



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 10, Issue 18 • May 7, 2015

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

Blessing of bikes draws nearly 500



The 17th annual Blessing of the Bikes in Fairhaven, by St. Joseph's Church, saw 496 motorcycles take part on Sunday, 5/3. The group met at Fort Phoenix, rode by the church for the blessing, then toured the backroads for nearly two hours, ending up back in Fairhaven at the Ice House for food, drinks and entertainment. ABOVE: Fr. Bob Charlton at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fairhaven uses holy water to bless two long lines of motorcycle riders going past the Spring Street church at the annual Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday, 5/3. See page 4. *Photo by Beth David. Visit us at www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews to see more photos of this and other events.*



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- **Town Meeting:** Page 12
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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

So, the big Blessing of the Bikes had 496 bikes. Ouch, that hurt. Just four more bikes and they would've hit 500. So, if you didn't go, it was all your fault!

Seriously, though, it was lots of fun to ride around with all those bikes. One of these days I'm going to get a camera for my helmet. I just love that people come out of their houses to watch, and the little kids jump up and down.

It's a great way to kick off the warm season.

Except that the cold season is still being awfully stubborn. I hear tell that some places in these parts actually saw 70+ degrees. Not here on my little patch of paradise. The wind off the water is keeping it pretty nippy out there.

But, it's changing, bit by bit. The old earth is moving and that means that winter cannot win.

It's even time to get the Little Water Buggy out there. Did you hear that fellow boaters? Beware, I'm coming!

Town Meeting was last week. I love town meeting. I really do. John Roderiques is done as Finance Committee chair and as a FinCom member, though, so I'm not sure it'll be as much fun. The guy's a quote a minute.

Hopefully, he will still be a TM member and keep us entertained.

Speaking of that, I hope my story keeps you entertained. There are two kinds of writers (okay, probably more than two). My friend Tori is one of those other kinds of writers. She writes very sparingly, one sentence at a time and sometimes strains to make a story longer. Her writing is tight right from the start. A+ work every time.

I, on the other hand, am the sloppy writer, the kitchen sink writer, the trash can writer...whatever. I just throw it all in there and it's long and long and longer. Then I go back and tighten it up, take stuff out, edit what's left, pick better words, get rid of extra words.

Of course, that's when I have time. And this week I didn't. So....

Alas...

The Town Meeting story is a tad long (page 12).

But, really, when you read it, you'll agree, how could I take out all the fun stuff just to make it fit into the space?

I know, I know....I had all weekend to write it. So why did I wait until deadline day? Beats me. Ask a shrink.

All I know is: time is linear in this dimension, so ... there's no going back.

Well, there's other stuff in there, of course, including a reminder that this Saturday is the Stamp Out Hunger food drive. That's the one when you put the canned goods out near your mailbox. Last year there was a significant drop in donations, so let's see if we can make up for it this year. See page 3 for that.

Until next week then...see ya



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our Selectboard story last week, we made an error. Ms. Vilandry filed a complaint with the Attorney General about the Historical Commission agenda only, not the accessibility issue. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth David".

United Way joining in Stamp Out Hunger food drive Saturday

United Way Press Release

What if you could make a difference by doing something as simple as walking to your mailbox? Well you can! **On Saturday, May 9th**, leave a bag of non-perishable food items by your mailbox and contribute to the largest one-day food drive in the world, the 23rd annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive, and help us Stamp Out Hunger!

The National Association of Letter Carriers SE MA Merged Branch 18, the US Postal Service and United Way of Greater New Bedford's Hunger Commission have joined together to make this year a success.

"Hunger is a growing issue in our community," said Michelle N. Hantman, President of United Way of Greater New Bedford. "This food drive helps put countless meals on the table for families throughout Greater New Bedford and we couldn't be more thankful for the commitment by the Letter Carriers and the US Postal Service for making this possible."

To participate in Stamp Out Hunger, leave a non-perishable food

item or bag of items (every little bit helps!) by your mailbox or on your porch, it will be collected by your [letter carrier] during your normal mail delivery.

Non-perishable food may include: cereals, beans, rice, canned meats, tuna, soups, vegetables, peanut butter, jellies or jams, pasta, tomato sauces, pancake mix or juices. For safety reasons, we ask that no glass containers be donated to avoid breakage.

Food collected by letter carriers throughout the day will be brought to local Post Offices where it is sorted and packed for food pantries to take back to stock their shelves.

Pantries benefiting from Stamp Out Hunger locally include Catholic Social Services, St. Anthony of Padua Church, The Family Pantry-Damien's Place, M.O. LIFE Food Pantry, PACE, Red Cross, The Salvation Army and Shepherd's Pantry. Since the

beginning of the drive, nearly 1.3 billion pounds of food has been collected, 70 million pounds of that collected locally! Each year the drive collects between 40,000 and 70,000 pounds of food for local pantries.

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist letter carriers in collecting the food on their routes throughout Greater New Bedford during the course of the day may arrange to do so by calling Richard Drolet at 508-801-2881 by Thursday evening, May 7th.

Be sure to join us Saturday, May 9th, and leave a non-perishable item or bag of items by your mailbox or on your porch and help us Stamp Out Hunger in Greater New Bedford!

Support the Food Pantry

The Shepherd's Food Pantry at the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Acushnet spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week and has seen a sharp increase in families seeking food.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit www.shepherdspantry.org

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Sat., 5/16, The Relics, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

Sat., 5/23, Blue Lobster, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

MONDAY NIGHT PIZZA SPECIAL:

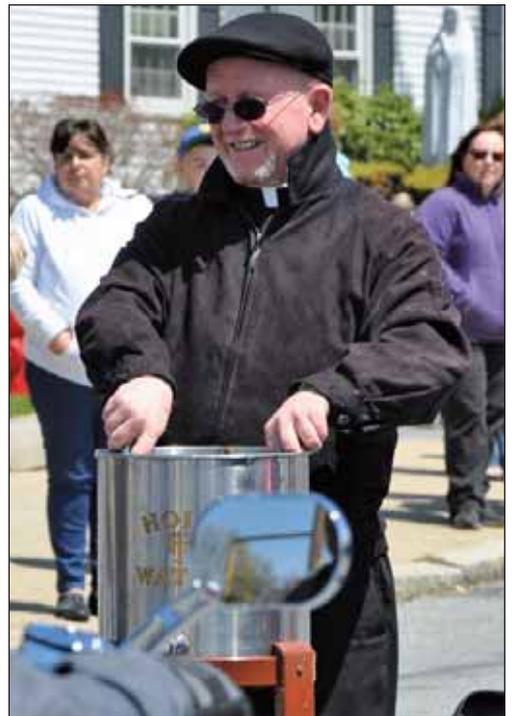
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Blessing of the bikes draws 496



ABOVE L&R: Fr. Bob Charlton from St. Joseph's Church in Fairhaven uses holy water to bless motorcycle riders as they pass by the church on Spring Street on Sunday, 5/3, for the 17th annual Blessing of the Bikes. Proceeds from the event benefit St. Joseph's School. BELOW LEFT: Motorcycle riders gather at Fort Phoenix before the big ride on 5/3. BELOW RIGHT: Motorcycles are lined up at the Ice House in Fairhaven after the ride. The red one is a special Harley Davidson firefighter edition with some special artwork, owned by Fairhaven Fire Chief Timothy Francis, who was also an organizer of the ride. He said 496 bikes participated: "I really wanted to get that 500," he said. Photos by Beth David. Visit us at www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews to see more photos of this and other events.




