



This
Just In
Page 8



Garden
Contest
Page 10

Town
Meeting
Postponed
Page 15

Milton Times

\$2⁰⁰ Volume 17, No. 33

www.milontimes.com • (617) 696-7758

July 19, 2012

President Obama Celebrates Town's 350th Anniversary

By Scott MacKeen
Staff Writer

Being the leader of the free world may be a busy job, but sometimes it is important even for the busiest of people to take a moment to stop and recognize an historical milestone.

That is what Eliot Street resident Emma Jean Moulton had in mind back in May, when she sat down to write a very special invitation to the town's 350th celebration weekend festivities.

Moulton mailed her letter to President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, D.C. As a member of the 350th Anniversary Committee, she said she wanted to spread the news of the town's celebration to the nation's capital.

"I just thought these important people should be aware of this significant point in time in Milton," said Moulton, who has lived in the town for over 40 years and raised four children here.

The 350th celebration weekend began on June 8 with a fireworks display at Milton High School. That was followed by a giant parade through town June 9 and a community concert choir

at First Parish Church June 10.

While there were no Obama sightings in town, the president did reach out to the community with a response letter later in the month, in which he congratulated Milton on its 350 years of history.

"I am pleased to join all those celebrating the 350th anniversary of the town of Milton, Massachusetts. Such a momentous occasion is an opportunity to reflect on the history of your community and the people who made it what it is today," wrote Obama.

The president noted some of the historical events that have occurred since the town was incorporated in 1662. He said Milton has seen the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Civil War, the Great Depression, two world wars and a man land on the moon.

"We are very honored to receive a letter from President Obama," said Moulton. "Through the many activities of the past months – the art show, historic talks, historic picture exhibits, and the fireworks, parade, picnic and community sing celebrations – the people of Milton have been honoring the contri-

continued on Page 16

Diana Costine Stars in 'NY Med'

By Elizabeth Hiss
Times Staff

Diana Costine of Milton is starring in a new ABC documentary, which profiles the inner workings of a New York hospital. "NY Med" premiered July 10 and launched into a saga of patients, doctors and trauma at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan.

The show's premier introduced viewers to various staff members at the hospital, including Costine and other nurses in the emergency room, medical residents, patients, and several world renowned doctors. One doctor the show profiles is Dr. Mehmet Oz, a prolific heart surgeon, who has accrued fame through his talk show.

Costine has worked in the emergency room at New York Presbyterian Hospital for the past six years, first as a nurse's tech, then as a registered nurse. She graduated from Milton High School in 2001 before moving to New York to study at Marymount Manhattan Col-

lege on the Upper East Side. After earning bachelor's degrees in both photography and psychology, Costine decided neither career drew her in.

"A friend of mine was working in the ER as a nurse, and she told me to come down and check it out," said Costine. She agreed and was offered a position as a nurse's tech.

It was not long before Costine became hooked onto her new career.

"On my first day there there was a huge trauma case that came in. I decided this is what I wanted to do. I wanted to know all of this," she said.

After returning to Labouré College in Dorchester to earn her nursing degree in 2010, Costine moved back to New York to immerse herself again in the thrills of working in the ER.

"NY Med" is one of several TV series which has profiled the events behind closed doors at metropolitan hospitals. Executive producer Terence Wrong has

continued on Page 3



Pauline Wells and DEVRI play at the Gazebo by town hall July 17 as part of the summer concert series.

Questioning French Quota

By Elizabeth Hiss
Times Staff

Superintendent Mary Gormley's proposal to cap the enrollment of the French Immersion program beginning in the fall of 2013 has raised concern.

In May, Gormley proposed a plan to implement a cap and lottery system for placement in the French program in response to growing disparity in class sizes between the French and English programs.

Currently, 66 percent of the incoming first-graders have opted for French Immersion for the coming school year. This number has been slowly climbing in the last few years resulting in larger class sizes for students in French. The average French Immersion class will be 25.1 students, while the number in English classrooms will be 14.9.

Kathryn Beaumont Murphy, the mother of a kindergarten student who would be affected by the cap, said that throughout the school enrollment process and information sessions, there was no notification that students would be subject to a lottery system.

"I feel very blindsided," said Murphy, who said her sentiment is shared by her fellow parents.

The current first-graders will not be affected by the changes. However, the group of kindergartners, many of whom are new to town, are already enrolled in the school system and will face the enrollment cap.

"The next group of parents and students has time to figure it out, but the parents of children my daughter's age

are stuck. This is a really unfair bait and switch. Had I known I might have made some different decisions about where she went to kindergarten," said Murphy.

Stanford Brown, another parent of kindergarten students, said he feels the same sense of trepidation about the future of his children in the school system.

"If I'd known what I know now, I might not have moved here," he said.

Both Murphy and Brown represent residents who were drawn to Milton by the French Immersion program. Kevin Keating of Keating Brokerage in Milton, said it is exactly these kinds of home buyers that the proposed enrollment cap will discourage from moving to Milton.

"There is a large percentage of people who move to this town simply for the French Immersion. The French program distinguishes Milton and is attractive to buyers," said Keating.

Peter Kelly of Kelley and Rege Properties echoes Keating's comments.

"Many many people come to the town for this specific program, and it's been a great thing that draws people in," he said.

But Matt Freeman of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has a different opinion of the effects of the proposed cap.

"I don't think it's going to affect Milton property values at all. I'm working with three married couples with no children and French Immersion has come up, but it's not their primary reason for coming into town. I brought

continued on Page 6