



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

A FREE! publication of all things Fairhaven
Including event listings from Cape Cod to RI



*The little paper
with a big voice!*

Volume 9, Issue 4 • January 30, 2014

Teeming with information you need.
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

This one's just for us



This little storm hit on Wednesday, 1/29, dropping just three inches on Fairhaven, but causing slippery roads up and down the coast. Inland locales got almost no snow, though, with even Acushnet, just to our north getting only .7 inches. The extra cold temperatures have persisted, making this another light-and-fluffy snow. ABOVE: Round Cove on the north side of the Causeway looks frozen from the bottom of Bluepoint Road on West Island on Wednesday, 1/29, after three inches of light, fluffy snow fell in the morning. *Photo by Heidi Winnett. Visit us at [www.Facebook.com/ NeighbNews](http://www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews) to see more photos of this and other events. Individual photos are available for purchase.*



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<http://gettag.mobi>

Also Inside:

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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

So, this is how it goes. It's getting late and I decide that I'd better kill the story I still need to write and put some other stuff in there. Then it takes just as long to do that as it would have to write the story. Geesh.

Meanwhile, my toasty fire keeps going out because I keep neglecting it because I keep thinking I've only got a few more minutes to go.

Anyway, this baby is almost ready to get put to bed. Looks like we'll have a paper this week after all.

We got a little snowstorm just for those of us on the coast this week. Just love that picture on the front. And I got to use my public works pictures from last week, too (see page 12). Pretty cool, huh?

We have lots of meetings for you in here: Acushnet selectboard on page 16; Fairhaven Selectboard (page 4), BPW (page 19) and Planning (page 22).

I covered Planning Board this week. I have to say that it's a good thing someone's paying attention. People would build houses on driveways if they could get away with it. It's up to the various boards in town to keep the whole town in mind. The board, this time, did not allow the nonconforming lot to be created just so someone could put another house on yet another lot that is too small for it. Just because the bylaw changed the rules does not mean we should go back to the old rules (or the NO-rules) for anyone who asks. What would be the point of changing the bylaws if you're just going to ignore them every time someone asks?

The board stopped this one, and I'm happy to say that they were all in agreement. These houses stay up long after the person building them and the current neighbors are gone, affecting the neighborhoods for decades to come.

I didn't get to the bible story yet. Sorry about that. I have a spot for it, but then I had to pull it. I'm trying to get more info. It appears our neighbor across the river got lumped in with Providence to be declared the country's least Bible-friendly metro area, in the WHOLE country of the United States of America. All of America!

Ain't that a hoot? Definitely have to do something on THAT methodology. We have more churches than anyone. We come from the Puritans for heaven's sake. So, I'm just not buying it. We have our share of nasty stuff going on (see accessory-after-the-murder on page 20), but I think we also have our share of Bible-toters.

The Office of Tourism has a new website (see page 3). It's lots of fun to browse around looking at all the pictures. Okay, okay, some of them are mine, so that's probably why I liked it so much. But it's still a great site, and it was a totally volunteer effort.

I WILL get around to the next installment of Fairhaven's murders past.

Really I will. Thanks for reading.

Until next week then, see ya

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Tourism office has new website

Press Release

The Fairhaven Office of Tourism is pleased to announce the launch of its new website at <http://FairhavenTours.com>. It replaces an older, more static site that was created in 2008.

The idea for the completely new site came from Fairhaven resident Jeff Wotton, of Spectrum Marketing Group LLC. He approached Tourism Director Christopher Richard and volunteered his services not only to create and set up the site, but also host it on his company's web server. Mr. Wotton put many hours of work into this project.

The photography for the site was also donated. Local photographers submitted pictures to supplement images taken for the Office of Tourism by Mr. Richard. Photographers Eric Birkeland, Jim Mahaney, Frank Grace, and Beth David contributed to the site, along with a few others contributing a photo or two. On the website there is a link to "Website Credits" that lists those whose work appears.

The information on the site was researched, compiled, written and updated by Mr. Richard, who also

collaborated with Mr. Wotton on how the site would be set up and how the information would be presented.

"Jeff set up the site so that lots of photos and slide-shows could highlight the town's attractions," said Mr. Richard. "Places to visit in

Fairhaven are grouped into different categories so it's easy to find churches or beaches or historical sites. There are descriptions of tours that are given in the summer. The listing of coming events is a quick way to find out what's happening."

There will be more additions and improvements as time goes on. New photography will be added along with other features to promote the town and assist people who are visiting.

"We are going to add a page highlighting Fairhaven shopping and dining in a general way," Richard



explains. "I have reached out to businesses in search of pictures of people enjoying themselves at shops and restaurants. The site already provides information about lodging accommodations and marinas."

Residents are urged to explore the website and to contact the Office of Tourism with any comments, suggestions or corrections. Good photographs of events and scenery are also welcome. The Office of Tourism phone number is 508-979-4085 and the email address is FairhavenTours@aol.com.



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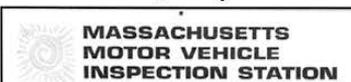
196 Huttleston Ave. (Rte. 6) • Fairhaven

Wednesday is Ladies' Day

Come on in, Ladies, and have your oil changed for the special price of just \$19.95!

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LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

All girls ages 5-15

The **LAST CHANCE** to register before Draft Day is Sunday, Feb. 2 from 12pm-2pm at the Livesey Club on Hopkins St in Fairhaven. (Please bring a COPY of birth certificate if new to the league)

Our Draft Day will be held on Saturday March 8 at the Fairhaven Rec Center. Juniors (ages 9-12) at 6pm, Seniors (ages 12-15) at 7pm- Girls who are new to the Junior or Senior Divisions are required to attend. You will be notified via e-mail or phone call if your daughter's attendance is required.

www.SouthCoastSoftball.com

Future not hopeful for Rogers and Oxford Schools

By Mali Lim

Neighb News Correspondent

Members of the Rogers-Oxford School Study Committee appeared before the Fairhaven Selectboard on January 22 for an hour-long discussion on the committee's findings to date and to ask for guidance on the direction the town wanted to take regarding use of the former schools.

The committee informed the board that issues have cropped up regarding the title search for the Oxford School. While a title search for the Rogers School will be fairly straightforward, with an estimated cost of \$250, town counsel has warned that the title search for the Oxford School may run into several thousand dollars due to several complicating factors, committee chair Nils Isaksen explained.

There is some confusion as to how the surrounding land is divided between the school and the adjacent fire station, and there are two paper streets that were never officially discontinued that run through the school property, Mr. Isaksen said.

According to Town Planner Bill Roth, the town will need to set aside funds to officially discontinue the streets and to re-survey the property. The selectboard agreed with the committee that it would be best to separate the Oxford and Rogers schools into two separate issues, allowing the town time to sort out the problems with the Oxford School while moving forward with the Rogers School title search right away.

While the committee felt the next step would be to request proposals to determine potential investor interest in the schools, members put forth widely divergent ideas, including finding municipal or public uses for the buildings, or leasing or even selling, but wanted guidance on what kind of restrictions the town might want to place on the properties.

Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch warned the committee, the selectboard and town residents that they are going to have to face a reality check and accept that the buildings will most likely be sold, and that placing restrictions will only make the sale more difficult.

"The town does not have the money for the upkeep [of the buildings] and is not interested in the

upkeep," he said. "There are no town departments interested in using the buildings."

"At some point reality has to be brought back into this picture," he continued. "Unless you find a developer who feels he can make a profit with whatever he wants to do, the realistic option may be to knock them down."

He strongly recommended that the committee consult with real estate brokers, architects, and other experts in the business of retrofitting historic buildings in order to get a clearer idea of what the true options would be.