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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Stamp out hunger

Letter carriers annual food drive is this Sat., 5/9. See page 3 for details.

Healthy Aging Fair

In celebration of Older Americans Month, Coastline Elderly Services, in collaboration with the Mattapoisett Council on Aging, will conduct a FREE healthy aging fair on **Fri., 5/8, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (near Stop & Shop).**

Southcoast mobile van will be on-site for free blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol screenings, tetanus and pneumonia vaccines. See displays and gather information from more than 70 community organizations. Free lunch and refreshments, raffles and prizes throughout the day. Free shuttle bus service from the Stop & Shop parking lot.

Ham, Beans & Cars

Fairhaven Lions Club & Fairhaven Village Militia will hold an **Old Fashioned Ham and Bean Supper & Cruise Night on Sat., May 16, from 5-8 p.m., at the Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven**

A fundraiser sponsored by the Fairhaven Lions Club and the Fairhaven Village Militia, this supper will include ham, beans, coleslaw, potato salad, rolls and dessert.

Outdoors there will be a vintage cruise night, music with a DJ, and a mini colonial encampment by the Militia. There will also be a silent auction. **Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 and under.** Tickets are available from members of the two groups and at Mike and Wayne's, 163 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven. Accessible. For information or tickets, call John, 508-990-0000, Bill, 508-996-3420 or Ellie, 508-441-7566.

Trail Grand Opening

The Fairhaven Community Trail Network is happy to announce the grand opening of the **East Fairhaven Trail community trail on Sun., 5/17, from 2-4 p.m. behind the East Fairhaven School.** The Community trail project grew from Fairhaven's Wood School building project, when it was suggested that a nature trail be put behind the new Wood School. A group was formed to determine interest and support, and it was

decided that the group would undertake the effort at both schools.

Beginning with East Fairhaven while the Wood School was being completed, the group, working with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, developed the trail. The trail includes an outdoor classroom, raised walkways and educational signage. The BBC developed a book with sample lesson plans that could be used by teachers at both schools in the trails. The trail will also be open daily to the community during non school hours.

The FCTN welcomes the entire community to come and celebrate this exciting event. In addition to a ribbon cutting ceremony, activities will include a story, a vernal pool walk and a scavenger hunt. Attendees should park in the school lot and walk around to the northwest side of the building. The event will take place rain or shine.

Irish Night

West Island Irish Night, **Sat., 5/23, 5 p.m., at the WI community center, 41 Causeway Road, West Island, Fairhaven. Tickets: \$15, call Shirley at 508-996-3473.** Featuring traditional boiled dinner at 5 and Eddie Dillon and Shenanigans from 6-9. BYOB.

Seed Exchange

The Fairhaven Seed Exchange at The Millicent Library has begun, sponsored by the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee. Start your own garden and sow your own seeds.

The public may bring in seeds to trade or take any that are in the seed library. Any questions please contact ann.richard@gmail.com.

Cystic Fibrosis Walk

Join Charton's Chargers team in the annual Great Strides Walk to cure Cystic Fibrosis. Start and finish at **Ft. Phoenix State Reservation, Fairhaven (at the gazebo). Check-in starts at 10 a.m., Sun., 5/17. Walk begins at 11.** Food, refreshments, raffle.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic life-threatening disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. Children used to die at about two years old, but research has greatly increased life expectancy and quality of life.

Charton is a 14-year-old Fairhaven resident attending Fairhaven public schools. His family created Charton's

Chargers to support research that might find a cure some day.

The day will include a parade of teams and lots of activities for families.

To learn more or to join Charton's team, visit http://fightcf.cff.org/site/TR/GreatStrides/74_Massachusetts_RI?fr_id=3386&pg=entry

Bike Challenge

If you're looking for a great way to shed a few pounds you may have put on after the harsh winter or you are just looking to be more active in general, there is no better way than to dust off your bicycle and register for the second annual Summer Bike Challenge, sponsored by the South Coast Bikeway Alliance.

Here in Fairhaven, we are so incredibly fortunate to have a treasure like the Phoenix Bike Trail running through our Town. We are challenging you to use it to the max this summer.

It is a great way to track your progress throughout the summer while helping the Town of Fairhaven defend its Title as Champion of the South Coast. Last year Fairhaven cyclists rode more miles per capita than any other Community along the South Coast and took home the trophy now proudly displayed at the front desk of the Rec Center. Our goal this year is to dramatically increase the number of participants.

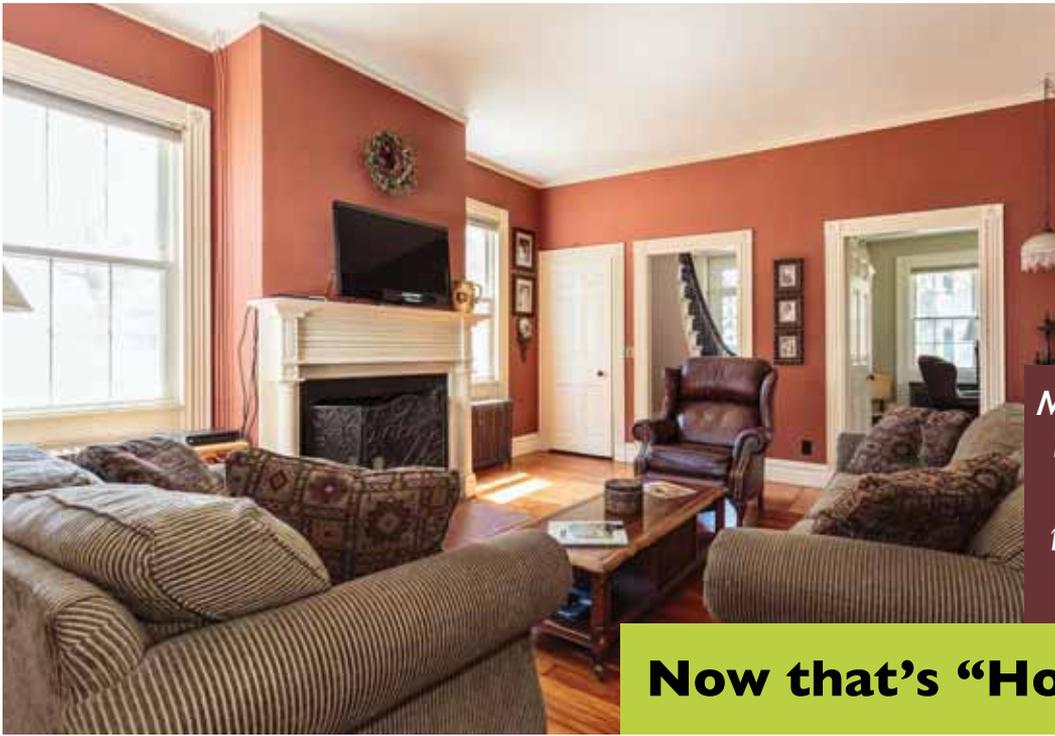
Simply log on to <http://www.southcoastbikeway.com/challenge.html> to learn how to register and start logging your miles.

