



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 3 • January 22, 2015

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

NEWEA Recognizes Fairhaven's Linda Schick



Fairhaven's Sewer/Wastewater Superintendent Linda L. Schick stands in front of the gas holder while looking at Damien and Dolores (L-R), the nicknames for the two tanks of the town's anaerobic digester system at the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The digester uses microorganisms to digest the sewage, which creates methane (in the big round gas holder) that is then used to power the plant and keep the digester warm so that the microbes can continue to digest. The system has saved the town thousands in electric costs. The New England Water Environment Association has recognized Ms. Schick with the Mass. Operator Award for 2014. See page 12 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*



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Also Inside:

- **Selectboard mulls raised:** Page 4
- **Acushnet news:** Page 18
- **Hydraulic fluid spills:** Page 13
- **Letters:** Page 22

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Here we go, another week, another little miracle.

We have all kinds of fun stuff in this week's issue. The cover leads you to our own Linda Schick, who has been recognized by her peers for a great job running Fairhaven's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

See page 12 for that and for a quick rundown of how the WWTP works. Although, I admit, it's a bit more complicated than it might appear at first, so....nah...I'm sure I got it all right. Ahem.

Let's move onto something a bit outside our ken this week. I just can't help mentioning that auto dealer in Westport that got a taste of karma last week. Holy moly! Did you see that? It was all over the broadcast outlets and totally blew up on social media.

Some bullies at F&R auto in Westport gave Jarrid Tansey a hard time. They gave him a \$7+ tip on pizza he delivered. Then they made him return to the dealership and return the tip, berating him for thinking they would give him such a huge tip. You can see the video on YouTube yourself if you want. It's all over the place.

The thing is that the people who worked for the company thought they were so in the right making the delivery man go back and return the \$7. They said they'd like to get him fired. The woman said she would put her foot in his...well, you know.

And they recorded it all. It's unclear if it was with Jarrid's knowledge or not, but that's a separate matter.

The point is that they wanted to get this minimum-wage worker fired for making an honest mistake. They posted the video to try and make him look bad. Turns out, he was very reasonable in the video, simply asking politely why they gave him a five if they wanted it back.

Then the video went viral, meaning it caught on like wildfire. Someone started a GoFundMe.com page called "Get Jarrid his tip money," and people started donating. Many of the donations were for \$7. When the donations hit \$31,693 (yes, that's not a typo), the donations were shut down at Jarrid's request, according to the page.

He told one news outlet he was going to use the money to start a college fund for his one-year-old son.

I'd say that's one lucky kid, and not just because he has a college fund, but because he's got a decent guy for a dad.

There are so many lessons to be learned from this one. F&R Auto issued a statement saying the woman with the foot was fired, but she disputed that on the radio.

No matter. The populace has spoken, and it picked Jarrid.

Good job, Everyone.

I've got to get me one of those gofundmeaccounts.

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Contents

Acushnet News	18
Black ice causes rollover accident	6
Classifieds	21
Coat drive nets more than 150 coats	13
COVER: Linda Schick recognized	12
Fairhaven Selectboard discusses raises	4
Fairhaven's anaerobic digester	12
Happenings	5, 8, 9
Hydraulic fluid spilled in Fairhaven.....	13
Legal Notices/Public Hearings.....	21
Letter from the editor.....	2
Letters to the editor.....	22
Recipe of the week	10
Recreation Center this week.....	14
Senior Center this week	14
Tides	21
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet	21

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our Planning Board article last week, we used the wrong name for the chairperson several times. He is Wayne Hayward. We apologize for the error.

In our article on the Board of Public Works we made a mistake on the Lemos hearing. The board did not refund

the money. The board decided to wait until the meter has been tested. Also, any instructions to run the water would fall under the purview of the water department, not the sewer department.

We apologize for any confusion our errors caused.

Fhvn cultural council distributes \$6.5K

Press Release

The Fairhaven Cultural Council is happy to announce they were able to distribute more than \$6,500 to 18 local organizations to provide a variety of culturally based educational and community programming in 2015.

"We're excited to see more and more organizations apply each year, and to see the variety of projects applicants are working on," says Kristine Daniels, council president. "Between our state allocation of money and the town's generous funding, we are able to support a number of different groups this year."

This year's grant recipients include music associations performing concert series, artists and artistic organizations, individuals performing at local venues, theater productions, and local festivals.

The Fairhaven Cultural Council aims to bring a mix of cultural programming to people of all ages living in the community. This year's grant recipients range from classic productions, historical programs, and more modern artistic projects that

can be enjoyed by individuals of all ages. Highlights of funded programs for the coming year include a concert at the Benoit Square Gazebo, the 15th Annual Fairhaven Manjiro Festival, and "The Art of Fairhaven, Past, Present and Future" exhibit at Art on Center.

To view the entire list of recipients and learn more about each program, please visit the Fairhaven Cultural Council's website at fairhaven.culturalcouncil.blogspot.com or follow their facebook page at facebook.com/FairhavenCulturalCouncil.

The Fairhaven Cultural Council has one grant cycle each year, open to any individuals or organizations providing cultural programming to residents of Fairhaven. The grant cycle opens each fall in mid-

September; to learn more about how to apply, please visit the Fairhaven Cultural Council's local page at mass-culture.org/Fairhaven.

I make mistakes;
I'll be the second to
admit it.

Jean Kerr

Support the Food Pantry

This bin is in the Walnut Street lobby of the Millicent Library in Fairhaven. Another bin is at Stop & Shop. All food goes to the Shepherd's Pantry, 1215 Main Street, Acushnet (508-763-9289). The pantry has seen a sharp increase in families seeking food due to the worsening economy.



The Pantry spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week.

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

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Selectboard to Personnel Board: not so fast on raising salaries

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard held off on voting on recommendations by the Personnel Board to increase the salaries of several town employees and on the reclassification of several others. All the changes would result in raises for the non-union workers.

At its meeting on January 12, the board discussed two memos by Director of Finance Wendy Graves. One, dated December 24, asks the Selectboard to reclassify Health Agent Pat Fowle and Building Commissioner Wayne Fostin from level 17-5 up to 18-5 (\$32.14 to \$34.07) for an annual increase of \$4,014.40 each.

That letter also asks to increase Administrative Assistant Jane Bettencourt from level 5-5 to level 7-3 (\$15.95 to \$16.49), for a \$533.52 annual increase; and Council on Aging Assistant Coordinator Susan Roderiques from level 5-5 to level 7-5 (\$15.9 to \$17.49) for a \$4,139.20 annual increase.

The other letter asks for the

Selectboard to create a new level of 21, which would consist of five steps ranging from \$34.32 to \$40.55. That letter also asks the board to reclassify Sewer Superintendent Linda Schick, and Water Superintendent Ed Fortin into the new level at step 5 (\$38.25 to \$40.5) for a \$4,784 annual increase.

It also asks that Accounts Payable Clerk Joyce Shepard be bumped up from level 7-5 to level 9-3 (\$17.94 to \$18.57) or a \$633.44 annual increase.