Committee member Al Benac stayed longer to express his frustration with his ongoing dispute with school officials regarding the ownership and possession of historical artifacts connected to Henry Huttleston Rogers. For several

Unless you find a developer who feels he can make a profit with whatever he wants to do, the realistic option may be to knock them down.

[Jeff Osuch]

months, Mr. Benac has been trying unsuccessfully to get the school department to hand over a land deed signed by Henry Huttleston Rogers and a portrait of him, saying the items should be rightfully displayed at town hall where they can be viewed and enjoyed by all town residents.

Mr. Benac's efforts to get the school department to comply, even to the point of calling the police, have been to no avail. He requested the selectboard give permission to consult with Town Counsel.

Selectboard chair Charles Murphy stated that he did not feel the matter warranted involving legal counsel and that he had spoken about the matter with School Committee Chair Pam Kuechler. He said that Ms. Kuechler explained that the deed and painting were on display at the Wood School library where teachers and staff were incorporating them into history lessons for the students.

Mr. Murphy suggested a com-

promise where the school could continue to display and use the historic artifacts for another year, whereupon they would then turn the items over to the town for display at town hall. Mr. Benac said he would be satisfied with this compromise as long as it was put in writing.

Plans to appoint a new member to the Housing Authority board were postponed due to inadequate public notice. Although there was only one qualified candidate who submitted a letter of interest in the position, the selectboard was uncomfortable with the fact that the FHA director had failed to post advance notice of the joint meeting with the FHA and the selectboard. Only one Housing Authority board member, Jay Simmons, appeared, which failed to give a quorum for the FHA. Mr. Simmons said he would contact the FHA director and ensure that proper public notice be given before the next joint meeting.

In other news regarding the FHA, Mr. Simmons told the board that the FHA has instituted a no smoking policy in the housing units. The decision was actually voted upon a year ago, explained Mr. Simmons, but residents were given a 50-week grace period to adjust to the new policy, which will be enforced starting this year.

Town planner Bill Roth held a final CDBG block grant hearing, as the town moves forward with its application for approximately \$700,000 for improvements along Francis Street in the Anthony School area and additional housing rehabilitation.

Mr. Roth also announced the hiring of Alexandra McIntosh, a UMass-Dartmouth intern, who will be assisting in the Planning Department.

- Other business before the board:
- Held a public hearing and approved a manager change for Minerva's Pizza;
 - Reviewed articles and recommendations for the February 12 Special Town Meeting;
 - Appointed members to the new Boat Ramp and Shellfish Advisory Committee;
 - Appointed Mr. Espindola to be the selectboard representative for the Insurance Advisory Committee;
 - Appointed Gary Lavalette to the Historical Commission;

SELECT: cont'd on page 21

**RE-ELECT
CHARLES K. MURPHY
FAIRHAVEN SELECTMAN**



**Spaghetti
Supper to
benefit
Charlie
Murphy**

Come Meet the Candidate

Thurs., February 13

The Town Crier (upstairs)

5 Maitland Street • Fairhaven, MA • 4-7 p.m.

\$10 Donation for Adults/Children under 12, \$5 donation

Tickets on sale at

Dorothy Cox Chocolates • 117 Alden Rd., Fairhaven
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(The old Morgans)



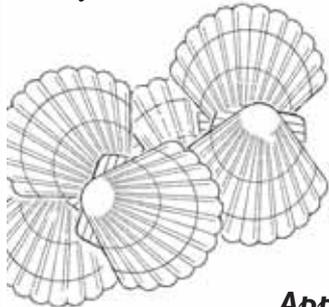
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Welcome To A
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**Mid-Winter
Scallop Fiesta**

Sat., Feb. 8 • 2-8 p.m.

Appetizers

Scallop Stuffies served on Sea Scallops Half Shells: \$3.50

Scallops Wrapped in Bacon (6): \$ 5.95

Special Dinners: \$12.95 + meals tax (BYOB)

Pan Seared Scallops, balsamic
glaze, rice, baby spinach

St. Jevon Scallops, mushroom
sherry cream sauce and
herb potatoes

Scallops Wellington and herb
mashed potatoes

Southwestern Scallops, corn
black bean salsa served in a
tortilla basket, with Spanish
rice

Baked scallops cassserole with
seasoned bread crumbs

Scallop Newburg in puff pastry

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Softball Registration

Feb. 2, see ad on page 3

FEMA Maps mtg

The new flood maps/insurance created by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is on the agenda of the Fairhaven Selectboard meeting on Feb. 3. All who are interested in this issue are encouraged to attend. Contact Susan Sullivan, susan@sunfishdesigns.com

Rodriguez Memorial Fund

The Rodriguez Family has created a fund in honor of Matthew, a Fairhaven native and resident who died on Dec. 11 in Afghanistan. The Lance Corporal Matthew R. Rodriguez Memorial Fund is designed to support graduating seniors from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School and to provide maintenance for the playground, at the New Bedford Regional Airport, that has been dedicated to him. In addition to these efforts, the fund will also provide support to local military families, veteran's programs and the Wounded Warrior Project, which Matthew was a supporter of.

Donations may be made to: LCpl Matthew R. Rodriguez Memorial Fund, c/o Southern MA Credit Union, 123 Alden Road, Fairhaven, MA 02719. 501(c) non-profit status is being processed for tax deductible donations. Thank you for your patience and thank you for your contribution.

At the Millicent

At the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, in the Library Auditorium, Walnut Street entrance. Accessible. To register, call the library at 508-992-5342, or email Jane Murphy (jmurphy@sailsinc.org). Visit <http://www.millicentlibrary.org/>

Storytimes

You do not need to register for Storytimes. Just drop in!

Toddlers (ages 1-3) meet from 9:30-10:15 OR 10:30-11:15 on Tuesdays, **Babies** (0-18 months) meet Fridays from 9:30-10:15! **Big Kids** (ages 3-5) meet Fridays from 10:30-11:30. Siblings are always welcome! Toddlers

and Babies enjoy play time after stories, while Big Kids make a simple craft or coloring project.

Winter Session I: Continues through Friday, 2/14/14.

Winter/Early Spring Session: February 25th - April 18th.

Late Spring Session: April 29th - June 6th, with one week off TBA.

NO Regular Storytimes during February Vacation Week (February 17th-21st) or April Vacation Week (April 21st-25th). Special vacation programs available on those weeks.

CRAFTERNOONS: Wednesdays from 3-4:45: February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th. Come and make seasonal crafts! Ages 3 and up!

The Millicent Library is handicapped accessible.

Boat Safety Class

Boating Skills and Seamanship Course by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Register online at <http://a0130605.uscgaux.info>. Classes to be held at the USCG Auxiliary, 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, **beginning Monday February 3, from 7-9 p.m. for 14 weeks (Mondays)** of class through May 19. Final Exam and Graduation May 19, 2014 For Boaters, sailors, fishermen, personal watercraft operators. \$40 for course materials (book and chart)

Many insurance companies will offer discounts on boat insurance to individuals who successfully complete this course. Individuals who successfully complete the course and exam are awarded certificates and cards.

Both the novice and the experienced boater will benefit from lessons in boating terminology, boat equipment, boat handling, boat trailering, lake boating, rules of the road, navigation, medical/safety awareness, weather, engines, radios, and how to read a chart, buy a boat, tie a knot and call in a mayday.

Save the Date!

Militia Winter Camp

Saturday, February 22, 2014, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Academy Building lawn, 141 Main Street, Fairhaven

The Fairhaven Village Militia, the Fairhaven Office of Tourism and guests present a historical winter encampment at the Academy

Building on the west lawn of Fairhaven High School. Talk to period costumed men and women about life in the 1770s. See military drilling, flintlock musket and cannon firing demonstrations and camp cooking demonstrations and more. For more information, call 508-979-4085 or email FairhavenTours@aol.com.