Community Garden

Have you ever wanted to try a garden but didn't know where to start? Interested in saving money by growing your own organic vegetables? Want to be part of a "growing green" community?

If yes, you are in luck because there are Fairhaven Community Garden beds available at several different locations: Hastings Middle School, East Fairhaven Elementary School and Wood Elementary School. **The fee is \$10 per 4x8 foot bed.** Organic practices only please.

Contact Laurie at lauriehellstrom@yahoo.com if you are interested or have questions. More information can be found at fairhavencommunitygarden.org.



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(RSVP: 508-994-9238)

Join us for:

Mother's Day Social Sunday, May 10, 2:30 p.m.
Join us for dessert and tea with Candida Rose's upbeat musical performance. RSVP

Memorial Day Monday, May 25, 2 p.m. Join guitarist Chris Carter and enjoy an ice cream sundae social. RSVP

Keynotes Coming to Atria Wednesday, May 27, 2:30 p.m.. Join the Keynotes musical singing group with a stroll down memory lane with the songs of yesteryear. RSVP

Dementia and Alzheimer's Support Group
Tuesdays, 5/12 & 6/9, from 3–4 p.m.



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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Stamp out hunger

Letter carriers annual food drive is this Sat., 5/9. See page 3 for details.

Paper Shred Day

The City of New Bedford, the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District, and Doc Shredding Corp. are partnering for a paper shredding day in downtown New Bedford on **Sat., 5/9, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the parking lot across from City Hall on the corner of William and North 6th streets.**

Businesses and residents of New Bedford and the surrounding communities are welcome. **The paper shredding charge is \$5 per box.** Cash or check only. Each box should weigh no more than 30 to 40 pounds.

Participants are welcome to watch the destruction of up to two of their boxes of paper. For more than two boxes, shredding may occur off-site. Certificates of destruction are available, if needed.

Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove paper from folders and binders. Shredded paper will be recycled into new products such as paper towels.

In addition, the company will destroy old computer hard drives for a fee of \$5.

For questions about the event please call the District Recycling Coordinator at (508) 979-1493 or John Lobo from Community Services at (508) 979-1692.

YTI Play

On 5/14 Your Theatre, Inc. will open an eight show run of the comedy *Fuddy Meers* by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Lawrence R. Houbre, Jr.

Every twist and turn of this funhouse plot brings Claire, an amnesiac, closer to discovering her past life and everything she thought she'd forgotten. It's one harrowing and hilarious turn after another on this roller coaster ride through the day of an amnesiac. This poignant and sometimes harsh new comedy traces one woman's attempt to regain her memory while surrounded by a cast of startlingly bizarre characters.

Your Theatre, Inc. is grateful to our 68th season sponsor, BankFive. Your

Theatre is also thankful to Hawthorn Medical for its support of this production.

You won't want to miss the fun of this final major production of the 68th season of Your Theatre, Inc.

Performance dates are May 14, 15, 16 & 21, 22, 23 at 8:00 p.m. and May 17 & 24 at 2:30 p.m. Performances are held at the wheelchair accessible Your Theatre, Inc. Playhouse located at 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church complex.

Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$13 for senior citizens, students, and military personnel. For reservations and further information call Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or send an email to info@yourtheatre.org. The theatre's web site is www.yourtheatre.org

Urban Sketchers

The Urban Sketchers movement comes to downtown New Bedford on **Thurs., 5/14, when New Bedford Open Studios hosts an Urban Sketch in Custom House Square Park from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. as part of that evening's AHA! New Bedford night.**

Led by Huguette May of Hatch Street Studios, a member building of New Bedford Open Studios, sketchers will bring their materials and meet at 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Acushnet Avenue and William Street. Then fan out over the grassy knolls or settle on a bench in Custom House Square Park for the next two hours and visualize the natural and man-made landscape. From 7:30 - 8:00 p.m., the artists can share and photograph their work for posting to New Bedford Open Studios social media platforms, if they wish.

All area sketchers are invited to participate; the event is free and open to all artists. Open Studios has launched a Meetup page at: Meetup.com/NewBedfordOpenStudios. Artists can RSVP to the sketch through the Meetup page or simply show up at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 with their sketch tools.

Visit NewBedfordOpenStudios.org for more information

Poetry Readings

10th Year of Poetry Readings at Pilgrim Church Home, Purchase & School Sts., New Bedford, on Thurs., 5/14, at 6 p.m. during AHA! night. ll

poets welcome. Not accessible.

Call 508-996-1498 for info.

Taste of Southcoast

Join us on Sunday, May 17 from 12 noon to 5 pm. Located on Pier 3, 228 MacArthur Drive, in New Bedford's historic working waterfront. Parking is free in the downtown at meters, at the Whale's Tooth Parking lot, the Elm Street Parking Garage, and the YMCA.

The "tasting" goes until 3:15, but music and fun continue right through 5:00 pm with The Dave Charnley Band. This band will be sure to please our audience with a mix of Chicago style blues, country, Caribbean and swing.

There will be something for everyone to enjoy! New England crafted beers, locally grown and bottled wines, and soft drinks are available to complement the food offerings. The Taste Of SouthCoast event will be held rain or shine under the tents.

Ticket prices: **\$15 in advance and \$18 day of the event for adults, \$5 for children 6-12, free for 5 and younger.** For tickets, visit www.downtownnb.org. For more information call 508-990-2777 or e-mail dnb@downtownnb.org.

Women's Health

Inflammation drives many disease processes and greatly affects women's health. In fact 80% of patients with autoimmune disorders are women. Inflammation & Women's Health, a Connector Series Event, is open to practitioners, patients and interested individuals.

The event will be held on **Sat., 5/16, at the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center at 874 Purchase St., New Bedford, from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at www.biologicalmedicinetwork.org or via phone at 508-748-0816.** Seating is very limited and the event is expected to sell out. Please contact Brooke Baptiste, Connecting for Change Conference Manager, at brooke@marioninstitute.org or Abby Smith, Biological Medicine Network Manager, at abby@marioninstitute.org or call 508-748-0816 with any questions.

Stamp out hunger

Letter carriers annual food drive is this Sat., 5/9. See page 3 for details.

Bird Club Meeting

The Paskamansett Bird Club's May meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Wed., 5/13, at Allens Neck Friends Meeting-house, 739 Horseneck Rd., Dartmouth. The evening's speaker is John Van de Graaff, who has delighted the club with his wonderful pictures from the Galapagos and other destinations. In this show, John will provide an overview of his many years of wild bird photography, specifically focused on the Americas.

John owes his interest in birds to his wife Marylee, who introduced him to birdwatching. They lived in New York City for many years, but now live in Northampton, Mass. This overview provides a carefully chosen sequence of his best shots.

The meeting is free, open to the public, and accessible.

Animal fund-raiser

Animal Advocates is celebrating Mother's Day by holding a **Mother's Day Gift Sale on Sat., 5/9, from noon to 6 p.m. at the Sail Loft Restaurant in Padanaram, 246 Elm St., So. Dartmouth**, featuring beautiful handmade gift items. There will be fragrant bouquets of flowers in vases, chocolates and homemade sweets and goodies, jewelry, and lots more. Many of the items at the Mother's Day Sale are unique.