The letter asks the Selectboard to increase the stipends for the water/sewer superintendents to the same as the union stipends.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Haworth said the problem is how to pay for it.

Selectboard member Charles Murphy, who also sits on the Personnel Board, defended the requests. He said the Personnel Board had asked for money for a consultant at Town Meeting, but it was denied, and so they did the review of the jobs themselves.

He said, "one person," who later was obviously Ms. Fowle, had been in the job for 19 years, "and the job has changed."

He said she has reached the maximum at her level and the job needs to be reclassified.

He pushed the board to vote for the changes, saying he was personally in favor of them and would vote for them.

"I'm in full support of these," he said.

Selectboard chairperson Bob Espindola seemed to be leaning more towards Mr. Haworth's position.

He said that while he agreed that they were all good town employees, he was concerned about the

"domino effect" on the town.

He said there should be a more uniform approach, that all jobs should be looked at. He also reminded everyone that the Department of Revenue recommended the elimination of the Personnel Board.

"The question is, can the town afford this," said Mr. Haworth. "And I don't know now. I'd like to give all of them all they want."

He agreed that the job descriptions were "antiquated."

Mr. Murphy pressed on. He said it was not just because they were "great employees," but that their jobs had changed and the salaries should reflect that.

Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch also said that finding the money was the issue. He said budgets were due the same week and the budgets would not reflect the increases.

"You have to be sure you can pay for it," agreed Mr. Haworth.

They asked Ms. Graves to work up some numbers for them.

The board also discussed the creation of a Level 21 and increasing stipends to match union amounts.

Mr. Murphy reiterated his argument that job duties have changed over the years. He said that some people "are at a stuck level," with nowhere left to go.

Some public works employees, including DPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado waited around a long time for the discussion.

Mr. Furtado told the board that the town traditionally put the water and sewer superintendents at the same level as the highway superintendent. He said the changes would reflect that.

Mr. Murphy also reminded the board that the non-union employees have no other avenue to get a raise. They have to go to the personnel board and then the selectboard has to vote on it, as opposed to the union employees that have the union to negotiate for them.

And so it went, as Mr. Murphy pushed for the board to vote yes and Mr. Haworth and Mr. Espindola hesitated.

"It's the same thing," said Mr. Haworth. "Show me the numbers."

The board will take up the matter at its meeting on 1/26.

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

FAME Super Subs

See page 16 to order your subs for Super Bowl Sunday and support the Fairhaven Association for Music Education. D/L to order is 1/26.

Flood Ins. Meeting

See letter on page 22. A consultant who helps towns with the Community Rating System, which helps reduce the cost of flood insurance for homeowners, will be at the Selectboard meeting on 1/26. See letter on page 22 for details.

Fish Pier Meeting

See page 21.

Boating Classes

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary, 80 Middle St., Fairhaven, is holding two separate classes.

Many insurance companies will offer discounts on boat insurance to individuals who successfully complete either one of these courses. 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.

Sailing Skills and Seamanship

Course: First Class is Mon., 2/2, from 7-9 p.m., for boaters, sailors, fishermen, personal watercraft operators. Course is 14 weeks on Mondays through May 18. Final Exam and Graduation May 11, 2015. \$40 for course materials (book and chart)

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Register online for either course at <http://a0130605.uscgaux.info>

Free play group

A free Play & Learn group for infants and toddlers will be held on

Fridays from 9:30-10:30, now through 2/20, at the Millicent Library, 45 Center Street, Fairhaven

Come explore with us in a fun and friendly environment where you and your child will play with puzzles, books, blocks and more. Registration is preferred but not required.

For Further information, contact Julie at PACE Child Care Works, 508-999-9930 Ext. 102, or email jvareika@paceccw.org.

Program will be held in the downstairs auditorium. Accessible.

F.A.M.E. Coffeehouse

F.A.M.E (Fairhaven Association for Music Education) will be hosting its 8th annual Coffee House on Fri., 1/30 at 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Fairhaven, Babbit Hall, 34 Center Street.

We will have performances by Fairhaven public school students, alumni, and their families. **Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.**

Please contact Brian Simmons at 508-801-7103 or dharma99king2@yahoo.com for tickets or to donate raffle prizes/baked goods.

\$100 for old Refrig

For a limited time, the Sponsors of Mass Save® — Cape Light Compact, National Grid, NSTAR Electric, Unitil and Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo) — are offering **\$100 to residential electric customers who recycle their outdated, second refrigerators or freezers** through the Mass Save appliance recycling program.

The program encourages customers to reduce their energy use by recycling old, second refrigerators and freezers. Oftentimes, these "extra" refrigerators and freezers are plugged in, but barely used. People may not realize that older units consume as much as four times more energy than newer, more efficient models. Removing an old refrigerator or freezer can help you save up to \$150 a year on your utility bill by decreasing household energy use.

The Mass Save appliance recycling program runs year-round, **offering free pickup of refrigerators and freezers and a \$50 reward. Keep in mind, this special \$100 offer is only available through Feb. 15, 2015.**

Customers can schedule a free home pickup by calling 1-877-545-

4113 or visiting www.MassSave.com/Recycle. To qualify for the \$100 incentive, customers must call or go online to schedule their recycling appointment by February 15, 2015, and the unit must be picked up by March 15, 2015.

Refrigerators and freezers must be in working order, clean and empty, with an inside measurement of between 10 and 30 cubic feet (standard size for most units). A maximum of two units per household per calendar year will be accepted.

The old refrigerators and freezers are transported to an appliance recycling facility in Franklin, MA. Harmful materials such as capacitors and mercury-containing switches and thermostats are removed and properly disposed. 95% of the refrigerator's components (including metal, plastic, glass and oil) are reclaimed for reuse in manufacturing new products.

Visit www.MassSave.com/Recycle or call 1-877-545-4113 for more information and to schedule your pickup appointment.

Girl Scout Cookies

It's Girl Scout Cookie time. From now to March 10, your local Girl Scouts will be out and about selling cookies. This year, we are introducing online ordering with direct shipping from the baker to your doorstep.

Pick up a box (or three) of the classic Thin Mint or try our new gluten free option, the Trio. Packed with gluten free oats and a mixture of peanut butter and chocolaty goodness, the Trio makes sure everybody can indulge in a sweet treat.

Contact Kristen O'Reilly at koreilly@girlscoutseasternmass.org or 857-453-5314.

Special Edition Library Card Set

The Friends of the Millicent Library is holding a Mini-Fundraiser offering special a edition Library Card Set for \$5. Includes one regular card and one key-chain card. Gift certificates available

You must meet the eligibility requirement for a Millicent Library card. This is in place of the generic, free cards.

Call for details, 508-992-5342.

Black ice causes rollover accident on Goulart Mem. Drive



A 1999 GMC Safari driven by Judith Donnelly of Fairhaven slid off the road and flipped over down a small embankment after hitting a patch of black ice on Goulart Memorial Drive in Fairhaven on Monday, 1/19, at around 8:15 a.m. Ms. Donnelly, who was alone in the car, was unable to get out of the vehicle, which remained on its side. She was taken to St. Luke's Hospital with minor injuries and was released the same day. The temperature at the time was around 35 degrees. LEFT: Judith Donnelly talks to rescue personnel through a broken window after her car slid on some black ice and flipped into a small embankment on Goulart Memorial Drive in Fairhaven on 1/19. Photo by ML Baron. RIGHT: The blown out windows on the driver's side are easy to see as the 1999 GMC Safari is towed away. Photo by Beth David.