Rossi Family FR

Friends of the Rossi family are holding a meat-pie supper and raffle on **Sat., 2/8, from 4-8p.m. at St. Joseph School Hall, 100 Spring St., Fairhaven. Accessible. \$10/ pp.** All proceeds will go directly to the Rossi family, whose house on Wilbur Point burned down Dec. 30.

Donations may also be sent to St. Anne's Credit Union, Rossi Family Fund, any branch.

The raffle will have lots of gift certificates from area restaurants and a variety of other items. For more information or to donate an item for the raffle, call Michelle Soulard 508-996-4083, or call Carol at St. Joseph's Rectory, 508-994-9714.

Spread the Warmth

Mobile Loaves and Fishes is collecting warm clothing, socks, boots/shoes, coats, hats, mittens/gloves, and blankets. Any new or gently used items are distributed weekly in downtown New Bedford. Drop boxes are located in the Fairhaven Town Hall and the Fairhaven Fire Station. For large donations please call Jenn at 774-263-9280. Your used items can make a difference in another person's life!

For more information visit <http://mlf.org/locations/new-bedford/> or visit our Facebook page.

Donate Vehicles

Your car, truck or camper may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Mass. Association for the Blind at 1-888-613-2777 or 508-854-0700 for details. This is a free town, quick pick-up, and donations are tax deductible.

Proceeds benefit blind and vision impaired persons in Massachusetts. The Mass. Association for the blind is a 501(c)3 organization.

Visit www.mabcommunity.org

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Lifeguard Training

The City of New Bedford Parks Recreation & Beaches has announced it will offer a lifeguard training program in partnership with the Friends of Fall River Heritage State Park and the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The program will train participants in American Red Cross lifeguarding, first aid, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for the professional lifeguard, and automatic external defibrillation (AED). The program will consist of in-class lessons as well as water-based training. Classroom hours will be held at New Bedford's Buttonwood Park Community Center and pool hours will be held at the New Bedford High School pool.

All youth must be 15 years of age or older prior to April 13, 2014 to participate in the lifeguard training. There is a \$225 registration fee to participate. **A pre-requisite swim test will be held on Sun., 3/1 at 12:30pm at the New Bedford High School pool.** This swim test will test participant's endurance, strength and ability to swim underwater. Upon successfully completing the pre-requisite swim test, participants will be invited to register for the training program.

For more information, please contact the City of New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches at (508) 961-3015 or Fall River Heritage State Park at 508-675-5759 ex 503.

Satellite Workshop

The Ocean Explorium and NSF TEACH! SouthCoast will host "Answering Real World Questions with Satellites," a ten-hour professional development workshop that will assist area teachers in building their students' abilities in formulating research questions and interpreting authentic data, essential skills for meeting secondary level science and math standards. Teachers will use the Science on a Sphere® exhibit to explore data from NASA Earth Observations (NEO), learn how to scaffold student learning with satellite data, and explore how to use the technology in Earth, Life, or Physical Science classes.

The workshop is scheduled for three Wednesday evenings, **Feb. 5, 12 & 26**, from 4:00 to 7:30 pm. Upon successful completion of this ten-

hour program, participants will receive a Certificate for 10 Professional Development Points (PDP's) from the Ocean Explorium.

Workshop enrollment is limited to twenty teachers. There is no cost to participate. Interested teachers should email Ellen Dion at edion@oceanexplorium.org for more information. The NSF grant requires that preference be given to participants from the urban and high-needs districts of New Bedford, Fall River and Wareham. Teachers from other districts are also encouraged to apply.

Art Exhibit

"The Muse is Poe" January 21-February 19, 2014. New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! Gallery on Acushnet Avenue's new exhibition features a diverse and interesting mix of work by artists from around the country. This national call to artists was juried by Wyona Lynch-McWhite, Executive Director of the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA. The exhibition brings the work of fifteen artists to the Acushnet Avenue gallery for a show themed on Edgar Allen Poe. Paintings, photographs, and mixed media are among the varied media included in this exhibition.

The public is invited to join ArtWorks! and local exhibiting artists included in the show for a **reception on Thurs. Feb. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the gallery.** The event presents a unique occasion to meet many of the artists and to hear from them directly about their work. It's also an opportunity for art collectors, beginners and veterans alike, to explore purchasing works by artists from around the country.

Exhibiting artists include Jason Benning, Leilani Bustamante, Patricia Daughton, Denny Driver, Eleanor Elkin, Ray Genereux, Maria Gratta-Pagani, Judith Klein, Michelle Lapointe, Susan Reynolds, Debra Smook, Christopher Titus and John Wood. The exhibiting artists are from Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Washington.

This exhibition is in conjunction with New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! New Bedford Big Read project focusing on Poe. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Blood Drive

In February 2014, anyone who donates blood at the Southcoast Blood Bank at St. Luke's Hospital or at any Southcoast community blood drive will receive a **complimentary family guest pass to any YMCA SOUTHCOAST facility**, and the Y will waive the joiner fee for any donor interested in a new YMCA membership (up to a \$90 savings). YMCA SOUTHCOAST facilities include the Dartmouth YMCA, the Fall River YMCA, Gleason Family YMCA in Wareham, the Mattapoisett YMCA and the New Bedford YMCA.

Southcoast uses more than 16,000 pints of blood a year. Currently through the local donor program, the Southcoast Blood bank collects 6,500 pints a year, which is less than half of the blood needed to supply the three Southcoast hospitals. The remainder of the blood is purchased from external sources and therefore dependent on the national blood supply.

Community Blood Drives: Southcoast hosts blood drives throughout the region on the Southcoast Blood Donor Van and at local businesses. To schedule a free blood drive, please call Catherine Alegria, Southcoast Blood Donor Coordinator, at 508-993-0430 or by email at alegriac@southcoast.org.

The next blood drives in New Bedford will be on

Saturday, February 1, St. Luke's Hospital Donor Room, 101 Page Street, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, Salter School, 950 Kings Highway, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Auditions

Save the Date

Director Trudi Miller will audition actors for Squabbles, by Marshall Karp, on Feb. 13 & 14, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the accessible Your Theatre, Inc. at St. Martin's Church, 136 Rivet St. at County St., New Bedford. Parking and entrance located at rear of church on County St.

Auditions will consist of a cold reading from the script with no experience necessary. Ms. Miller is seeking to cast all roles.

Call 508-993-0772, e-mail info@yourtheatre.org or visit www.yourtheatre.org

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Wind Turb. Hearing

The Department of Public Utilities is continuing its ongoing public hearings through February 6th at the locations below. For hearings that begin in the late afternoon (Bunker Hill Community College, Cape Cod Community College, and Berkshire Community College) participants are welcome to arrive either at the beginning of the hearing or at the earliest convenient time prior to 8:00 pm. These late afternoon hearings will be held until 8:00 pm, at a minimum, and longer if necessary to accommodate all those who wish to offer comments. The Department also seeks written comments responding to questions asked by the Department in its Order, which are due by February 20th (revised). Additional information on this proceeding is available at www.mass.gov/dpu/windsiting.

Cape Cod Community College, Thursday, February 6, (snow date, if necessary: February 13, same time/location), 4 to 8 p.m. (longer, if necessary), Main Theater, Tilden Arts Center, 2240 Lyannough Rd, West Barnstable, MA 02688.

If unable to attend, yet wishing to submit written comment, board members may contact the Hearing Officer: M. Kathryn Sedor, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, Siting Division, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110; Kathryn.Sedor@state.ma.us; 617-305-3525

Solar Energy Workshop

The Marion Energy Management Committee aims to reduce the SouthCoast's dependence on fossil fuels through an informational symposium on how to get started with clean solar energy.