For information, please call (774) 888-9008, (508) 991-7727, or e-mail animaladvocates@comcast.net

Tiara 5K

Dust off your tiara, cape or both and join us for the Women's Fund Tiara 5K Mothers Day Race.

Race will be on Mother's Day, May 10, with 9:00 AM Kids Fun Run (3 years to 12 years old), and 9:30 AM 5K Run and Walk, at Oxford Creamery, 98 County Rd., Mattapoisett. Register online at www.womensfundtiara5k.com

For sponsorship info contact Traci Calabrese at 508-717-0283 or tcabrese@womensfundsema.org.

The Women's Fund Mission is to advance the educational attainment and economic security of women and

girls in Southeastern Massachusetts. We raise money to invest in programs that increase opportunities for women to earn a living wage. Visit <http://womensfundsema.org/> to learn more.

Decision-making

"Inside the Boardroom" and how decisions get made on crucial business topics at the Boardroom level, sponsored by the Southern New England Entrepreneurs Forum (SNEEF), **Thurs., 5/14, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center, 151 Martine Street, Fall River.**

Parenting Book Club

To support families in our community, South Coast Music Together is hosting a Parenting Book Club, which is being sponsored by St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in Dartmouth. The first book participants will read is, *Raising Your Spirited Child*, by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka.

If you have a child who is "more": more intense, more sensitive, more active, more moody, etc., than other children you know, this is the book for you! Whether you are a caregiver, or teacher, this book will offer you new ways of looking at "more" behaviors. Find ways to work with with your child(ren), to create harmony, and accept that some discord is part of life, perhaps even an important part and an asset in the long run.

The book club will meet on **Wednesday evenings, 7-8:40 PM, beginning this May, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in Dartmouth.** St. Peter's is a community oriented church, and is sponsoring this club. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey; regardless of your current family, marital situation, race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or life story, St. Peter's welcomes you. There is no fee for this club, but donations to defray expenses are greatly appreciated. Each participant is responsible for purchasing their own copy of the book. Space is limited, so RSVP's are required. Exact start date, and the number of weeks the group will meet, will be provided upon reservation request. To reserve your seat email: SouthCoastMT@verizon.net, with "Parenting Book Club" as the subject, including your contact info, or call 508 493 0355.

Osprey Cam

A little birdie told me to spread the word about EarthCam's new webcam so be sure to visit Greenbriar Park in Oxford, Mass., for the chance to say hello to a pair of Osprey! Thanks to its partnership with the Oxford Conservation Department, EarthCam is now offering a bird's-eye view of the nest.

The live camera provides a perfect way to learn about the birds' behavior and activities during nesting season, which lasts from March to October, without disturbing the peace. Watch nature take its course with EarthCam's Oxford Osprey Cam, live at http://www.town.oxford.ma.us/Pages/OxfordMA_Osprey/index and <http://www.earthcam.com/usa/massachusetts/oxford/>.

Pilgrim Plant Talk

In 2012 the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission extended the operating license for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in nearby Plymouth, one of the oldest nuclear plants in the nation, for another 20 years. Pilgrim is the same design as the Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan that experienced a storm related shut down in March 2011. This extension means that the Pilgrim plant will operate for a total of 30 years beyond its engineered projected useful life.

Unplanned shutdowns of the plant in 2013 and 2015 have reinforced concerns in Massachusetts. To fully understand the ramifications of the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision, the Mattapoisett Democratic Town Committee is sponsoring an **informational meeting at the Mattapoisett Free Library 7 Barstow St., Sat., 5/16, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the downstairs conference room.** Open to all.

Diane Turco, Co-Founder of Cape Downwinders will be the main speaker. Her slide show entitled *Pilgrim: A threat to Us All*, will discuss what those dangers are for those of us living in the southcoast. In addition, information about what our state and federal elected officials are doing to reverse this decision will be shared as well as ways that concerned citizens can become involved with this issue.

Recipe of the Week

Hawaiian Chicken Kabobs

- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons sherry
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 (20-ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained

In a shallow glass dish, mix the soy sauce, brown sugar, sherry, sesame oil, ginger, and garlic powder. Stir the chicken pieces and pineapple into the marinade until well coated. Cover, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 2 hours.

Preheat grill to medium-high heat.

Lightly oil the grill grate. Thread chicken and pineapple alternately onto skewers. Grill 15 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally, or until chicken juices run clear.

From www.allrecipes.com

OLH announces new administrator

Press Release

Lisa Cadime, RN, BSN, has been named as Administrator at Our Lady's Haven in Fairhaven, MA.

A resident of Westport, MA, Mrs. Cadime is a graduate of Newport Hospital School of Nursing, where she earned her RN degree, and Salve Regina University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Her experience working for the Diocesan Health Facilities includes Staff Development Director at Madonna Manor in North Attleboro; opening the Alzheimer's unit at Catholic Memorial Home in Fall River;

Director of Staff Development, Infection Control and Quality Assurance at Sacred Heart Home in New Bedford; and Assistant Administrator at both Sacred Heart Home and Catholic Memorial Home. She is certified in Health Care Ethics after completing the National Catholic Certification Program at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.



FIA voucher program available

Each year the Fairhaven Improvement Association offers the Voucher Program to help residents enhance the beauty of their property. How does the program work?

Send a check for \$20.00 to the Fairhaven Improvement Association and you will receive a voucher that entitles you to purchase double the amount — \$40.00 — of shrubbery at Kenny's Farm Stand on Huttleston Avenue.

The offer is available to Fairhaven residents only. One voucher per family is allowed.

For a limited time Kenny has offered to add another \$10.00 allowance to your doubled voucher giving you a total of \$50.00 in buying power at his nursery. This offer will be honored from May 1 to July 1, 2015. If you decide to use your voucher after that date, it will be good for \$40.00 but not for the special stated above.

The voucher may be used for the shrubbery listed only. It may not be used for any other merchandise in the nursery.

There will be no money exchange. For instance, if your shrubbery bill comes to \$47.75, there will be no money returned to you.

The list of shrubbery available includes the following: Andromeda, Azalea, Boxwood, Butterfly Bush, Holly, Hydrangea, Lilac, PJM, Rhododendron, Wisteria

The voucher will expire September 30, 2015. The voucher program ends when all allocated funds have been depleted but no later than September 30, 2015.

Contact Monika Whalley 508 992 5697 or monikawhalley@hotmail.com for more information.

Send \$20 and self-addressed stamped envelope, to the Fairhaven Improvement Association, PO Box 404, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Be sure to include your phone number.