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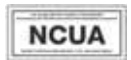
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OLH residents enjoy some gospel music



Our Lady's Haven residents were recently entertained by the Lima Family Gospel Choir. The family singers are popular with the residents at the skilled nursing and rehab care facility in Fairhaven. The group consists of Cheryl Lima and her children Jireh, 13; twins Jaida and Jasmine, 12; and Rebekah, 9. Here they are joined after their recent performance by Our Lady's Haven residents Henry Silveira and Josephine Lavalette. *Submitted photo.*

Bank5 donates to local pantries



BankFive donated to four local food pantries: M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc., First Baptist Church, The Saturday Soup Kitchen and Sister Rose's House. Each organization received \$1,000 to assist them in their wonderful, ongoing efforts of helping those in need. BankFive also donated \$1,000 to the Salvation Army providing relief to the homeless this holiday season. M.O. L.I.F.E is dedicated to individuals with developmental disabilities. The donation will support their weekly food pantry. Sister Rose's House is a privately held organization in New Bedford that offers Catholic social services, social work services, a food pantry and shelter. The Saturday Soup Kitchen is located in Fall River and is operated by Joseph & Liz Primo who volunteer their time every other Saturday feeding the less fortunate. They collect and donate food, clothing and hygiene products. First Baptist Church is located in Fall River and is lead by Pastor Donald Mier, who also operates a soup kitchen and winter overflow shelter. ABOVE L-R: Joseph Primo, Founder of Saturday Soup Kitchen, accepts a check from Bill Eccles, President & CEO at BankFive. *Submitted photo.*

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ATRIA FAIRHAVEN

Our residents are looking forward to an exciting, eventful January here at Atria Fairhaven. We'd love for you to join us.
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Join us for:

Entertainment with Tom & Betty Tuesday, January 27 at 2:15 p.m. Join us for a fun energetic afternoon of music and entertainment. *RSVP*

Entertainment by Jim Porcella Friday January 30th, Atria Welcome well known entertainer Jim Porcella, Singing he will have you tapping your feet and shaking in your Seat. *RSVP*



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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Catholic Schools Wk

The week of Jan. 21–31 has been designated as Catholic Schools Week 2015. All of the Catholic schools in the area plan special events for this week and Holy Family-Holy Name (HFHN) School's week of activities is something special. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools...Building a Community of Faith, Knowledge, Service, Catholic Values and Academic Excellence."

Included in the schedule for the week are such diverse events as a various "Intergenerational Projects" amongst the grade levels, "Spirit-Filled Days" for our students, "Academic and Spiritual Assemblies", "Catholic Challenge" and "Family Events."

HFHN School is holding a special Arts/Music Festival and Interactive Academic Demonstrations **Open House/Early Registration day for the coming school year on Sat., 1/24 from 1–3:30 p.m., at HFHN, 91 Summer St., New Bedford.** There will be a Mass immediately following at 4 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church prepared by our First Graders.

HFHN School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. We offer Preschool programs for 3 and 4-year olds which run from 8 AM – 2:15 PM. We have a full-day Kindergarten program, as well as Grades 1 through 8. In addition, we offer a daily Extended Care Program from 6:30 to 8:00 AM and from 2:30 to 5:30 PM, as well as Vacation and Summer Camp.

Please make plans to visit our school on January 24th and bring the whole family! **Registration will continue the entire week of Jan. 26 through Jan. 30 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Be sure to visit www.hfhn.org for more information!**

Nós falamos Português.Hablamos Español. PACE Vouchers NOW ACCEPTED!

YTI Play

Your Theatre, Inc. performs *Italian American Reconciliation*, by John Patrick Shanley, author of *Moonstruck*.

This lighthearted play follows Huey Maximilian Bonfigliano who has a problem. While he is safely divorced from his shrewish first wife, Janice,

who shot his dog and even took a bead on him, he feels he cannot regain his "manhood" until he woos and wins her one more time. He enlists the aid of his lifelong buddy, Aldo Scalicki, a confirmed bachelor.

Performance dates are Jan. 22, 23, 24 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 25 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15; \$13 for students, seniors & military.

At Your Theatre, Inc., 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, in the wheelchair accessible auditorium of St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Free off-street parking off County St.

For tickets and further information call 508-993-0772, or send an email to info@yourtheatre.org. The theatre's web site is www.yourtheatre.org

Workplace Wellness

Improve your health with better office ergonomics! Workshop: **Tues., 1/27, from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. at Zeiterion Penler Space (Adjacent to the Zeiterion Theater), 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford. \$15 Members/ \$25 non-members**

Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 27th for a workshop with Dr. Jason Colberg, President of PT Health & Safety Solutions to learn about best practice workstation ergonomics. Better work posture will increase your efficiency, accuracy and decrease your discomfort while working on the computer. Along with good ergonomics you will learn how and what to stretch to decrease your risk of common muscular strains. This event is **\$15 for SouthCoast Young Professionals Network and Chamber of Commerce members; \$25 for non-members.** Coffee and light breakfast fare will be provided. Registration is required.

Register online at <http://newbedfordchamber.com> or call 508-999-5231.

Not a member of the SouthCoast Young Professionals Network? Join at www.southcoastypnetwork.com

Give Blood, Get DD

Dunkin' Donuts and Southcoast® Health have launched a new campaign this January to help increase donations and reward generous donors during National Volunteer Blood Donor Month.

Through the new "Dunkin' Donors

Make a Difference" campaign, all those who come to give blood or platelets in January at Southcoast Health blood drives will receive a \$5 Dunkin' Donor Card.

The Southcoast Blood Bank is the only blood donation venue that directly supports the South Coast communities' blood supply. When you donate blood at a Southcoast-sponsored blood drive you are helping to keep your local blood supply strong — so it is there when you need it.

The Southcoast Blood Bank must collect more than 16,000 pints of blood a year. Currently through local donor programs, the Southcoast Blood Bank collects 6,500 pints a year, which is less than half of the blood needed to supply Southcoast Hospitals and the Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care. The remainder of the blood is purchased from external sources and, therefore, dependent on the national blood supply. The Southcoast Blood Bank provides blood for emergencies, for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses and for patients having surgery.

Southcoast hosts blood drives throughout the region on the Southcoast Blood Donor Mobile and at local businesses. To find a list of community blood drives during the month of January, please visit our website at www.southcoast.org/bloodbank. 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.