Scientists are telling us that our use of fossil fuels is the principal cause of global warming and climate change. The Marion Energy Management Committee's symposium, "Explore Home Solar," is geared toward assisting those who are interested in reducing their dependence on fossil fuels, but are unsure of how to get the renewable energy process started.

State Senator Marc Pacheco, Chair

of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, will kick off the "Explore Home Solar" symposium, with a brief description of his committee's work and pending legislative action related to greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, green jobs and implementing policies that help us prepare for flooding, drought, storms and other consequences of climate change. Experts in the field of solar power will provide information regarding free energy assessments, the standard installation process for solar electric and solar hot water panels. A firm providing free home energy assessments will explain its services, and a representative from the banking industry will discuss interest free solar loans.

Lancet, the world's leading general medical journal, reported that "Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century ... the impacts will be felt all around the world — and not just in some distant future but in our lifetimes and those of our children."

Come learn how to mitigate the impact of climate change through the use of clean solar energy. The event is free and open to the public.

Explore Home Solar Workshop, Wednesday, February 5, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Music Hall, 164 Front Street, Marion, MA 02738.

For more information contact Jennifer Francis, Ph.D. at jenniferafrancis@yahoo.com, 508-748-0467 or Bill Saltonstall at bsaltonstall@gmail.com or 508-353-2824.

At the Sanctuaries

Junior Bird Club, Wednesday, Feb 5, from 6:00 pm–7:30 pm, at the Allens Neck Friends Meeting House, 739 East Horseneck Road in South Dartmouth. Junior Bird Club is a **free group, open to children and adults of all ages.** The Club meets each month and focuses on a variety of local species with loads of hands-on field study and guided birding walks on our Sanctuary properties.

Many stewardship initiatives and projects are also introduced and the kids can get as involved as they want to. Come check it out and join in on the fun and learning!

Dress for an outdoor adventure and bring your scope or binoculars.

Don't have any? We do and will gladly lend them to you while you're here!

Macro Photography Workshop at Gooseberry Island and Allens Pond Sunday, Feb 9, from 8:00 am–1:00 pm at Gooseberry Island, Westport

Early risers and macro enthusiasts, unite! This fantastic adult program starts promptly at 8 a.m. at Gooseberry Island in Westport, where participants can view, enjoy and photograph the morning together. After a hike around the island and more photography, we'll head to Allens Pond for some more exploration and photography, then will end the program at our Stone Barn, with a debriefing session and lunch. **\$20 for MAS members and \$25 for nonmembers.**

Myer Bornstein will lead the program and can assist photographers of all levels on the basics of wildlife photography and post processing techniques. He is an award-winning local photographer and you can learn more about him by visiting his blog: <http://photobee1.blogspot.com/>. Registration is required.

All program registration can be done online by visiting http://www.massaudubon.org/allens_pond or by calling 508-636-2437.

Concert

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro on 25 South Main Street invites the community to a Sunday afternoon of song and sweets. **On Sun., 2/9, at 3 p.m. they will offer a concert entitled "Mothers & Other Loves"** featuring Stephanie Miele as vocalist with piano accompanist Lucy Banner. Mothers and Other Loves is concert of songs from Broadway celebrating friendship, love, and the joy and challenges of parent and child relationships.

This theme will feature the works of composers and lyricists including Stephen Sondheim, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Randy Newman, and Irving Berlin. It will draw from favorite shows including "Les Miserables," "Into the Woods," and "Gypsy." The concert will be in the beautifully acoustic sanctuary featuring the grand piano, followed by a lovely tea reception in our Parish Hall. **The suggested donation is \$15** with admission at the door. Everyone is Welcome! Snow Date 2/23.



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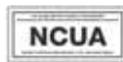
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Recipe of the Week

French Vanilla Tiramisu

- 4 oz. (1/2 half of 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese (Philadelphia)
- 1-1/2 c. cold milk
- 1 pkg. (4 serving size) Jell-O vanilla instant pudding
- 2 pkg. (3 oz.) lady fingers split
- 1/3 c. Brewed coffee, cooled
- 2 c. Cool Whip French vanilla whipped topping (or plain)
- 1 square Baker's semi-sweet baking chocolate, grated

Beat cream cheese in a large bowl with electric mixer on med. speed until creamy. Gradually add milk, beating well after each addition. Add dry pudding mix; beat on low speed 1 min. until well blended.

Sprinkle cut sides of ladyfingers with coffee; place half of the ladyfingers on bottom and up sides of 1 1/2 quart serving bowl (glass). Top with layers of half each of the pudding mixture, whipped topping and grated chocolate; cover with remaining ladyfingers.

Repeat layers of pudding mixture, whipped topping and grated chocolate.

Refrigerate 3 hours or until ready to serve. Store in frig. Serves 12. Impressive looking dessert. So yummy!!!! Enjoy!!

Bevy Lussier

Hero art at Saint Joseph's



Students at St. Joseph's School in Fairhaven were treated to a special performance by Rob Surette, the fastest portrait artist in the world. The motivational speaker and artist encouraged children to "Be Somebody," in a visit arranged during Catholic Schools Week, which also included guest/celebrity readers. The purpose of his message is to inspire students to use their talents to make the world a better place, and exposes them to the performance arts, visual arts, music, history and science. Learn more about Mr. Surette, who has appeared on Good Morning America and Oprah, at www.AmazingHeroArt.com. ABOVE: Rob Surette poses with a portrait of Mother Theresa that he created in two minutes on Tuesday, 1/28, at St. Joseph's School in Fairhaven. Mr. Surette also painted Abraham Lincoln in just under six minutes and Albert Einstein in 2 1/2 minutes, all while students watched in amazement. RIGHT: Mr. Surette donated this portrait of Jesus to the school. He created it on stage in three-four minutes as students watched. Photos by Heidi Winnett. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com



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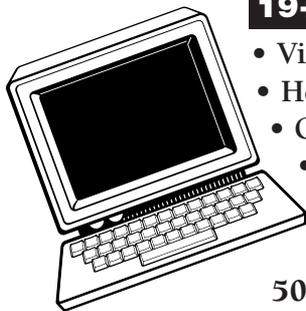
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Every Sun.: Bar Bingo, 8 p.m.
Fri., 1/31: Billy Mulligan Trio, 5–8

Sats., 2/1 & 2/15: Billy Mulligan
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Sats., 2/8 & 2/22: Eddie Dillon/
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Fairhaven man charged with accessory-after-the-fact in murder

By Beth David
Editor

Nicholas Gonzalez, 27, who is listed in police records as living at 31 Sheldon Street in New Bedford and at 136 Green Street in Fairhaven, was arraigned on Tuesday, 1/28, on charges in connection with the January 16 murder of Patrick Alves in New Bedford. Mr. Gonzalez was charged with accessory after the fact for allegedly trying to dispose of a cellphone that allegedly belonged to Patrick Alves. He was also charged with two counts of intimidation of a witness, including allegedly trying to silence his girlfriend while police searched the Green Street apartment, according to court records, and for misleading a criminal investigation.

Mr. Alves was killed at approximately 1 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16, near the corner of Myrtle and Cedar Grove Streets in New Bedford.

Investigators quickly linked the victim to Mr. Gonzalez, who admitted they were close friends since 2008, according to court records.

After some surveillance of Mr. Gonzalez, police obtained a search

warrant for his apartment and a black Honda he was driving that belonged to his grandmother.

Police found a phone in the dumpster at the Cumberland Farms on Main and Washington Streets that they allege belonged to the murder victim.