Name: _____

Add: _____

Phone: _____

Incomplete applications will not be processed.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighnews@comcast.net (Email preferred)

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John Zolotas
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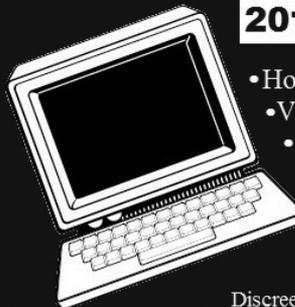
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| Baked Stuffed Shrimp | \$15.95 |
| Chicken Diane..... | \$10.95 |
| Scrod Princess Shrimp Asparagus..... | \$14.95 |
| Lobster a la King Over Pasta | \$15.95 |

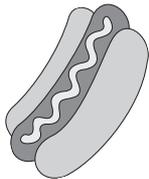
Mother's Day Breakfast Sun., 5/10 (closing at 2 p.m.)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Crab Cake Benedict | Strawberries With |
| Filet Mignon Benedict | Fresh Cream Crepes |
| Strawberry Cheesecake | Homemade Hash & Eggs |
| and French Toast | Nantucket Omelette |
| | (Lobster chives cream cheese) |

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Town meeting makes quick work of spending \$53.5 million

By Beth David
Editor

The final annual town meeting for the doom-and-gloom specialists, aka, Fairhaven Finance Committee Chair John Roderiques and Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, sped by in record time, finishing up a few minutes before 1 p.m.

Mr. Osuch has announced his retirement, and his position is being transformed into a Town Administrator... well, someday anyway. That transition is still in the works, and Mr. Osuch has said he will stick around until it is completed, so, he might make it back on that stage if the town has a Special TM (STM) in the next few months.

Mr. Roderiques, who has been threatening (or promising) to retire for at least five years, has served on FinCom since 1999 and has been chair for about five. This year, he made it official. He will not serve on FinCom anymore.

Both men received a standing ovation from TM.

As is tradition, the first Saturday in May was extraordinarily beautiful outside, but people still piled in. Because they were so close to finishing at lunch time, members agreed with Moderator Mark Sylvia to power through instead of taking lunch, a good move since traditionally a lot of TM members do not return after lunch.

Most budget items passed without discussion, including the \$18,737,194 school budget.

A few items in the regular department budgets were held for discussion, including one of the smallest budgets, which got one of the longest discussions.

Town Curator Al Benac asked that the \$1,000 for his Fine Arts budget be increased to \$1,500 to allow him to buy a custom-designed oak table to display a hand-made replica of the Charels W. Morgan. He said the CWM should be "shown as a work of art," behind glass.

"I'm sorry, if every gift we get is [going to] cost us money," maybe we should not accept them," said Mr. Roderiques.

Mr. Benac persisted, "For \$500 you're gonna blow all kinds of money here."

Moderator Mark Sylvia gave Mr. Roderiques a chance to respond, but all he said was, "no."

"You can tell it's his last meeting," quipped Mr. Sylvia.

In the only article that FinCom got overruled on, the measure passed. Mr. Benac will get his oak table.

Other items that required explanation included a large increase in the salaries for town hall. The extra money is due to an anticipated overlapping of Mr. Osuch's salary along with the new TA.

A \$2,000 capital outlay expenditure under Shellfish Inspection also required some explanation. The money will be used to repair some docks in the lobster basin at Union Wharf, not to be confused with the state project on the other side of the pier. Mr. Roderiques admitted that the spending for both shellfish and Harbor-master are lumped together and should



ABOVE: Fairhaven Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, with his familiar pile of papers in front of him, speaks at Fairhaven Town Meeting on 5/2. He is retiring this year after XX years as the board's Executive Secretary. BELOW: Finance Committee chairperson John Roderiques, with his signature oversized drink cup nearby, addresses town meeting for the last time as Fincom chair. He asked not be re-appointed after 16 years on the committee, 10 of them as chair. Beth David photos.



probably be renamed "Marine Resources."

A \$92,000 increase in "curb/hard surface" also raised eyebrows with TM member Ann Ponichtera DeNardis. The increase is due to the extra damage done to roads this past winter from heavy snow. The state will reimburse some of the money.

In a bit of a turnaround from last year, the Finance Committee supported spending \$8,000 for a review of all non-union personnel job descriptions.

TM member David Dias said that the new Town Administrator should be reviewing the descriptions.

"If you recall, we had a nice little discussion on this last year," said Mr. Roderiques, adding that the town could wait no longer. He reminded TM that department heads are also non-union. The article passed.

This year's town meeting was the first one that separated capital spending items such as vehicles and other large purchases. Previously, those expenditures were a line item in individual budgets.

TM member James Stuart said the \$36,928 for a pickup truck for the police department was not necessary. He said the new SUV's that the department uses should be able to haul equipment and material from crime scenes.

"I do not feel we need this at this time," said Mr. Stuart, adding that the town never seems to budget for the cheapest vehicles. "Sometimes we go overboard. The time has come we need to tighten our belt."

Police Chief Michael Myers explained that the department has two boats that are too heavy for the SUVs to pull, and the department has other items it moves, such as barricades and cones that are too big for the SUVs. More important, he said, is that the department cannot wait for a vehicle to hook up to a boat to respond to an emergency on the water. He said that currently, the department uses the personal vehicle of an officer to move the boats.

Capital Planning Committee chairperson Andrew "Drew" Tillett told TM that the committee carefully reviewed all requests and did not approve them all. He said the PD's request was not "frivolous."

"They can't be sharing trucks," he said.

Shellfish Warden/Assistant Harbor-master Timothy Cox also weighed in, saying that his department relies on the police department to assist with rescues.

"Buzzards Bay is a fairly large bay," said Mr. Cox.

TM passed the spending.

This is also the first year that a capital planning stabilization fund was created. TM not only passed \$422,768 in capital expenditures, but also authorized \$400,000 for the stabilization fund.

Vehicles seemed to be the sticking point again when TM member Daniel DeNardis questioned \$44,000 for the sewer department to get a new pickup truck. He said that when he was on the FinCom, old vehicles were passed onto other departments.

TM: cont'd on next page

TM: cont'd from previous page

Mr. Roderiques explained that the truck is a replacement, not an addition.

"The vehicle has had it," said Mr. Roderiques. "We're maintaining the fleet."

TM passed the spending.

Resident Thomas Melanson and the Government Study Committee batted zero on Saturday.

Mr. Melanson owns a piece of property near Tootle Lane that is zoned Park District, not to be confused with parks. There are three areas in town that are in the Park District: Mr. Melanson's, part of Fort Phoenix, and the baseball fields on Shaw Road. The designation allows certain kinds of commercial uses, such as a campground. Mr. Melanson asked town meeting, in two separate articles, to change the use regulations in the bylaw to allow him to install a cell tower and to build a solar farm.

The Planning Board did vote to approve the wireless request, but had two dissensions, including Rene Fleurent. He told TM that he did not support the article because he felt that Mr. Melanson should re-zone his property instead.

Antonio "Tony" Lopes spoke in favor of the changes, arguing that everyone has a cell phone and needs to get a signal.

"It's a bummer when you don't," he said.

For the solar article, moderator Mark Sylvia left the room and turned the mike over to assistant moderator Christopher Bunnell.

Mr. Melanson told TM members that he was paying \$12,000 a year in taxes and could not keep up with it. He said using the property for the solar farm seemed to be the "best use and business choice."

PB chairperson Wayne Hayward, however, said that his board did not recommend passing the article because the PB would not be able to give Mr. Melanson the special permit he would need for a solar farm. The solar bylaw states that no clear-cutting can be done for five years.

"He has a completely wooded lot," said Mr. Hayward.