Founded in 1950, Dunkin' Donuts is America's favorite all-day, every day stop for coffee and baked goods. Dunkin' Donuts is a market leader in the hot regular/decaf/flavored coffee, iced coffee, donut, bagel and muffin categories. Dunkin' Donuts has earned the No. 1 ranking for customer loyalty in the coffee category by Brand Keys for eight years running. The company has more than 11,000 restaurants in 33 countries worldwide. Based in Canton, Mass., Dunkin' Donuts is part of the Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: DNKN) family of companies. For more information, visit www.DunkinDonuts.com.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Stories in the Snow

Take a StoryWalk® with your family at **The Bogs in Mattapoissett this January**. Follow the trail and read a new page around each bend. Each weekend, the Coalition for Buzzards Bay in partnership with the Tri-Town Libraries, will set up a new story that embraces the beauty of winter, so we encourage you to come and take another walk. Visit these places anytime between dawn and dusk for a self-guided family adventure.

Location: The Bogs, 137 Acushnet Rd., Mattapoissett, FREE. No RSVP required but if you have questions contact 508-999-6363 x219 or bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org

This program is part of the Coalition's Bay Adventures series — programs designed for explorers of all ages to get outside and discover Buzzards Bay. To learn more about all our upcoming Bay Adventures, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/BayAdventures.

Low Tide YC F-R

Support the Low Tide Yacht Club by eating at Tropical Smoothies in Dartmouth on Mon., 1/26, 4 to 8 p.m. Either present a flyer from a Low Tide member or designate that your purchase benefits the Low Tide. You can purchase the new healthy smoothies or eat their fabulous food.

At Tropical Smoothies in Dartmouth on Faunce Corner Road by Five Guys and the Pink Box.

For more information, visit <http://www.lowtideyc.org/>

Karaoke Night

Last chance to join **VFW Post 6643, 89 Middleboro Rd., Freetown**, for Tuesday Karaoke nights during January. Featuring KJ Stubbs, **this Tues., 1/27, from 7-11 p.m. Accessible. Free admission.**

Free Movie

The Hundred-Foot Journey (PG 122 min.) is being shown at the Mattapoissett Council on Aging, **CoA Senior Center, Center School, 17 Barstow St., Mattapoissett, on Tues., 1/27 at 12 noon**. The **FREE** movie is sponsored by the Friends of the Mattapoissett CoA.)

The Hundred-Foot Journey is a film about the cross-pollination between

French and Indian cuisine. Papa Kadam, the patriarch of an Indian family, has been in the restaurant business for generations. He and his four children arrive in a small town in the south of France and set up Maison Mumbai. The smell of their spices and the sound of their music offend the sensibilities of Madame Mallory. She is proprietress of a venerable Michelin-starred establishment just 100-feet across the street.

The focus is provided by Mr. Kadam's son Hassan. He is a gifted and handsome cook, who exchanges recipes with Marguerite, a sous-chef in Madame Mallory's restaurant. She lends Hassan classic French cookbooks, and he cross-pollinates their tried-and-true recipes with flavors and techniques from back home.

You get two pizza slices for only \$2.00 prepaid. Pay for your pizza at the CoA Senior Center by Monday. Also, reserve your seat so we'll know how many chairs need to be set up.

Bikeway input

What are your priorities for bicycling? Where do you want to go? What would help you get there? What would help you or your family make more bike trips or go farther?

SRPEDD (SouthEastern Region Planning and Economic Development District) is in the process of developing a Regional Bicycle Plan to identify and prioritize bicycle needs in the region. They are asking for public input. The region's plan includes the South Coast Bikeway and The Taunton River Trail. The Regional Bicycle Plan will identify and prioritize the bicycle needs in the area and will be incorporated into Region's Transportation Plan (RTP) which will guide transportation decisions in the region in the foreseeable future.

The RTP is updated on a four year cycle, the current cycle forecasts conditions and projects through 2040. Projects must be identified in the Plan to receive state and federal funding.

SRPEDD planners have scheduled two open houses for public input. Attendees can add their insights into what will improve bicycling for you and your town. This is an open house, there will be no formal presentation. You will be able to review the work in

place to date, talk to planners, find out what other towns in the region are doing and provide written comments.

The first Open House is scheduled for Jan. 28, 5-7 p.m., at the Southworth Library, 732 Dartmouth St., Dartmouth. A second Open House will be held Jan. 29, 5-7 p.m., at Norton Public Library, 68 East Main St., Norton.

SRPEDD covers 23 towns and cities from Wareham to Seekonk and Westport to Mansfield

Taste of Fall River

The Harvest is a new project that will provide fresh produce to local pantries in the Fall River area.

Learn more at our fun-filled "Taste of Fall River" night to raise funds for this project: **Sat., 1/24, 6-10 p.m., at Elk's Lodge, 4500 N. Main St., Fall River**. Great music, 11 food vendors. **Tickets: \$20**. Call 774-327-5058; email TheHarvest.CommunityGarden@gmail.com; visit www.theharvestcommunitygarden.com; or find us on Facebook.

At the Vineyard

On Fridays this Winter, Westport Rivers, will be offering educational seminars and fun events on Saturdays, at 417 Hixbridge Rd., Westport. 508-636-3423 vip@westportrivers.com **They begin at 6 p.m.** There is **NO** charge to swing by the Wine Bar during the Friday seminars and enjoy a glass of wine or beer with friends. (Hours 5pm-8pm every Friday and Saturday). However, if you want to participate in the class (and taste wine and receive any seminar discounts on wine) it is **\$10 for wine club members and \$20 for everyone else**. Call 508-636-3423 ext. 2 during business hours to get on the list. **Saturdays are always FREE.**

Fri. 1/23: "Women Wild About Wine." This class is for the ladies and people who love the ladies. Yes, we'll cover what we covered with the boys, but we'll have more fun.

Sat., 1/24: "Wine & Book Club Night" Local author Karen Covey will be at the vineyard to talk about her book, *The Coastal Table*. We'll sample local foods featured in her book with our own local wines. She'll also be fielding questions about her new magazine by the same name. Get your questions ready and come hungry!

Recipe of the Week

Bolo Lêvedo (Sweet Muffin)

A Portuguese sweet muffin typical of the Azores Islands.

- 1 (.25 oz) packet active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar, 4 eggs
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1.5 cups milk

In a bowl, dissolve the yeast in warm water with a pinch of the sugar. Set aside to ferment, about 8-10 minutes. Transfer the yeast mixture to a large bowl, and stir in the sugar, eggs, salt, flour, and milk until the dough becomes a smooth and even consistency.

Stir in the melted butter, then turn the dough out onto a floured surface, and knead for about 10 mins., or until smooth and elastic. Cover dough with a cloth and set aside to rise until doubled in bulk, about 45 mins to an hour.

Divide dough into 16 pieces, and shape them into flat round cakes about 1/2 inch thick. Place a cloth on the table and dust it with flour. Arrange the cakes on the cloth, allowing space for rising. Allow them to set for 1.5 hours.

Place the cakes in a large ungreased pan, and cook over low heat. Fry the cakes on each side until golden and place them on a platter once done.

Best served while hot but can be stored for 1-2 weeks in a refrigerator to maintain freshness.
From EasyPortugueseRecipes.com

Rocky's collects 13,402 lbs for animals

Press Release

Rocky's Ace Hardware, a family-owned business with 32 neighborhood based stores, is proud to announce the results of their fourth annual pet food drive. More than six tons of pet food along with beds, leashes, treats, toys and cleaning supplies were collected and delivered to local animal shelters. The final weight of pet food amassed totaled an amazing 13,402 pounds, along with an estimated \$5,500 worth of non-food items.