According to police records, surveillance showed that the same black Honda was used by “a black male” while Mr. Gonzalez was being interviewed by New Bedford police with his attorney. The man allegedly threw a bag with pieces of the victim’s cell phone into the dumpster. Police also have photographic evidence of a cell phone in a toilet that had been removed from the Green Street apartment after it became clogged.

Police stopped the car and arrested Gerron Harper, who was arrested for driving without a license.

After examining the cell phones, police determined that Mr. Gonzalez was the last person to call Mr. Alves. Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Harper are also the last known persons to be with the victim, according to court records.

After not posting \$50,000 bail, Mr. Gonzalez was ordered held at Norfolk House of Correction.

When contacted last week after neighbors saw the activity at the address on 1/17, Fairhaven police acknowledged they lent assistance, but would not comment on the case.

“It’s not our investigation,” said Fairhaven police spokesperson Kevin Kobza, adding that they were only assisting because it was at a Fairhaven address. He referred the *Neighb News* to the District Attorney’s Office.

DA spokesperson Gregg Miliote said that one person from his office was sent to Fairhaven to assist Fairhaven police with an investigation, but he would not elaborate and said that the state police should be contacted.

State Police spokesperson Lt. Richard said it was not a state police matter and referred the paper to the DA’s office.

The police log showed a call for a “search warrant” on Green Street at about 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, 1/16, and a “field investigation” on Green Street at about 5 p.m. on Friday, 1/17.

Hang on...we’re coming!



On Tuesday, 1/21, Fairhaven Department of Public Works employees use up some salt-sand mixture that the town had on hand last week for the big storm. The town ordered 71 tons of salt and 172 tons of sand, but already had some sand according to DPW superintendent Vinnie Furtado. Although straight salt is usually better, it costs about \$64/ton as opposed to sand, which is about \$11/ton, according to Mr. Furtado. Also, the region learned during that storm that salt is ineffective under 15 degrees. Mr. Furtado said that generally each inch of snow that drops, takes two hours to remove, so if we get 10 inches, expect 20 hours. Last week’s storm, which reached near-blizzard conditions in some areas, took longer than expected because the wind kept pushing the snow back. The town had 17 vehicles “plowed up,” said Mr. Furtado, with four backup vehicles. Mr. Furtado said that typically, he has mechanics at the BPW headquarters in case the trucks need any work, such as windshield wipers or other repairs. “Invariably, there’s always something that happens in a storm,” he said. *Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com See more on our Facebook page.*

Town Hall doors out for repairs



Don't be alarmed. The beautiful town hall doors are just out being refurbished. LEFT: What they used to look like from the inside (*Neighb News file photo*). RIGHT: what it looks like now. The doors will be refinished and replaced soon. Town meeting appropriated the money for Community Preservation funds at last year's special town meeting in May. The \$44,000 appropriation also included exterior lights. Photo by Beth David.

ABWA Scholarships applications available

Press Release

The SouthCoast Chapter of the American Business Women's Association is offering a \$1,500 scholarship, to be awarded to a deserving young woman in Bristol County, thanks to the generosity of the Stephen Bufton Memorial Fund. Each year, local chapters of ABWA provide scholarships to female students who will be attending accredited U.S. colleges, universities and community/vocational schools.

Applicants for the ABWA SouthCoast Scholarship must be female U.S. citizens seeking a baccalaureate degree or higher; enrolled in an accredited educational institution in the United States; and have completed at least 60 credit hours as of June 1, 2014 with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Applicants must be residents of Bristol County, MA (although a residency waiver is available for family members of ABWA SouthCoast

Chapter members).

Eligible women interested in applying for the scholarship should contact Mali Lim, President, ABWA SouthCoast Chapter at 508-863-1831.

Preliminary applications must be submitted to the ABWA SouthCoast Chapter by March 31, 2014, with final applications due online by June 1, 2014 at www.sbmf.org. A minimum of three (3) eligible applications are required in order for the scholarship to be awarded. The scholarship recipient will be notified by August 1, 2014.

SBMEF, ABWA's national educational fund, is one of the most highly respected grant and scholarship funds in the country. For 60 years, ABWA has helped women achieve their business and professional success through educational scholarships. Since its inception, more than 16,000 women nationwide have been awarded more than 17 million dollars in scholarships.

The Stephen Bufton Memorial

Educational Fund is a 501 (c) 3 charitable trust and public foundation. It has the same tax status as public schools, churches and community funds. The fund is listed in the U.S. Internal Revenue Service "Cumulative List of Organizations" described in Section 170(c) of the IRS code of 1954 - revised Oct. 31, 1974.

ABWA SouthCoast is a chartered chapter of the American Business Women's Association, whose purpose is to bring together business women of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. Members from the ABWA SouthCoast Chapter meet the first Wednesday of each month. Meeting times, workshop announcements, and pre-registration forms are available online at www.abwasouthcoast.org

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Kool Kids February Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities like basketball, dodge ball, tag and hockey. Kids need to bring lunch and a snack for the first 3 days of the program. Friday a pizza lunch will be served. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn each day of the program. Session: Tuesday February 18-21 Time: 800am-300pm Cost 100.00 for members / \$125.00 for non-members

Babysitting Class

This is a comprehensive 3-hour course for 11-14 year olds. Topics will include first aid, choke saving techniques, mealtime, bedtime, diapering, discipline, contracts and ethics. Pizza will be provided.

Date: Feb 10th Instructor: Beth Oleson Time: 5:30-8 PM. Cost: \$45 members/ \$50 non-members

Goju-Ryu Karate

This course introduces students to traditional Okinawan Goju-Ryu karate. In the class we will learn basic blocks, strikes, kicks and at least one kata (forms). Karate develops self-confidence, strength, agility and respect for oneself and others. Instructor Elizabeth Rapoza holds two black belts, in Okinawan Goju-Ryu and in Korean Tang Soo Do Karate. She is a former national and New England overall black belt champion. Days: Wednesday

Feb 12th-March 12th, 6-7 PM. Cost: \$40 members/ \$50 non-members Ages 7-11

Mohegan Sun

March 4th. Mohegan Sun. Leave Rec 8 a.m. Return to Rec 7 p.m. **Cost \$20.00** casino package included (\$15. Meal credit \$10 bet coupon **MUST PRE-REGISTER**

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Wed. 2/12: Emerald Sq.
Wed. 2/19: Providence Place and
Whole Foods

Wed. 2/26: Independence Mall and
Xmas Tree Shop

Entertainment

EVERY THURSDAY, 12:30-2:30 p.m., \$2 donation. Featuring Ray J on the first and third Thurs.; and the OT's on the second & fourth Thurs.

Special Activities

LGBT Supper Club

February's Supper Club for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender seniors will be on the 26th. Call 508-979-4029 for details.

New Service

Boston Hospital Shuttle SRTA leaving New Bedford on Tuesdays and Fall River on Thursdays. Fare is \$25.00 round trip

Call Fairhaven Senior Center for more info. 508-979-4029

Presentation

Fallon Community Health Plan, Fri. 2/28 and 3/28 at 10:00 a.m. A representative will be here to discuss Fallon Health Care options.

Singles Supper Club

Tuesday, Jan. 21. Call Fairhaven Senior Center for info. 508-979-4029

Weather Cancellations

If we have snow accumulation there will be no daily shopping that day and activities may be cancelled. Call the Senior Center to confirm if your activity is cancelled. So, please stock up on non-perishable food items. If the Town Hall Offices are closed then the Senior Center is

closed. Listen to the local radio or television stations for official closings.

Fuel Assistance

If you need fuel assistance, call 508-979-4029 for an appointment.

Senior Work Off Program

There are still a few openings in the work off program for seniors who are interested in working in a town department in exchange for a credit of \$500.00 on your property taxes. Call the Sr. Center and ask for Phyllis.