Mr. Benac gave another effort this year to stop the sidewalk project. Community Preservation Committee funds will be used to restore the sidewalks around town hall, the Millicent Library and the Unitarian Memorial Church. The project will be done in three phases, this year was phase two spending. Mr. Benac took exception to the plans, which call for narrowing the sidewalks by two feet. The same bricks are supposed to be used, and the reduction in size is due to anticipated damage of bricks as they are removed.

Mr. Benac also said the plan for a wheelchair curb cut in the middle of the

block was not well planned.

"My mother always told me to cross at the corner," he said.

That fight, he lost. TM voted to approve the CPC spending.

A series of articles petitioned by the Town Government Study Committee got voted down, including \$15,000 for an Information Technology assessment; restructuring the Finance Committee, instituting term limits for elected officials, and town meeting procedural changes.

Those opposed to the IT spending said that the assessment is something the new town administrator should be involved in.

TSGC members said that it was an assessment and should not wait for a TA to be hired, with TSGC chairperson Phil Washko calling it a "no-brainer."

TSGC member Bernie Roderick said that when the committee did its research it found that "nearly every single depart-



Fairhaven Town Meeting member James Stuart tries to convince fellow TM members that the police department does not need a pick-up truck. The measure passed anyway. *Photo by Beth David.*

ment" had IT problems.

He said the town could find the \$15,000 in a \$53 million budget.

"It's chump change," said Mr. Roderick. "It's not gonna break the bank. Don't stop thinking about tomorrow."

The FinCom restructuring article received some debate, with FinCom Chair John Roderiques saying he had no problem with the reduction from 13 to 7 members, and he had no problem with the moderator being the appointing authority. Mr. Roderiques did, however, state that the appointments should be required to come from each precinct.

"The biggest problem I have is the lack of geographic representation," he said.

A bit of TM theater kind of fell flat when PB chairperson Wayne Hayward got to the microphone and said he would not give his precinct, as is the custom. The Moderator seemed not to get his point and the two went back and forth for a bit before Mr. Hayward complied with the

request to say which part of town he lives in. He said there is a reason that people are supposed to give their precincts, because it does matter which areas of town they represent.

Former FinCom and Selectboard member Michael Silvia explained how he had to wait his turn to get on FinCom because of the geographic requirement. He said the moderator was an "excellent person" to be deciding if geography should trump other qualifications.

Ann Ponichtera DeNardis spoke against the FinCom changes, saying that the moderator would have too much power. The FinCom votes on all spending articles and has enormous sway, and the moderator could fill the committee with people who would do a favor.

To put all that in the "hands of one person is not democracy," said Ms. Ponichera DeNardis.

"When Mr. Roderiques speaks, people listen," she said.

There was also some discussion as to whether or not the moderator should be included in the term limits, since the rationale for leaving out that position was that it was not an appointing authority. If the moderator did appoint the FinCom, then that would change.

In the end it did not matter because neither article passed.

The term limits article got some rather feisty discussion going, with School Committee member Brian Monroe getting a few laughs as he asked where all the favors and perks are that term limits are supposed to guard against. He also said the argument that people do not win against incumbents is flawed. In 2011 he ran in a field with two incumbents.

"And I'd like to remind you, I beat you both," he said to the two who are back on the committee with him.

He said the idea that he should have to stop running after three terms, then run the next year against someone he believes is doing a good job, is "bunk."

He said it was insulting to think he got favors for his position, saying the most he could hope for would be a bus stop.

He said it might make sense on the national level, but on the local level: "I think it's wrong."

His fellow committee member Stasia Powers also spoke against the measure, agreeing that term limits are fine on the national level, but not on the local level.

"It's not big government, it's small government," said Ms. Powers.

She noted that it is difficult to get people to run as it is and putting term

TM: cont'd on page 20

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Kool Kids is for children entering grades 1-age 12 Children will have fun each day by participating in a variety of sports, games and art activities. Each session will also include special themed events. Children are grouped by the Grade they will enter in the Fall. Don't miss out on this great summer program. Last year's program was full almost every week. Sign up early so we can take more participants than last year **\$130. Per week for members, sibling discounts available**, also non member rates. Hours: Monday thru Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Drop off 7:45 a.m.. Pick up 3pm. Extended day: a.m. only (7 a.m.), \$25; p.m. only (4 p.m.), \$25; Both \$40

Youth Track & Field

This summer, Fairhaven Recreation will be continuing our youth track and field program for children ages 3 through grade 8. This program starts at the end of the school year and runs for 4 weeks. The program is **free with your play card** and will meet 2 days a week at Cushman Park from 6-8 p.m. Program starts June 29th (Mondays 7 Wednesdays)

Summer Tennis

Tykes (ages 5-8) And Superstars (ages 9-10)

- **Tykes:** July 7, July 30, Tues. & Thurs. 9:00-10:00AM
 - **Superstars:** July 7-July 30 Tues. & Thurs., 10:00-11:00 AM
 - **Futures:** (ages 11-16) Session 1, Aug. 3-6 Mon-Thur, 9-Noon; Session 2, Aug. 10-13 Mon-Thur 9-Noon
- Tykes & Superstars, \$50 Members/\$60 Non Members; Futures, \$65 Members/\$75 Non Members**

Casino Trip

June 10th, Mohegan Sun. Leave Rec 8am, Return to Rec 7pm Cost \$20.00 casino package included (\$15. Meal credit \$10 bet coupon MUST PRE-REGISTER

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Mall Trips

May 13: Providence Place Mall, Whole Foods
May 20: South Shore Plaza
May 27: Wrentham Village

Entertainment

4/30: Ray Jay • 5/7: Ray Jay • 5/14: J Rodd Trio
5/28: Ray Jay

Special Activities

Learn to play Bridge

Learn To Play Bridge, Fun, Social, Challenging. Perfect for new players, whist players, or those who want to brush up on their game.

Classes are held at The Fairhaven Senior Center, 8 weeks starting June 1st-July 27th, Mondays 1-3:00 p.m. \$88.00 including taxes. For more information contact Jocelyn at 508-997-3029 or goranj@comcast.net.

Maintain Your Independence

"How to Maintain Your Independence, June 3, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Fairhaven Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven. **RSVP by May 28**, to 508-979-4029 or 508-748-1331. Lunch served. Raffles.

Bike Group

Join the new Bike Group and enjoy the Fairhaven Bike Path. We will meet Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. outside the Fairhaven Senior Center at the front entrance. Bring your bike, helmet, a water and your enthusiasm. Thurs., May 7th at 1:00 p.m. Need more info, call Anne at 508-524-3752.

Single Seniors

The Single Senior Supper Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month for a nice meal and

conversation. If you are a single senior 60 and over and would like to attend please call the Senior Center to sign up by the Friday before the event. A \$3.00 donation is suggested.

Southcoast LGBT

The South Coast LGBT Seniors (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month for a nice meal and friendship for seniors 60 and older. Please call the senior center to sign up by the Friday before the event. A \$3.00 donation is suggested.

Sewing Circle

Do you want to learn to sew or maybe do a little quilting? Join us at the Fairhaven Senior Center and meet Debbie as she shares her sewing expertise. The Sewing Group will meet on May 11th and May 18th from 1-3 p.m. In June the group will meet on the 8th and 15th from 1-3 p.m.