Each of the 32 Rocky's Ace Hardware stores partnered with an area Humane Society or Shelter to collect food this past Holiday Season for the much forgotten and unfortunate animals in our own community.

"The continued and ever increasing outpouring from our customers was truly outstanding. Every year I am amazed by the level of support this drive receives. All of us at Rocky's extend sincere thanks to our neighbors who gave so generously" said Rocco Falcone, president and CEO.

"Now in its fourth year, this annual drive receives more support every year. This year's accomplishment was absolutely staggering!" said Geoffrey Webb, Director of Marketing and Advertising. "Last year we were able to donate over 8,000 pounds of food plus accessories, this year, due to the extraordinary efforts of our store team members in rallying behind this worthy cause along with the outstanding generosity of our customers, total collections resulted in a thirty-four percent increase in food donations."

The program supported organizations that provide shelter, veterinary care and comfort for homeless

animals in five states.

"Besides the enormous increase in food donations, we were also able to pass along much needed cleaning supplies, feeders, pet crates, leashes and other items as designated by the shelters on their wish lists; donations of supplies was up an incredible 80% over last year," added Webb.

Here is how the program worked: Customers and Rocky's employees alike, made donations of much needed pet food and supplies at their local Rocky's Ace Hardware store. The store teams also worked closely with their neighborhood shelters to find and collect non-food items the organization was in need of. The stores collected all donations and drove them to their locally chosen charity. Nutro Pet Foods helped kick start the program with a donation of \$1,500 worth of premium dog and cat food. The drive started 11/24/14. Donations were delivered directly to the Shelter or Humane Society on or about December 24, 2014.

"The campaign has become an annual tradition here at Rocky's. Our team members often make donations of their own and many volunteer at neighborhood shelters," said Mr. Falcone.

Indeed, many shelters rely on Rocky's team members to help out year round.

"It is truly a culmination of the unyielding passion of our customers along with the dedication of our own employees that join together to ensure the success of this drive. We are sincerely honored to be a catalyst in helping the homeless and abandoned animals in our communities" added Mr. Falcone.

For more information, please visit www.rockys.com.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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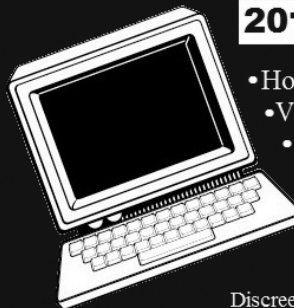
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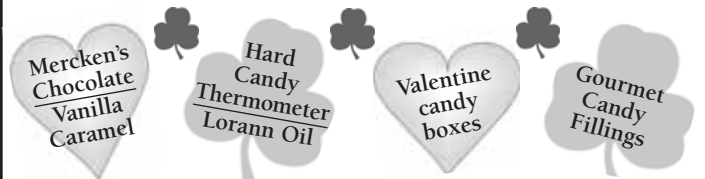
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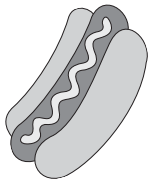


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 Chicken Kiev (stuffed with herbs & butter)\$10.95
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Every Thurs.:

Karaoke w/Cowboy Al,
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Linda Schick recognized by professional organization

By Beth David
Editor

Linda Schick has been working in the sewer department in Fairhaven for about 28 years. She started out as a lab technician. It was supposed to be temporary, because she was more interested in marine biology. She had a chance to work at Harvard that year, too.

"But I didn't want to commute to Boston," said Ms. Schick, who has a master's degree in Biology.

Cambridge's loss was Fairhaven's gain.

The New England Water Environment Association has honored Ms. Schick with the 2014 Operator Award.

The Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment Plant has gained a rep in the last few years as one of the first anaerobic systems in the state.

Instead of trucking out all the solids, it is pumped into two large tanks rife with microorganisms that chomp away at the sludge. The process produces methane and heat. The methane is burned to create electricity to run the whole plant, and the heat is also used to keep the digesters warm enough to keep the little buggers happily chomping away.

And, as the sewer/wastewater superintendent, Ms. Schick is the one who makes sure it all runs right.

It's not a field that many women go into.

"I never have to wait for the bathroom when I go to conferences," said Ms. Schick with a laugh. She said there are usually just a handful of women in a room full of men.

After the lab tech job, the town created the Executive Secretary position. Jeffrey Osuch, who was superintendent of Public Works took that job and Fred Rafael, who was sewer superintendent, got promoted to DPW superintendent. He recommended Linda for the sewer superintendent job, and...that's where she has been every since.



Linda Schick, the sewer/wastewater superintendent in Fairhaven, points out a new gauge that measures oxygen content in large tanks that have to be aerated. Photo by Beth David.

Now she has received an award for her hard work.

"It's an honor because it's voted on by your peers," said Ms. Schick.

So, is she sorry she did not take that job in Cambridge?

"No," she said without a moment's hesitation. "This turned out really well. Every day, it's never the same thing."

So, where does all that stuff go?

By Beth David
Editor

It's probably a safe bet that most people don't think too hard or in too much detail about what happens after they flush their toilets. So, where does all that stuff go?

If you're like the majority of households in Fairhaven, your wastewater finds its way through a series of pipes and pumps to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Arsene Street. The solids from West Island Treatment Plant also end up on Arsene Street, transported by truck.

The town has 15 pump stations, with the two major ones being at South Street and Railroad Avenue. The South Street station handles about 65% of the flow to the main plant on Arsene Street.

It all goes into the headworks, water, dirt that's picked up along the way, toys and teeth (really, see picture), and any other manner of stuff that gets thrown down the drain or the toilet.

A machine rakes out all the

"inorganics," like those aforementioned toys, rags, and a host of other things that are marked safe to flush (can you say "tampons"?), but really should not be flushed at all.

"We've been having a lot of trouble with wipes," said Fairhaven sewer/wastewater superintendent Linda Schick, referring to the suddenly ubiquitous disinfectant wipes that people use on infants.

The headworks is the highest point in Fairhaven. Everything gets pumped up to that spot. Then it's downhill to the next steps.

After the rags and other undesirables are removed, the water travels to big outdoor open tanks that are aerated just enough to keep the microbes happy.

The microorganisms start

Of toys and teeth...



The machines at Fairhaven's Wastewater Treatment Plant have pulled out some weird stuff, including these false teeth and toys, a golf ball and a cowboy riding a dinosaur. Photo by Beth David.

chomping away at the bacteria in the water, but it's still pretty potent at that point.

Then the water goes to another set of tanks that have big squeegees on the bottom that push the sludge to a hole in the middle. The water is slowly getting cleaner as microorganisms and the sludge removal take out bacteria.

Suddenly, the water is clear and the ducks are literally swimming around in the tanks.

That clean water is pumped out

WWTP: cont'd on page 19

Coat drive at Bayside collects more than 170 coats

By Beth David

Editor

The patrons of the Bayside Lounge in Fairhaven dug into their closets and pocketbooks to make a quickly organized coat drive successful beyond the wildest dreams of the organizer.