Tax Appointments

Tax Appointments beginning Thurs. 2/6 for seniors filing short form call the Senior Center for an appointment.

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Acushnet Selectboard struggles with affordable housing law

By Michael Smith

Neighb News Correspondent

In their first meeting since Chairperson Leslie Dakin Jr. announced he would not be seeking re-election, Acushnet Selectboard members discussed and questioned the goal to increase affordable housing in Acushnet based on the guidelines of a proposed Acushnet Housing Production Plan.

Town planner Henry Young discussed with the board on Monday, 1/27, a long-standing master plan designed to create more housing in Acushnet.

"HPP is not a proposed by-law," Mr. Young explained to the board of the document. "The HPP is a general guidance document. It determines where our housing needs are and discusses local housing goals and provides some direction on possible courses of action."

According to the state's website (Mass.gov), a housing production plan (HPP) is a proactive strategy plan for a community to develop affordable housing consistent with the Chapter 40B statute and regulations. The plan is a joint effort between Acushnet and the South-eastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD).

Acushnet's population, according to Mr. Young, has a median age of 44 with an average income of \$63,000 per household.

There is a sizable gap between the median house price in Acushnet and the affordable house price set by a formula by the state. The average price for a home, according to Mr. Young is \$299,000, where an affordable house is \$170,000. There are over 3,950 homes in Acushnet.

The majority of them were constructed after 1939, with the big housing boom in the 1950's and 60's.

"We're operating at 2.4% affordable housing," said Mr. Young

To be Chapter 40B compliant, a community must have 10% affordable housing. To reach that the town would have to build or create over 400 units.

If 20 units are built, which translates to half a percent of the 10 percent mandated, a one-year suspension could be placed on Chapter 40B development, according to Mr. Young.

To be Chapter 40B
compliant...the town
would have to build or
create over 400 units.

There is no penalty to the town if the document is not endorsed or fulfilled. However, Mr. Young stated if there is a penalty to be incurred, "it would be the missed opportunity to have this approved guidance document in place and the protection it can offer if there is a lot of pressure for 40B development."

Mr. Young asked to meet with board members individually to answer their questions on the document between now and the next meeting

Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar said it was a repercussion of creating exclusionary zoning in the past

without inclusionary zoning of low-income families, but said he had concerns over "cluster zoning" to accommodate affordable housing.

"We need to be careful in how you approach this and walk this path," Mr. Gaspar told Mr. Young.

"It has its place," said Mr. Gaspar of affordable housing, "But I just don't know where it fits into Acushnet and how we develop that system to accommodate the needs of affordable housing without stretching ourselves too far...We need to do this in the smartest way possible."

"We're trying not to be exclusionary," said Mr. Young.

Board member David Wojnar asked if the plan included mobile homes, to which Mr. Young said no. A housing unit would equate to a home, a rental apartment and a condo, according to Mr. Young, though a different criteria would apply for rental units.

"There is a different formula from rental units to owned units," said Mr. Young.

The discussion was tabled for the next meeting on February 10.

In other matters, the board voted to close the public hearing stemming from an earlier hearing on January 13 about a dog that had attacked two people since April of 2013 and was considered a danger to the community. The issue was continued for 90 days so the dog could be retrained and re-evaluated, but Mr. Dakin read a letter from Acushnet Control Officer Rebekah Tomlinson that the dog, Ariana, has been euthanized as requested by her owner. The board voted to close the public hearing.

Mr. Dakin announced the 8th annual Patriot Half Triathlon will take place on Saturday June 14, 2014.

•••



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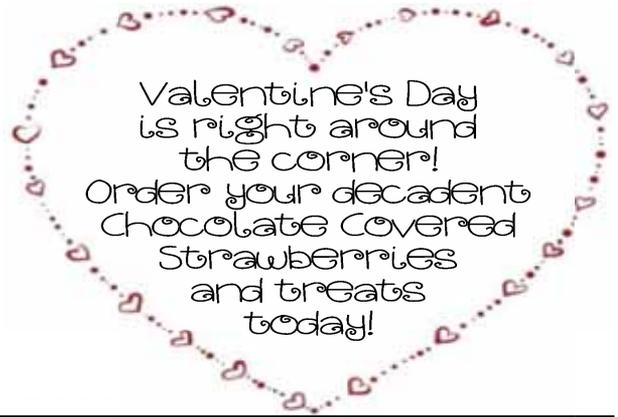


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From our readers

Turbine real estate study "defies logic"

I am writing to you regarding your [article], "Study says Wind Turbines do not affect property values" (January 23, 2014).

According to Mr. Hoen, his data was collected from 1998 to December 31, 2011. Hoosac went up in 2012, Falmouth March 2010, Scituate March 2012, Kingston (large scale) ground breaking September 2011, Fairhaven May 2012. (In checking, there are minor discrepancies between construction and commission dates, but I feel these dates/years are close enough, given the information available, to accurately express and address my concerns about the credibility of this, taxpayer paid for, \$70,000 "study").

Why does Mr. Hoen use property sales from 1998 to December 31, 2011 (this according to Mr. Hoen during his webinar), and why is sale year 2012 omitted (see *chart below from Hoen study). I do believe that 2012 would have been a very significant year in the study of the impact of the industrial wind turbine on residential sales in Massachusetts. And why does he use 122,000 homes/transactions? His method and conclusions defy logic. It speaks volumes about MA CEC, DOE, Berkeley and those with a personal agenda touting this as fact in support of the furtherance of the industrial wind turbine agenda.

The locations of every wind turbine in Massachusetts is known, the day they became operational is known, the day resident complaints started is known, and home sales dates are known and could be measured pre and post construction of the various projects with pinpoint accuracy given sales data available through Multiple Listing Service.

Every Appraiser lives by a Code of Professional Ethics and Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, violations of which can result in remedial or disciplinary actions. Why was this study not given to an independent, licensed Appraiser from Massachusetts, knowledgeable in property values in the State of Massachusetts?

(Chart below is truncated. The actual chart shows sales in the format as shown below from 1998 and

abruptly ends at 2012. The study data was, in fact collected from 1998 to December 31, 2011. How then can this possibly show accurate or any information for installations done from 2011 through 2012?)

*Sales:

2011: -0.02 0.006 -3.74 0.000
2012: Omitted

Note, most of Mr. Hoen's references say "to 2012" (I would interpret this as "not including"2012). There are reports in his study authored by other researchers identified by him as sources of information, the dates of which include the years 2012 and 2013, but no such current information about the impact industrial wind turbines have on property values.

I state once again, this study defies logic.

Marie Stamos, Quincy, MA

Appraiser should have conducted study

It appears that the weakness of the MassCEC study is in it being a generalization of statewide averages. The appraisal profession would do this differently. Anyone who calls themself an appraiser must be legally certified at the level requisite to the type of property being appraised, or in producing a study. It would focus on the Fairhaven real estate market specifically, in this case. Location is a critical factor affecting property value and neighborhoods can change every few blocks, and market values can fluctuate over a short period of time.

With few exceptions, all properties are different due to various property characteristics. All the differences would be considered by a qualified appraiser, who would look at sales, in various proximity to the turbines, and compare them to the sales that are not within sight or sound of the turbines.

In a comparative study, the appraiser would extract from a comparison of actual sales, adjustments for the various charac-

teristics of the properties, including time, location, quality, condition, sizes, amenities, terms of sales, etc., as compared to properties in the location of the turbines. The appraiser would also consider number of days on market, listings that have expired, and attempt to determine why listings expired.