Cops 'n Donuts

At the Fairhaven Senior Center with Det. Janice Bubluski, Elder Safety Office in Fairhaven. She has some important messages to share. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and have a donut of course. please call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 for the next date.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

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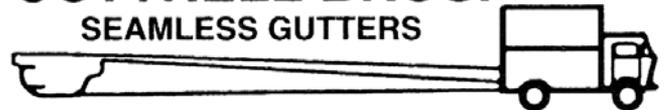


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56th Annual Acushnet Art Show looking for artists

Press Release

Calling all artists. The 56th Annual Acushnet Art Show will be held on Saturday, June 6th (2:00-8:00 p.m.) and Sunday, June 7th (1:00-5:00 p.m.) at the Acushnet Council on Aging and

Senior Center, 59 1/2 South Main St., Acushnet.

Any Acushnet resident age 16+ may exhibit. Beginners always welcome.

Features include: Watercolor, Oil, Acrylic. Pastels, Air Brush,

Photography, Jewelry, Crafts and so much more! Contact Dianna Couto, 508-995-4238 for more information or to enter.

This project is supported, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Blood Drive to be held in Acushnet

The American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood this May in honor of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on May 8, the birthday of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement founder, Henry Dunant.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day recognizes the local and global impact of the Red Cross mission. For more than 130 years, the American Red Cross has been helping people, including those in need of blood transfusions, in communities across the U.S. It is the only blood services organization that also provides disaster relief, services for active and veteran military personnel and their families, and health and safety training.

Last year, about 3.1 million volun-

teer blood donors rolled up a sleeve to help the Red Cross meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals nationwide. Donors of all blood types — especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative — are needed to help ensure blood is available for patients this spring.

To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those who are unable to give blood can support blood donations and invite others to make a lifesaving donation by creating a SleevesUp virtual blood drive at redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp.

The next local blood drive is in Acushnet, on Thursday, 5/14, from

1 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Acushnet Council on Aging, 59 1/2 South Main Street

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival showcases local talent

The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society and the Fairhaven Colonial Club held the third annual Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival on Sunday, in Cooke Park.

The day included free activities for children, a picnic box lunch, origami, and display of Japanese items and clothing. Activities also included Japanese taiko drumming and kempo karate demonstration.

The taiko group explained that all of those playing had been taught by Mark Rooney, an Acushnet taiko teacher. Mr. Rooney's parents, Gerry

and Ayako Rooney, are on the board of the society. The group also played pieces that the younger Mr. Rooney wrote. The performance was well received by the crowd.

Mark Rooney and his wife now reside in College Park, MD, and the elementary school that Mrs. Abe (Japanese Prime Minister's wife) visited last week with Michelle Obama, presented a youth taiko concert, taught and led by Mark.

The Festival was held at the Cooke Park, where six Japanese Cherry Trees were planted, part of a gift of 17



trees donated to the town by Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara.

Four of the original trees died, so the town replaced them with other cherry trees and added on more. There are now seven cherry trees at Cooke Park; the two early-



ABOVE: Ann Richard tells the Manjiro story with the "kamishibai" or paper theater at the third annual Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival at Cooke Park in Fairhaven. LEFT: The taiko drumming group, Shindaiko, performs for the crowd at the festival. Submitted photos.

blooming trees are from Dr. Hinohara.

Fairhaven's special relationship with Japan dates back to 1841, when 14-year-old Manjiro was shipwrecked on an island in the Pacific and was rescued by Fairhaven whaling captain William Whitfield. For more information on Manjiro's story visit www.Whitfield-Manjiro.org



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From our readers

Thank you from the W15K

This year's West Island 5K had a total registration of 625. (200 less than last year). Probably a tough winter limited training and a couple of new 5Ks popped up this weekend.

The total profit was \$7,000 (difference from last year was due to the loss of 200 registrants and a couple of less monetary sponsors)

We would like to thank all our sponsors, who made this year's 5K a success: Platinum sponsor Colonial South Coast, which donated the pace Jeep vehicle for race prep and \$1,000 sponsorship; Platinum sponsor Brahmin, which donated a handbag for raffle and \$650 sponsorship; Platinum sponsor Anonymous Donor, In Memory of C.I.M. for \$1,000; Gold Sponsor Gail Isaksen for hosting the pre-race spaghetti dinner and a \$500 donation; Jack Conway & Company, Kids Mile Sponsor; Mile marker sponsors, Howe Allen Realty, Marc Gadbois General Contracting, and Ryan Realty and Associates; Wicked Kickin' Savory Cheesecakes, Town Beach Water Stop Sponsor; Colin Veitch from Harbor Light Photog-

raphy for donating a photography package worth more than \$200 for our raffle.

Proceeds from the race will go to the Fairhaven High School Cross Country program and the non-profit Strive and Achieve (www.striveandachieve.org). The race also gives scholarships to graduating seniors in the cross country program at FHS.

The race was also able to donate \$5,000 to Deb Demers, whose husband, Crispin Demers, a runner and coach, died from cancer in 2012. The money will be used for educational expenses for the couple's twins.

Lyle Drew, Race Director

Serious probles with two town committees

There are serious problems on two of the Town's committees, the Historical Commission (HC) and the Beautification Committee (BC). Both are dominated by the same group of individuals who seem to be interconnected. Town Committees should reflect the makeup of the Town, and not be controlled by a

single group or clique. Why has the Board of Selectmen (BOS) appointed the same group to both Commissions?

The Beautification issue fracas began with the Historical Commission (HC):

(1) Massachusetts Open Meeting Law Guide requires that "All open meetings of public bodies must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Meeting locations must be accessible by wheelchair, without the need for special assistance."

I brought this to the attention of Mr. Espindola, then, the Board of Selectmen Chairman. He quickly acted on the accessibility issue as he was the Ex-Officio on the HC. The meeting was moved to the Fire Station on Washington Street.

(2) The Beautification Committee (BC) is dominated by the same clique that sits on the Historical Commission. At BC meetings complaints were heatedly raised regarding the change of venue for the Historical Commission. Why? The two Committees should be separate and distinct. This

LETTERS: cont'd to page 22



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Town Meeting Quotable Quotes

That doesn't come easy [John Roderiques on the Selectboard and FinCom agreeing on all spending articles]

You will recall, we had a nice little discussion on this last year [John Roderiques on the non-union personnel review]

I'll write you a check from my \$800 [Moderator Mark Sylvia to assistant moderator Chris Bunnell for continuing to moderate even after Mr. Sylvia returned to the stage]

SOS: Save Our Sidewalks [Al Benac, trying to get TM to reconsider the plan to make sidewalks around town hall two feet narrower]

My mother always told me to cross at the corner [Al Benac, advocating for not putting a wheelchair ramp in the middle of the block in front of town hall]

It's chump change. It's not gonna break the bank [Bernie Roderick advocating for \$15,000 for an IT study]

The previous speaker stole my thunder [Rich Griffiths about Bernie Roderick, both advocating for the IT article]

I got a little ahead of myself [moderator Mark Sylvia when he nearly skipped over an article]

My good friend and not my real brother [former Selectboard member Mike Silvia referring to Moderator Mark Sylvia, who have erroneously been called out as brothers in the past]

When Mr. Roderiques speaks, people listen [Ann Ponichtera DeNardis]