Heidi Pereira decided just a couple of weeks ago to do something for people who do not have the clothes stay warm in this exceptionally cold weather we have had lately. So she decided to “share the warmth.”

She put the word out, with a just a

few flyers, mostly at the Bayside in Fairhaven, and told all her friends, who told all their friends.

Next thing she knew, she had at least 170 coats, plus hats and gloves, mittens and scarves.

“I’m so proud,” said Ms. Pereira, of both herself and her friends. “It actually feels so good. I can’t explain it how good it feels inside.”

She said she expected a few people to dig into their closets to donate gently used coats. She was flabbergasted at how many items she received. She had to borrow a friend’s

pickup truck to transport them.

The big collection day was Friday, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Bayside. And people just streamed in with coats from their closets and new coats and other warm clothes of all sizes.

“I can’t believe how many people came. I’m amazed,” said Ms. Pereira. “I don’t have a big family, but am blessed with the best friends ever.”

Ms. Pereira donated the clothes to Market Ministries and the Women and Children’s Homeless Shelter, both in New Bedford, which will distribute the clothes.



FAR LEFT, L-R: Chloe, Heidi Pereira, Gary and Melissa staff the table at the Bayside Lounge in Fairhaven on Friday, 1/16, receiving warm clothes to be distributed by local homeless shelters. LEFT: Colin Pereira carries a large bag full of coats and other warm weather gear at the Bayside Lounge on 1/16 when patrons donated the new and gently used clothing to be distributed by homeless shelters. Photos by Beth David.

Trash truck leaks hydraulic fluid in center of Fairhaven

By Beth David

Editor

A leak in the line of an ABC Disposal Service trash truck caused about 20 gallons of hydraulic fluid to spill in the center of Fairhaven on Friday, 1/16.

Andrew Jones, an environmental analyst with the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, said there was no danger to the bay. Only a

small amount got close to the drains in the road, but, he said, “less than a cup” reached the catch basin.

“It might stain a bit,” on the road said Mr. Jones, but added that he did not believe there would be any impact to the bay.

The leak started near South and Fort Streets and the crew noticed it at the corner of William and Union

Streets. The fire department used sand and an absorbent material to contain the spill.

Employees made repairs on the street, causing a bit of a curiosity for several hours starting at about 1:30 in the afternoon.

ABC called in Frank Corp. Environmental to handle the cleanup and will pay for the cost of it.



ABC Disposal employees make repairs to the hydraulic line that sprung a leak on a trash truck Friday, 1/16, around 1:30 p.m. Mass. Department of Environmental Protection environmental analyst Andrew Jones said there was no damage to the environment from the spill of about 20 gallons of hydraulic oil. Photos by Beth David.

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Yoga for kids

This class is a great opportunity for stretching and fun for yogis between the ages of 8-14 years old after school. Whether you have never done yoga, or have tried it before, this is the perfect class for you to use up some energy, increase strength, flexibility and coordination skills. Learn new exercises to help calm your mind after it all. This class will be 45 minutes long and wearing gym clothes would be best. Wednesdays from 4-5 PM Ages: 8-14. Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members. Starts 1/21, ends 2/25

Kool Kids Feb. Vaca

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 runs Tues.-Fri., 2/17-20, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. \$100.00 members/\$125 non-members

Home Alone Class

This course is designed to encourage children to be more independent. Topics covered will be basic first aid, door and telephone protocol, accident prevention, first aid for choking and safety measures. Pizza will also be provided. Space is limited... sign up soon.

Ages: 9-11 Date: Jan. 28. Instructor: Beth Oleson Time: 5:30-8 p.m. Cost \$45 members / \$50 non-members

Open Gym Volleyball

Come join in on the fun and notice a "net" gain in your fitness level.

Day & Time: Wednesday 6-8 p.m.
Cost: Free with your play card/ or \$5 Drop in

Starts: January 7th Ages: 14+

Fairhaven Senior Center

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http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Mall Trips

Jan. 28: Hyannis Mall, Xmas Tree
Shop and Trader Joe's
Feb. 4: Twin Rivers

Feb. 11: Warwick Mall
Feb. 18: South Shore Plaza

Entertainment

Call Fairhaven COA for entertainment schedule: 508-979-4029

Special Activities

Save the Date!

Coming in March: Emergency Preparedness Meeting on March 16th at 1:00 P.M. Sign up early because of limited amounts of seating and backpacks. For Fairhaven seniors over 60 only. Call 508-979-4029

Single Seniors

Single Seniors Supper Club first and third Tuesday of the month. If you are a single senior 60 or older and would like to attend, please call the Senior Center by 1/29 at 508-979-4029. Next date will be Tuesday, February 3. You MUST call the Thursday before to sign up.

Southcoast LGBT

South Coast Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Supper Club. Next date will be January 28. Please call the Senior Center, 508-979-4029.

Senior Discount Day Trip

Day trips to the Salvation Army have been cancelled until further notice.

Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle group will meet on Jan. 26 from 1 to 3:00 p.m.

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.

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. Call the Senior Center for the next date.

Tax Assistance

If you are a low income seniors filing a short form, please call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 to book an appointment.

Faith is taking the
first step even when
you don't see the
whole staircase.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

A/G Consumer Mediator; Bingo; Board Meeting/monthly; Bridge; Caregiver Support & Education Group; Chair Yoga, Computer Training; Fit Quest; Friends of Elderly/monthly meeting; Grocery Shopping; Knitting classes; LGBT Supper Club; Line Dancing; Live Band; Medical Transportation; Nutrition Program/meal served; Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coordinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch; Reassurance Program; Shopping; Singles Senior Supper Club; Supportive Senior Social Day Program; Tai Chi; Tap 'N' Time, Walking Clubs, Zumba.

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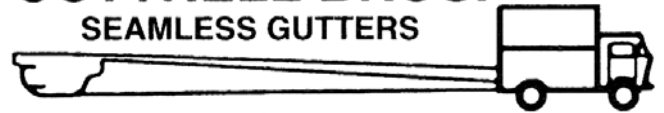
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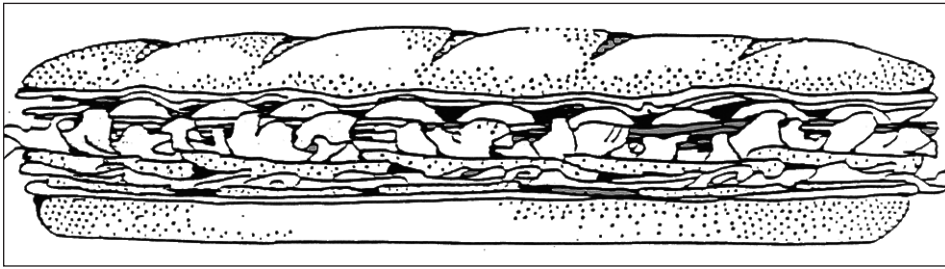
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F.A.M.E. to hold annual Super Sub Sunday on Feb. 1



The Fairhaven Association for Music Education (FAME) will hold its annual SUPER SUB FUNDRAISER Sunday, February 1, 2015.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the Music Program in the Fairhaven Public Schools.