It might be determined that there are no sales of properties located near the turbines. If the appraiser has to go outside of Fairhaven for the study, location adjustment would have to be made which are typically revealed by appraisal methodology, and not by averaging, or regression analysis that excludes many of the property characteristics. If I was the appraiser, I might study the properties close to the turbines that have sold, and compare them to the sales in other locations in Fairhaven that are similar, except for the turbines, that sold at the same time and they would have to be truly comparable sales.

I believe that most appraisers who have dealt with nuisances affecting property value, would anticipate that the turbines in Fairhaven would have a negative effect on adjacent property value, although, of course, they would pursue a study objectively.

When employing an appraiser for such a study, the regulatory requirement is that the appraiser have had prior experience with the issue of wind turbines, or to affiliate himself with someone who has.

Alan Hemenway, Retired Appraiser
Vancouver, WA, formerly of Fairhaven


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BPW works on annual Town Meeting articles

By Michael Smith

Neighb News Correspondent

With a short list on its agenda Monday evening, 1/27, the Fairhaven Board of Public Works unanimously approved several items for action, the most important being town meeting articles.

After a brief discussion, the board approved a priority list of projects for the fiscal year. Heading that list is road work slated for Bridge Street, with projects for Summer Drive and Point Street coming in at number two and three, respectively.

Other articles approved for Town Meeting were continuing work on pump stations and a project to pull the pump at the Tinkham Lane well. BPW Chairperson Steven Riley said there were a few more articles the board needed to hammer out, including a sewer by-law that would define what is and isn't a private sewer.

In total, the board will be submitting six articles to be approved for the 2015 fiscal year budget at the annual Town Meeting in May.

In another matter, the board unanimously approved the first payment of \$9,997 to Waterline Industries for work on piping for a the digester feed, but board members also had questions on whether the project is worth it in the long run.

"This is the poorest designed system," said Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson.

The digester accepts sewer sludge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant and turns it into methane which is then used to make electricity, saving the town money on electric costs for the WWTP. The system has had many problems, including a feed that was not moving the sludge along to get it into the digester.

Board Superintendent Vinnie Furtado explained the digester is worthy of its \$9 million price tag.

In total, the board will be submitting six articles to be approved for the 2015 fiscal year budget at the annual Town Meeting in May.

"It is a nine-million-dollar asset that has cost the town some money, but we're heading in the right direction," said Mr. Furtado of the green-built system.

Also unanimously approved by the board was a \$136,324 payment to Nuwater Incorporated, which has been doing work on South and Taber Streets, along with work on the

sewer betterment deferral for 29 Holiday Drive was approved by the board 5-0, but not before concerns were raised by Mr. Hobson.

"I don't see it happening," said Mr. Hobson.

Board Administrative Assistant Kathy Tripp provided background to Mr. Hobson and the board on the guidelines of granting a deferral. In order to grant the request, according to Ms. Tripp, the person or persons applying need to be senior citizens and meet the income criteria. The level of income was unspecified.

Applicants also have to re-apply every year.

Mr. Hobson's concern was that the homeowner would avoid paying taxes, to which Mr. Furtado answered, "They owe the money no matter what."

The betterment fee would have to be paid when the property is sold or transferred.

A request by the Fairhaven Tennis Association to place a storage container at Cushman Park was granted by the board, provided it would be for only a year, "To see if it works out," as Mr. Hobson put it.

The FTA can reapply to retain the storage container in January of 2015.

Also on the agenda, Mr. Riley mentioned approval from the Finance Committee for Public Works to move ahead with deficit spending on snow removal and sanding of roads as the town budget has been depleted due to the last two snowstorms.

Fairhaven has a new drain-layer in Russell Dubois of Parkside Excavation, as the board reviewed the necessary paperwork, and after a brief conversation with Mr. Dubois, granted him a license to perform drainage work in town. •••

aeration tanks at the Wastewater Treatment Plan. This is the fourth in a series of payments to the company.

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Boomer's open highway trek turns into "walkabout" book

Press Release

Three months after the publication of "Where Does This Road Go — A Boomer's Walkabout," author Martin H. Crowe, 65 years old, is retracing the steps of his journey during the month of February. Returning to the trail of his walkabout, Crowe will discuss the book and his discoveries along the way. After repacking his Smart car in Kingston, Mass., and heading back to the open highway, Crowe is encouraging discussions with community groups such as school groups, libraries, fraternal organizations and the print and electronic press.

The re-Walkabout (now dubbed his Talkabout) will include the towns both visited and mentioned in the book, including more than 50 municipalities in nine states.

A traditional "walkabout" refers to a rite of passage for male Australian Aborigines who undertake a journey during adolescence in which they would wander and live in the wilderness for as long as six months.

Published by Moving River Press and available at both Amazon.com

and BoomersWalkabout.com, the 232 page book, available as an E-book as well, chronicles Crowe's ramblings and ruminations as he attempted to regroup as his final child left for college and finds himself with an empty house in Kingston, Mass., and a bucket full of "what's next."

Crowe did what many have done to find a new perspective and clarity: he hit the open road.

He explains, "After almost 40 years of building my life around what the family needed, I knew the infrastructure of my life would be radically different. So, I left it all behind, turned off all my gadgets, put my tent in the Smart Car and headed west. Over three months, I traveled over 13,000 miles (less than 800 on Interstates) by planes, trains and automobiles, and boats (missed the bus somehow)."

Crowe's angst is far from dissimilar to many thoughtful Baby Boomer brethren. Baby Boomers (the post-World War II babies born between 1946 and 1964 and the world's largest segment of our population) are graying and facing the autumn of life — and with greater expectations

than bingo, soft, chewable food or receding into the background.

Crowe experienced many surprises along the way.

"Amazingly, I did not listen to any of the music CDs I carefully chose. Just listening to the rhythm of the road, I discovered the ability to think of nothing. Create a vacuum and see what gets sucked in. I stayed in cheap motels, campgrounds, and with a few friends and family who helped me wrestle with my future. Most of the time, I ate in my hotel room or cooked at a campfire, sticking to healthy food, walking almost 150 miles and another 35 riding a bike. I had a lot of time to think about anything I wanted, old plans interrupted, new plans bursting, opportunities, constraints. It was strange to focus on myself for so long."

The book takes the reader along Crowe's travels, with experiences from disappointment to serendipity. It just may inspire you to start your own wanderings.

To purchase the book or for more information about, visit Amazon.com.

•••

RMV institutes "virtual hold" system on phone callers

Press Release

This week MassDOT's Registry of Motor Vehicles Division, under the guidance of Registrar-Designate Celia J. Blue, began offering a "virtual hold" service for its call center customers to pair with the newly introduced voice command menu which allows customers to conduct RMV business in their own words.

"Customers choosing to conduct business through the RMV's call center are looking for helpful, concise service," said Registrar-Designate Blue. "With the introduction of these new amenities, we are able to hear the customer's needs and save them time by returning their call when a customer service agent is free."

The virtual hold technology gives customers the choice of receiving a call back from the RMV instead of holding the line in a call queue. When a caller selects or speaks their business they need help with, an estimated wait time is given to the caller. The caller may then choose to wait or opt to be placed into an outbound queue to receive a call back from the RMV. To do so, customers

punch their phone number into the system. The amenity was introduced at the call center on Monday, January 27 where 80 percent of 857-DOT-8000 customers selected the call back option and offered positive reviews once their transaction was complete.

Due to staffing levels and service hours, there will be periods of time throughout the day when the virtual hold service is not available, but an estimated wait time is still provided to the customer. The system's algorithm takes into account hours of operation, staffing levels, the average call time, and the number of call back requests already in the queue. This ensures only calls that can be returned the same day are given the call back option.