If the Charles W Morgan is not part of Fairhaven history, why did we put it on the cover of the 2015 annual report? [Dan DeNardis in support of Mr. Benac's request for an extra \$500 in his budget to buy an oak table to display a replica of the CWM]

I'm sorry, if every gift is [going to] cost us money, maybe we should not accept them [John Roderiques]

For \$500 we're gonna blow all kinds of money here [Al Benac]

How, I don't know [Al Benac, pondering how it will save the trees to cut their roots, as specified in the sidewalks article]

You can tell it's his last meeting [moderator Mark Sylvia referring to John Roderiques when he just said "no" when asked if he wanted to comment again on Mr. Benac's request for the oak table]

It's a bummer when you don't [Tony Lopes referring to not being able to get a cell signal, in support of a bylaw change for Tom Melanson looking to install a cell tower on his property]

I think they should stay as long as they can take it [Linda Therrien speaking against term limits for elected officials]

There's nothing wrong with this town meeting body...And overall, I am damned proud to be a part of it [John Roderiques]

And I'd like to remind you, I beat you both [Brian Monroe when speaking to the reasons for term limits, which included that it is difficult to beat incumbents]

Or SHE...[Moderator Mark Sylvia correcting Selectboard chair Geoffrey Haworth when talking about the yet-to-be-hired town administrator]

TM: cont'd from page 13

limits on some people who are already in office and doing a good job will create a "vacuum."

"We already have term limits," said Board of Public Works member Daniel Freitas. "Every [first] Monday in April."

Linda Therrien said she felt Fairhaven's elected officials were doing a "wonderful job."

"I think they should stay as long as they can take it," she said.

The article would have called for a town-wide ballot question to decide the matter. TM voted against it.

The TSGC sponsored article for changes in town meeting also failed. The article included changing the quorum from 100 to 40% of the TM members (about 170) and to formally require using

Robert's Rules of Order to run the meeting, along with other procedural changes. But it was the quorum change that killed the measure.

"I don't see how instituting a quorum [change] increases attendance," said Mr. Roderiques.

"It's been working," he said of TM as a whole, adding that he has disagreed with some of the decisions. "But historically, this town meeting has done okay. It works."

He said the recommended changes should be part of a town charter review and not a "hodge podge" of bylaws changes.

"There's nothing wrong with this town meeting body," said Mr. Roderiques, adding that he has seen some of the same people there for decades, and "that's not a bad thing."

He said it has been effective.

"And overall, I am damned proud to be a part of it," he said.

In other business, Town Meeting:

- Authorized \$18,000 to search for the Town Administrator;
- Gave a conservation restriction, to a "nonprofit" for land owned by the Conservation Commission on the south side of Bridge Street. The Buzzards Bay Coalition is the nonprofit in question. The CR was given at no cost to the BBC.
- Authorized \$4,000 to prepare and advertise a new RFP for the Oxford and Rogers School buildings.
- Authorized \$8,000 for maintenance on the Oxford and Rogers School Buildings. Articles authorizing sale of the buildings were passed over, as the two proposals received for the buildings were rejected by the Selectboard

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Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing at **6:30 P.M. on May 26, 2015**, in the East Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following application: The applicant, *Papa's Fuels and Lawn Care, LLC*, is requesting a Special Permit to construct a 9,590 SF commercial building including parking and landscaping. The location is 294 Huttleston Avenue, Map 31B, Lot 60B. A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the application call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9.

Wayne Hayward, Chairman of the Planning Board

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Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Public Works

Mon., 5/18, Arsene St. 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 5/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council on Aging

Mon., 5/11, Senior Ctr., 9:30 a.m.

Cultural Council

Mon., 5/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Dog Park Committee

Thurs., 5/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Government Study Comm.

Thurs., 5/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Marine Res./Boat Ramps

Wed., 5/20, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 5/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 5/13, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 5/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Agricultural Commission

Thurs., 5/21, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wed., 5/13, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 5/7, Parting Ways Bldg. 6:30

Selectboard

Fri., 5/8, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Mon., 5/11, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Town Meeting

Mon., 6/1, Ford MS, 7 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

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| Friday | 8 | 1156 | ---- | 0451* | 1701' |
| Saturday | 9 | 0018 | 1253 | 0537* | 1752 |
| Sunday | 10 | 0116 | 1351 | 0632 | 1857 |
| Monday | 11 | 0215 | 1448 | 0741 | 2014 |
| Tuesday | 12 | 0312 | 1547 | 0848 | 2126 |
| Wednesday | 13 | 0413 | 1650 | 0950 | 2242 |
| Thursday | 14 | 0519 | 1751 | 1055* | ---- |
| Friday | 15 | 0616 | 1842 | 0000* | ---- |

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LETTERS: cont'd from page 19

group didn't like moving their meeting for the Historical Commission, and they have retaliated via the Beautification Committee. The HC had been in non-compliance with Massachusetts law for some length of time.

(3) The Historic Academy Museum is over 200 years old. The furniture needed to be preserved as it is a museum. Repeated sitting at the chairs and desks will destroy these artifacts. They are essentially unprotected wood. Further, it was built as a children's classroom from the early 1800's. Modern-sized adults are squeezing themselves into the chairs behind the desks. The wear and tear will eventually destroy what is supposed to be a museum. Why [did] the group insist on using a museum room and furniture as a venue for a modern meeting?

(4) The Historical Commission agenda is never provided in sufficient detail. Massachusetts Open Meeting Law Guide (page 6) requires that "the list of topics must be sufficiently specific to reasonably inform the public of the issues to be discussed at the meeting." The Historical Commis-

sion has not been in compliance. The same agenda titles are recycled continually: Financial Report, Academy Building, Old Stone School House, Fire Museum, Ft. Phoenix, and House Plaques. As each monthly meeting was announced, the same headings are used without any details. What is going on?

In the December meeting, HC had a presentation on the Bates property with the owners in attendance. On their agenda for that month was listed "Bates House" again with no details as to the issue. With the Bates name in my family, I would have liked to have learned about this house and heard the presentation. In the past, calls and emails to the Chairman were not answered or returned. This was when I decided to file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office Division of Open Meeting Law. The HC was not being responsive and needed to be directed to change to ensure they operated fully in compliance with regulations and the law.

5) There are only six appointed members on the Beautification Committee who attend meetings.* It

is highly unusual to have one group controlling both the HC and BC. The allegations from this group are not true, and the issues are being purposely distorted to take the attention off themselves. In this day and age, with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) commonly known, you would think people would comply automatically. Why hasn't the BOS seen this sooner and acted by untangling the appointments to the Historical Commission and Beautification Committee? They should be separate and distinct.

Boards, Committees and Commissions are not autonomous from Town Government. It is crucial that the BOS review their committees to ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Karen Vilandry, Fairhaven

**Editor's Note: According to the town clerk's office, there are 12 members on the Beautification Committee and 13 members on the Historical Commission.*



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Year round maintenance is available for \$100.00 per year. This includes clean-up around headstone, first seasonal planting and mulch. The site will be maintained monthly and a photo will be sent through e-mail monthly.

Seasonal plantings will be done once in the spring and once in the fall at a cost of \$45 each time. Holiday decorations are available on request at \$45.00.

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**J&L Cemetery Plot Maintenance & Design services Greater New Bedford, Mass.,
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