Contact any Fairhaven music student in grades 3-12 to order your sub. Your sub(s) will be ready on Sunday, February 1, by 5 p.m. Pick-up is at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Avenue (near Stop & Shop), between 3 and 4 p.m. on 2/1.

Order your subs by Monday, January 26.

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Scholarships available for Acushnet students

The 2015 Acushnet Teachers Association Scholarship application forms are now available for students and their families to download online.

In order to assist Acushnet residents in continuing to build their academic futures, the ATA annually awards scholarships to qualified students. Residents of Acushnet enrolling in a full-time college program in 2015-16 are eligible for these awards.

In addition to A.T.A. scholarships, the A.T.A. Scholarship Committee is also responsible for judging applicants for the following scholarships: Acushnet P.T.O., Acushnet Lion's Club, the Carole Day Memorial Nursing Scholarship, and the Acushnet Historical Society Scholarship. By filling out the single application form, students are considered for any and all of the above-named Acushnet scholarships for which they are eligible.

Visit www.acushnetteachers.com for printable application forms and more information about the Acushnet Teachers Association Scholarship Program. Hard copies of applications are available in the Ford Middle School main office at 708 Middle Road, Acushnet. Applications and required paperwork are due on May 1.

For questions, please contact Kristine Daniels, A.T.A. Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, at kdaniels@acushnet.k12.ma.us or 508-998-0265 ext. 1205.

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Acushnet EMS train for ice rescue



On Tuesday, January 13, members of the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department train in ice rescue operations on Lake Street. In the distance is Firefighter Zack Stupalski who volunteered to be the water victim during the drill. *From the Acushnet Fire & EMS Facebook page.*

Nomination papers available

Acushnet's annual elections will be held on Monday, April 6. Nomination papers are now available at the town clerk's office, Acushnet Town Hall, 122 Main Street. The last day for requesting papers is Thursday, February 12. Nomination papers must be returned with the required signatures by Monday, 2/16. Papers for town-wide office require 31 certified signatures.

The last day for registering to vote is Tuesday, March 17. The clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m. that

day to register voters.

Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 6, election day.

Call the town clerk's office at 508-998-0215 for more information.

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WWTP: cont'd from page 12

into the inner harbor (off Fort Street).

The sludge, which used to be hauled away for a fee, is now pumped to the anaerobic digester tanks.

There, a different class of microbes chomps away at the solids, reducing the amount of the final sludge to a fraction of what it used to be.

Along the way, grit and dirt are also removed and end up in a landfill.

There are miles of pipes and hundreds of gauges and other measuring systems to make sure each step of the way has just the right amount of oxygen, water, microbes, heat and a whole bunch of other stuff working just right so the little chompers can do their job.

"There are lots of calculations," said Ms. Schick.

The WWTP is designed to handle 5 million gallons a day. The average is about 2.7 million gallons. But when it rains that total can be as high as 16 million gallons, straining the system beyond the breaking point. That extra water ends up in the bay.

"It happens instantly, so it's all hands on deck," said Ms. Schick.

The excess water is due to infiltration from cracks in some of the old pipes and from people who have their sump pumps emptying out into the system.

Ms. Schick said some of the old lines are clay and date back to the late 1800s and the early 1900s.

Once in the anaerobic digester, the sludge gets eaten up by microorganisms, which creates methane gas. The gas is siphoned off and stored in a big round gas holder near the digester tanks.

The gas is burned to create electricity for the plant itself and to create the heat that the digester needs to keep warm enough for the

microorganisms to do the job.

The town also needs to upgrade the system. The water that is now pumped into the bay has a nitrogen content of 12 milligrams per liter, but the Environmental Protection Agency wants to get that down to 3, a feat that might be impossible and will cost tens of millions of dollars.

Town Meeting has authorized money for studies to see if it can be achieved. Meanwhile, the town is trying to get the EPA to be more realistic.

In a warmer climate, the 3 mg/l might be possible, but in the northeast, with the cold winters, it is highly unlikely the plant can maintain that level daily. She said the answer might be seasonal limits.

Meanwhile, the digester has cut the volume of the sludge that needs to be hauled away for a fee to 50%. Instead of paying \$350,000 a year to dispose of it, the town paid \$220,000.

There used to be 10-12 trucks a week hauling sludge away. That's down to 4 or 5.

A \$10 million grant that paid to build the digester will not have to be returned because it got up and running just in time. There was a time limit and early problems with construction made it a touch-and-go thing there for awhile.



Some ducks are scared away from the tank that is the final phase of treatment for water at Fairhaven's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The water is so clean by the time it is discharged into the bay, that the ducks see no problem with hanging out in it. Photo by Beth David.

But that's all in the past now.

The town is also saving tens of thousands of dollars each month on electricity costs. The digester completely powers the plant when it has enough material.

To that end, the town will now also be accepting fats, oils and grease that will also be fed into the digester. Commercial haulers will be paying the town to take it off their hands.

It "supercharges" the system, said Ms. Schick. The little chompers just love it.

"It's the junk food for the digester," she said with a laugh.

Some people walking the bike path have noticed a flame coming from one of the pipes behind the tanks. That's just excess methane burning off. It's a safety valve for Dolores and Damien, the name that workers have given the tanks. So, don't worry about it. That means it's all working the way it should. ●●●

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Principal sentenced in MCAS cheating scheme

Press Release from Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office District of Massachusetts

A former Springfield charter school principal was sentenced on January 8 in U.S. District Court in Springfield for a federal felony in connection with assisting students to cheat on the MCAS.

Janet Henry, 42, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Mark G. Mastrianni to one year of probation and a \$500 fine. In October 2014, Henry pleaded guilty to an Information charging her with mail fraud.

According to the Information, in 2009 Henry became Principal of the

Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School in Springfield.

In March and April 2009, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests were administered to the student body during which time Henry instructed teachers to give clues and other tips to students. For example, if teachers saw students entering nonsense answers, then they were to tell students to review their answers again.

During preparation meetings, Henry stated to teachers that "this is where we earn our money," and warned that the school could close or everyone would lose their jobs, if the

test scores were not satisfactory.

On April 16, 2009, upon the completion of the MCAS examinations, Henry falsely certified that the tests had been administered honestly.

United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz; Brian M. Hickey, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General, Northeast Region; and Vincent B. Lisi, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division, made the announcement on 1/9/15. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Regan of Ortiz's Springfield Branch Office.

Hospital group to pay \$1.77 over alleged kickbacks for referrals

Mass. Attorney General Press Release

The South Shore Physician Hospital Organization in South Weymouth has agreed to pay a total of \$1.77 million to settle allegations of operating a recruitment grant program through which it paid kickbacks to its physician members in exchange for patient referrals, Attorney General Martha Coakley announced on Jan. 20. Massachusetts will receive a total of \$620,000.