Since mid-December and the introduction of the voice command menu, or natural language, the RMV has been monitoring how customers interact with the new system and finding areas to make improvements. Metrics for measuring the success of these new amenities will analyze how many customers selected virtual hold, if customers were routed properly

based on their inquiry, the overall call abandonment rate and customer feedback.

In addition to calling 857-DOT-8000, RMV customers are encouraged to perform their transactions online anytime at www.MassRMV.com.

In 2009, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) was created to unify the state's various transportation agencies. MassDOT now includes the Highway Division, the MBTA and Rail Transit Division, the Aeronautics Division, and the Registry of Motor Vehicles. MassDOT is committed to providing a safe and reliable transportation system to all those who travel in the Commonwealth and works to deliver excellent customer service. MassDOT has been nationally recognized for its innovative approach to transportation, including the Accelerated Bridge Program, the "Where's My Bus and Train?" apps and "Fast 14" work. For more information, visit MassDOT at www.mass.gov/massdot or <http://blog.mass.gov/transportation/> or <https://twitter.com/> and www.facebook.com/massdotinfo

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SELECT: cont'd from page 4

- Signed waste disposal agreements with ABC and Frade's;
- Approved BPW deficit spending for sand and salt up to \$20,000;
- Approved Gloria and Company to use the auditorium on February 9 for a charity fundraiser for the International Organization for Women;
- Approved the 3rd Annual West Island 5K race on April 27, 2014;

The board convened in Executive Session to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining for police, dispatcher, and fire unions; a land purchase at 61 Mill Road; a clerical union representative request; and an issue involving the treasurer/tax collector office. A discussion regarding a Fire Union grievance scheduled was postponed.

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/4, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Community Preservation

Thurs., 2/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 2/10, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Boat Ramp Committee

Wed., 2/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 2/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 1/30, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Historical Commission

Wed., 2/5, Academy Bldg., 7 p.m.

Government Study Comm.

Thurs., 2/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Oxford/Rogers Building

Thurs., 1/30, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Espindola: 2/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
BACK by popular demand: Cribbage

Selectboard

Mon., 2/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 2/12, Media Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

Special Town Meeting

Wed., 2/12, Hastings MS, 7 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Community Preservation

Mon., 2/3, Town Hall, 6:30

Planning Commission

Thurs., 2/13, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 2/10, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck

		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m. p.m.		a.m. p.m.	
Jan.					
2014					
Thursday	30	0703	1930	0013*	130
Friday	31	0754	2022	0112*	130
Feb.		HIGH		LOW	
2014		a.m. p.m.		a.m. p.m.	
Saturday	1	0845	2113	0212*	14
Sunday	2	0935	2203	0303*	15
Monday	3	1024	2255	0347*	16
Tuesday	4	1117	2349	0430*	16
Wednesday	5	----	1212	0519	17
Thursday	6	0045	1308	0732	18
Friday	7	0139	1402	0914	19
Saturday	8	0233	1500	1027	22

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 10, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fairhaven Town Hall. Purpose is for Request for Determination of the following matters as required By Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Request for Determination Applicant Stanley Palys Location 14 Nelson Ave Plot 43 Lot 32, 33, 66, 67 Purpose conduct perk test within 100' buffer to coastal beach and within a VE flood zone.
- Request for Determination Applicant Mark & Theresa Wright Location 6 Misty Bay Road Plot 43C Lots 87 & 88 Purpose construct garage and alterations to driveway within 100' of BVW and within a VE flood zone.
- Request for Determination Applicant Christopher A. Medeiros Location 4 Meadow Drive Plot 30 Lot 25B Purpose construct 24'x40' garage within the NRB only.
- Request for Determination Applicant Jim Jackson Location 5 & 7 Seabreeze Ave Purpose perform perk test within a VE flood zone.

*Jay Simmons Chairman,
Fairhaven Conservation Commission*

It's back to the drawing board on Narraganset Blvd. plan

By Beth David
Editor

A plan to create a new lot on Narragansett Boulevard received no votes of support from the Fairhaven Planning Board on Tuesday, 1/28. The preliminary plan was the first attempt by David Davignon of N. Douglas Schneider, speaking for owner Bruce Medeiros, to split three lots in common ownership to create two lots, neither of which would completely satisfy building requirements, although together, the lots have more than the required 30,000 square feet.

After a lengthy time with the calculators to figure out which of the conflicting numbers on the plans was the correct one, the board discussed the three proposals, all of which seemed to create at least one lot that would not be in compliance with frontage. The lot with the house and garage on it has 80 feet of frontage and the other two lots have 40 feet each. The options are to create one lot with 100 feet and the other with 60 or to create two lots with 80 feet of frontage. Neither option had any appeal for any board member.

Planning and Economic Development Director Bill Roth explained various ways that the plan could work, including one configuration that would give 100-foot frontage to both lots, but board members said it was, simply too convoluted.

"When you have a house on a nine-sided lot," said PB chairperson Wayne Hayward, "it just shows you have issues."

Mr. Davignon argued that the lots would not be out of character in the neighborhood, that most lots had the 80 feet, and there was no problem with services or access. He said they were just short the frontage.

"Our job is to try to come up with something creative," said Mr. Davignon.

He said the lots together have 31,888 square feet, but admitted to Mr. Hayward that the figure included the access road. Board members bounced around various ideas on the proposals, including creating a cul de sac, a half-cul de sac (or eyebrow) and a hammerhead, a long narrow road into the property with no turn around (a glorified driveway), and the pros and cons of each. The proposal also requires some variances that were denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"We don't usually include the right of way as lot area, right?" asked Mr. Hayward, to which Mr. Davignon agreed.

Board member Kasia Cripps said supporting the plan would essentially double houses.

She reiterated a point she often makes, that just because the board has approved similar measures in the past, does not mean they should again.

"I feel we are trying to find a creative way to give this person another house," said board member Rene Fleurent. "There's a reason for the bylaws."

"I think if we approve something like this, you'd better be prepared for the next guy with the same plans," said Mr. Hayward. "It's not like we're trying to help some 94-year-old woman. This lot was just bought six months ago."

The board also discussed the possibility of creating a bylaw that would allow "rear" or "retreat" lots. Most towns that allow those kinds of lots, require that the rear lot have one-and-a-half or twice the square footage of other buildable lots.

The matter was a preliminary subdivision, not a definitive subdivision, so the property owners are free to try again with a new plan at any time.

In another matter, the board approved a Form A application for 20 Silver Shell Beach Drive. The change adjusts the lot lines so a seawall owned by Paul and Stasia Patykula will be within their property line, instead of encroaching on the neighbor's property.

The public hearing for Mary Vander Pol and the proposed definitive subdivision on Earle Street was continued again (from 12/10/13) to the Feb. 25 meeting, due to a personal matter with the engineer.

"I'm hopeful that they are changing direction in how they are looking at this subdivision and access," said Mr. Hayward.

The question of access, the deed, and a paper street are all still not answered.

The board also briefly discussed the new draft flood plain zoning bylaw amendment required by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). The town must approve the bylaw as changed in order for homeowners in Fairhaven to be eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, which offers discounted insurance in flood zones. The new maps and NFIP rates have caused premiums to reach the tens of thousands of dollars per year for homeowners in coastal areas. The new maps are on hold as congress battles it out.

Meanwhile, "we really have no choice," said Mr. Roth, or homeowners will not be able to get any insurance.

A public hearing and a vote at town meeting is required to pass the changes.



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16 SUNDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM	17 MONDAY PRESIDENTS DAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM MEET THE MINIONS	18 TUESDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM	19 WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY PIZZA SKATE 6-8PM FREE PIZZA & SODA
20 THURSDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM ADULT SKATE 18+ 7-9PM	21 FRIDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM TEEN SKATE 7-10PM	22 SATURDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY SKATE 7-10PM	23 SUNDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM

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