about working with their students. The school has a long history of serving students, and the values of treating each other with kindness, dignity, respect and support are evident. St. Coletta Day School quickly took hold of my heart.

In February of 2017, one of our students, Sr. Joanne, who was on a Franciscan pilgrimage, sent me a message. During my time at Cushing, I’ve trained in the kitchen, and food services. While in the vocational program at Cushing, he trained in the kitchen, learning to clean and set up the dining rooms, prepare salads and sandwiches, cook, bake, make desserts, portion and serve meals, and wash dishes. He also began volunteering opportunities to work in the Bass Café, another Cushing student.

By Peter O’Meara

As Cardinal Cushing Centers, we are fortunate to have a passionate and dedicated staff that is singularly focused on the students and adults we serve. We are very proud of the work that goes on here every day, and we know that we can’t do it alone. We are blessed to have the support and cooperation of many partners and donors, some of whom you will meet in this edition of the Connector. Richmond Trust, Dairy Queen, Stop & Shop, Amazon (through FBA Associates), All who attended our Springtime gala and the St. Coletta Golf Classic. We(349,398),(988,440)
Rockland Trust is an ace for Cushing

By Paul Halloran

The Rockland Coletta Golf Classic, which was played Sept. 25 at Marshfield Country Club, is rock-solid footing.

The bank, a longtime partner of Cardinal Cushing Centers, has been running the golf tournament for 10 years, after taking it over from the capable stewardship of Dave O’Brien and Braintree Cooperative Bank.

The tournament continues to flourish, as 120 players teed it up this year, raising $100,000 for Cushing, bringing the 10-year total to $750,000.

“We’re fortunate in that people reach out to us year after year,” said Jeff Smith, Rockland Trust Senior VP, who runs the tournament with the help of colleague Heather (Barry) Ghilardi.

“We usually have a full field on day one.”

In addition to sponsoring and spearheading the golf tournament, Rockland Trust provides Christmas presents for Cushing students who are not able to go home for the holidays. Smith is a member of the Development Committee and a former chair of the Planned Giving Committee.

Ghilardi has a personal connection to Cushing, as her sister, Leigh Ann, is a former student and her father, Roger Barry, works in the adult residential department. Smith credited her, along with the golf committee, with doing the majority of the legwork for the golf tournament.

“The bank encourages us to volunteer our time with nonprofit organizations,” he said. Like any successful charity golf tournament, the St. Coletta Classic relies on major sponsors to set the tone. Smith mentioned three: Ted English of Bob’s Discount Furniture, Ed Medeiros of East Commerce Solutions and Fred Studley of Transition Solutions.

“Ted English brings three foursomes every year, all childhood friends,” Smith said. “We are very fortunate to have the support of top-level sponsors, as well as many others.”

Smith said the Boston Bruins Foundation and Fenway Sports Group have also been very supportive of the tournament.

Smith said one of the biggest attractions for players is the opportunity to meet and interact with Cushing students, who transfer golf bags from players’ cars to their golf carts and are present throughout the day and at the post-tournament dinner. The Cushing Chorus is a huge hit as well.

“You can’t replicate that interaction,” he said. “I think that’s one of the reasons people keep coming back year after year.”

Parent Jean Raymond speaks at the reception following the tournament.

Youssef Abdouh, who serves on Cushing’s board and Development Committee, joins James Antonelli, golf pro at Marshfield Country Club.

Bryan Abou-Rjaily drives the ball while Eric Randean, Kevin Bourard and Kevin Walsh, all from Pinnacle Technology/Dell EMC, wait their turn.

James Burokas tees off on the first hole.

Youssef Abdouh, who serves on Cushing’s board and Development Committee, joins James Antonelli, golf pro at Marshfield Country Club.

Dave Brown puts on the 18th green while Todd Tufts looks on.

Purvis Jon Raymond speaks at the reception following the tournament.

The performance of the Cushing chorus is a highlight of the golf tournament.

East Commerce Solutions golfers enjoy the post-tournament reception.
Amazon business delivers jobs for Cushing students

Amazon has been fully supportive of the initiative. “It has been a total success,” he said, noting that the Amazon team had been extremely happy with their performance. “They are a top client,” one of Conley’s teachers said. “Their turnarounds were good and they provided a steady stream of work.”

