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Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

"Parting is such sweet sorrow. That I shall say good night till it be morrow." – William Shakespeare

VOLUME LXVIII NO. 15

Health care rates rise

Town employees face 3 percent hike, retiree rates stay the same

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER REPORTER

Health insurance rates for Duxbury town employees will increase by 3 percent for the coming year, town officials announced this week.

On Monday, April 9, the Board of Selectmen approved the rate hike, which was recommended by Human Resources Director Jeannie Horne.

The increase will affect the Blue Cross Blue Shield

PPO and HMO health insurance plans. For these plans, the town pays 75 percent of the costs for employees and 50 percent for retirees.

There will not be an increase for retirees who are on either the Blue Cross Blue Shield Medex plan or the Managed Blue for Seniors plan. Also, there are no rate changes in store for the basic life insurance rate or for dental

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Audrey and Victoria Hubbs are spending their April break in Rome.

Photo courtesy Kim Hubbs

Bigger beach house gets OK

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER REPORTER

The Zoning Board of Appeals has given the green light to owners of a house on Duxbury Beach so they can demolish and rebuild their home, making it higher and larger.

At their April 12 meeting,

ZBA board members voted unanimously to approve a special permit that will allow Stephen and Katherine Urquhart to raze and rebuild their house at 46 Ocean Road North. The Urquharts had to appear before the board because their

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Group honors Harry Katz by bringing people together

JONATHAN PAPPALARDO
CLIPPER REPORTER

The Duxbury Senior Center, along with the Duxbury Interfaith Council and Duxbury High School, have formed DUX Humanity in Action, an organization designed to make the world a better place for ev-

eryone, as a way of honoring the humanitarian efforts of the late Harry Katz, who passed away last year.

The students at DHS and the general public learned about the organization and Katz's legacy at the presentation "Building Brighter Fu-

tures for immigrants, refugees, and their families" held at the Performing Arts Center Friday morning.

A short film, produced by Plymouth Area Community Television, humanized Katz,

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New group partners with refugee aid group

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with his children, who were in attendance along with other members of his family, highlighting their father's deep compassion and empathy for social justice. They went on to characterize him as a regular guy who desired to make lasting change in the world. Others, including the Rev. Catherine Cullen, spoke more broadly to Katz's character, referring to him as selfless, kind and caring, while pointing out his belief that everyone in Duxbury had inherent dignity and worth.



Sabyne Denaud and Rahmatullah Aka from the International Institute of New England with Duxbury Senior Center's Joanne Moore and Andrea Brandeis and Kay Drake.

Photos by Brooke McDonough

DUX Humanity in Action has partnered with The International Institute of New England, which assists immigrants and refugees in their relocation to the area, as a way of honoring Katz's legacy. Their immediate goal is to raise funds for the organization's educational programs and job-skills training.

IINE CEO Jeffrey Thielman gave a brief presentation on the institute's mission and said they have received and placed more than 6,500 refugees in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, the two states they currently operate in, over the past 10 years. They successfully placed more than 434 refugees last year alone. The institute's legal services, he pointed out, include helping refugees obtain green cards, retain work authorization and become citizens.

The main focus of the program was a panel discussion moderated by Cheryl Hamilton, director of partner

engagement at IINE. Sabyne Denaud and Rahmatullah Aka, who shared their stories of immigrating to the United States, joined her on stage.

Denaud, who works as a case specialist welcoming and assisting new refugees out of the institute's office in Lowell, comes from an immigrant family, as Hamilton put it, "living across borders." In Denaud's case, her mom, who left Haiti when she was 4, was living in and contributing financially to the United States while her daughter was back home in their Haiti.

Denaud, who grew up in

Port-Au-Prince, was raised by her godmother, who along with assistance from her mother, gave her access to one of the country's best schools, opportunities to attend church and have a social life. She and her sister were able to join their mother in the United States in 2001, when Denaud was 16.

Aka, who serves as a case specialist out of the institute's Boston office, had a much different path to America. He grew up in Afghanistan, where he spent his childhood moving around in order to avoid war; a challenge he says was difficult for his family. Although access to schooling was hard, he had a role model in his uncle, who taught him the value of a good education. Aka was able to attend university, and found work assisting in the rebuilding efforts of the places he avoided as a kid, work he was doing through the United States embassy in Kabul. He entered the United States as a refugee at the end of 2015.

"Something you should

know about the world today that people don't understand is the average length of time that a refugee spends in exile or away before they are able to get back to their country or be resettled right now is 17 years," explained Hamilton. "A long time, because wars are last-

ing longer. So what we offer to people who are resettled to this country is a way to restart their lives. We're able to let people return to work, return to education and get connected."

DHS principal James Donovan reminded attendees they could find more informa-

tion about DUX Humanity in Action by following @dux-humanity on Instagram and Twitter. DHS students Katie Coakley and Luke Maggio concluded the presentation by reminding everyone to "try and be a little more like Harry."

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DHS DuxHumanity in Action ambassadors with members of the Harry Katz family.