At Cushing, students work on a variety of tasks including packaging, labeling, cleaning and organizing. Kelly is also a Cushing teaching assistant. “I would come back absolutely,” said teacher Cheryl Clark. “When we went as a class to see him perform, he really took the opportunity to be a step above his peers and really show what he was capable of. He wanted to make sure that he was noticed for his performance and his abilities.”

Becker family’s legacy endures at Cushing

The Becker family has been a crucial supporter of Cushing for several years. Michael Becker, the founder of Becker Insurance and a long-time Cushing supporter, has made significant contributions to the school in honor of his late wife, Jean, who was a resident of Cushing.

Many of Cushing’s staff members and families have benefited from Cushing’s commitment to developing job-ready employees, including Michael’s mother, Jean, who was a resident of Cushing for 18 years. “Jean was so excited to introduce her classmates to people who were interested in helping her,” said Michael. “She would always say, ‘I’m going to get a job one day,’ and she really did. She worked at the school’s cafeteria, and she was always so happy to see the students and their families.”

The Becker family’s legacy endures at Cushing through ongoing contributions to the school’s education and employment programs. “The Becker family’s legacy is a testament to the importance of giving back to the community and supporting those in need,” said Conley. “We are grateful for their continued support and commitment to helping students achieve their goals.”

A community will rise at Bethany

The Bethany Apartments — named for the village of Bethany in Pennsylvania — will open in September, providing much-needed housing for families and individuals with special needs. The apartments will offer a range of amenities, including a fitness center, community room, and on-site support services.

The vision, originally developed eight years ago by homeowner and developer Terry Nonnenmacher, is a model of community inclusion and social responsibility. “The Bethany Apartments will be a true community for people with disabilities,” said Nonnenmacher. “This is not just about providing homes for people with special needs; it’s about creating a community where everyone can thrive.”

The Bethany Apartments will offer on-site management, laundry, a fitness center, community room, bicycle parking, storage for residents and a modernized health care facility.

The new housing is part of a master plan which includes a new 20,000-square-foot Markle building that will house retail shops and an on-site classroom.
DQ Grill & Chill dishes out jobs

By Meaghan Casey

There’s a new (Dairy) Queen in town, offering Cushing job seekers the royal treatment.

The DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant, located at 579 Washington St. in Hanover, opened in February. The restaurant offers burgers, sandwiches, salads and appetizers in addition to DQ’s traditional frozen menu items. The franchise is owned by Denise Teixeira and Ken Gainey, who are also majority owners of the neighboring Starland Sportsplex and Fun Park (previously known as the University Sports Complex at Starland). A third owner, and the restaurant’s operator, is Arthur Ramos.

“Cushing is our neighbor, so it was important for us to get involved with them and offer job opportunities,” said Ramos.

Out of the 52 employees hired to work at the DQ Grill & Chill, five have been from Cushing’s South Shore Industries (SSI) program. With job placement opportunities such as this one, SSI helps its participants gain the confidence and tools to find success in the workplace — which is a vital part of living full, meaningful and independent lives as active members of their community.

“They’re all doing a great job in terms of following directions and safety procedures and completing their tasks, and they’re very reliable about their schedules,” said Ramos.

SSI participant Brooke Tuton loves her job. A resident of East Bridgewater, she works one day each week, running the food to customers and cleaning tables.

“It’s great,” said Tuton. “I like meeting all the people who come in.”

Teixeira and her husband, Frank, are both loyal supporters of Cushing and are thrilled to see SSI participants at work. They became familiar with Cushing while looking for schools for their daughter, Sofia, who was born with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. Frank, who is a Partner and Director of Technical Analysis at Wellington Management Company, has modeled twice in Cushing’s Springtime fashion show with Sofia.

“I think I was meant for the catwalk,” he said, jokingly. “But Sofia just loved it. She totally hammed it up.”

In addition to supporting Springtime, the Teixeiras, who are Hingham residents, have also contributed to Cushing’s capital campaign. And now, Denise has been able to take her involvement one step further.

“With two businesses right down the street from Cushing, it’s a perfect opportunity to give back in another way,” she said. “Employment training is so important and we’re happy to offer opportunities both at DQ and at Starland.”

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You can help us succeed for another seventy years by giving to The Opportunity Fund today.

Donate online at www.CushingOpportunityFund.org or use the enclosed reply envelope.