In a consent judgment, and related settlement agreement, entered on 1/20 against South Shore Physician Hospital Organization, Inc. (SSPHO) and its member organizations, South Shore Hospital, Inc. and Physicians Organization of the South Shore, Inc. (POSS), AG Coakley alleges that SSPHO paid kickbacks in the form of cash grants via a recruitment grant program. Over the course of the program, from 2001 to 2010, SSPHO allegedly approved 103 separate grants to 33 different physician groups.

"Instead of giving patients lower cost options and flexibility in health care services, we allege these defendants looked to increase their referrals through an unlawful kickback operation," AG Coakley said. "We are pleased to have worked with our partners in federal law enforcement to ensure that improper incentives do not undermine the integrity of our healthcare system."

According to the settlement, the defendants voluntarily disclosed the operation of the recruitment grant program in 2012 to the AG's Office, the United States Department of Justice and the Office of Inspector

General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The defendants cooperated fully with the investigation.

As part of the recruitment grant program, SSPHO allegedly sent letters to grant recipients with specific terms, including requirements to refer patients to participating providers, which include the South Shore Hospital. Over time, SSPHO emphasized the importance of ensuring a c o n t i n u e d increase in patient referrals.

As a result of this conduct, SSPHO and its m e m b e r organizations allegedly caused participating providers who received referrals from grant recipients to submit false claims for payment to the M e d i c a r e Program and the Massachusetts M e d i c a i d p r o g r a m (MassHealth), because those claims were made in violation of the Anti-Kickback statute, and

violated the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act.

Under the terms of the settlement, SSPHO will pay a total of \$1.775 million, including more than \$620,000 to the Commonwealth, \$310,625 of which will go directly to MassHealth. The remainder will be paid to the federal government.



ENTERTAINMENT:

Sat. 1/24, Johnny Barnes & The Nightcrawlers, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Big Game Party!



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Fish Pier Meeting

The Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, 1/22. Up for discussion is a plan to build a fishing pier on the north and south sides of Goulart Memorial Drive and the causeway as proposed by the Mass. Department of Fish and Game, Fishing and Boating Access. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, at 6:30 p.m.

The committee will also discuss recreational shellfish areas to be closed under the Bouchard Oil Spill agreement and proposed aquaculture regulations.

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Nomination papers available

Fairhaven's annual elections will be held on Monday, April 6. Nomination papers are now available at the town clerk's office, Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street. The last day for requesting papers is Thursday, February 12. Nomination papers must be returned with the required signatures by Tuesday, 2/17.

The last day for registering to vote is Tuesday, March 17. The clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m. that day to register voters.

Papers for town-wide office require 50 certified signatures; town meeting members require 10 certified signatures from the precinct.

Call 508-979-4025, Ext. 3 for info.

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

Town of Fairhaven Notice of Public Hearing FY15 Community Development Block Grant Application

Town of Fairhaven will hold a Public Hearing at 8:15 P.M. on January 26, 2015, in the Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose of the hearing is to seek public comment on the Town's FY2015 CDBG application. The Town has decided to apply for funding in the Anthony School Target Area for the reconstruction of sidewalks on North Street and a Heating System modernization project at the Oxford Terrace Housing Authority complex. The Town intends to apply for up to \$625,000 for these projects and general administration. The grant will be administered with private consultants. Any persons or organizations will be given the opportunity to be heard. The meeting room is handicap accessible and the Town will make reasonable accommodations for the disabled with prior notice to the Selectmen's Office.

Robert J. Espindola, Chairman
Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:00 PM in the

Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

CONTINUED HEARINGS

1. **Petitioner: Michael J. Ristuccia, RE:** 52 Cedar Street, Plat 4, Lot 8, 77A; Book 10341 and Page 205; 198-18: Short 45' of the required 100' frontage, short 8,978 sq ft of the required 15,000 sq ft, all in a RA District.

NEW HEARINGS:

- Petitioner: Joseph & Michelle Letts, RE:** 7 Andrew Avenue, Plat 36, Lot 18 & 5E; Book 3497 and Page 247, 198-22 A-1: An accessory building or use shall have no more than 700 sq. ft. of floor area.
- Petitioner: Thomas Johnson, RE:** 36 Hathaway Street, Plat 10, Lots 126A; Book 11171 and Page 261, 198-21: Non-conforming Uses. Continuation of a Special Permit issued in 1992 for an in-law apartment.
- Petitioner: Michael & Andree Goulart, RE:** 448 Bridge Street, Plat 38, Lot 16S; Book 9030 and Page 325, 198-28: Special Permit required for new construction over 500 sq. feet in the Nasketucket River Basin.
- Petitioner: Caroline Percy Marcoux, RE:** 118 Laurel Street Plat 38, Lot 16S; Book 9030 and Page 325, 198-23 A-B: A. The Home Occupation shall be accommodated within an existing structure without extension thereof. B. No more than 25% of floor area of residence shall be used for the purpose of the home occupation.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman

Fairhaven Meetings

Beautification Comm.

Thurs., 2/19, Fire Station, 7 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/3, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Cable Advisory Comm.

Thurs., 1/26, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Capital Planning Com.

Tues., 1/27, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 1/22, Arsene St., Fairhaven

Thurs., 1/29, Arsene St., Fairhaven

Government Study Comm.

Thurs., 1/22, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Historical Commission

Thurs., 1/22, Fhvn Fire Station, 7 p.m.

Marine Resources

Thurs., 1/22, Town Hall Aud., 6:30 p.

Planning Board

Mon., 1/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/28, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 1/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Conservation Commission

Wed., 1/28, Town Hall 7 p.m.

Historical Commission

Tues., 1/20, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 1/26 Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Jan. 2015	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	22	0903 2133	0216*	1450*
Friday	23	0954 2224	0309*	1535**
Saturday	24	1046 2319	0357*	1619*
Sunday	25	1143 ----	0447*	1707*
Monday	26	0018 1242	0551*	1810*
Tuesday	27	0116 1339	0738	1928*
Wednesday	28	0212 1437	0939	2102
Thursday	29	0313 1543	1052	2254
Friday	30	0418 1647	1148*	2351
Saturday	31	0514 1738	----	1239*

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
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From our readers

Our Broken Democracy

As a result of the corrupting influence of billions of dollars being spent to gain influence over our government a movement is taking place all across the country called Move to Amend.

During the past few years we have witnessed an activist Supreme Court making decisions that undermine the foundation of the republic. A democracy works if all of the citizens feel that they have a voice in their government. As a result of these court decisions the plutocrats and the corporate CEO's now have almost unlimited power to influence elections and thus undermine our democracy.

The recent spending bill passed by congress is just another blow to our republic and provides further proof that the plutocrats are now in full control.

In December Republican legislators, in the last hours of the legislative session slipped into a spending bill to keep the government from shutting down two provisions providing further evidence that our government is owned by the rich and powerful.

One provision was actually written by Citi-Group Lobbyists that removed part of the Dodd Frank Financial Reform Law. This part of the Dodd Frank law had required banks and other institutions to move certain risky financial instruments into separate entities in order to limit the exposure of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Reserve or, to be more blunt, the American taxpayer.

The other provision raised by ten times the amount of money that individuals could donate to political parties.

Where is the outrage from the leadership in the Democratic party? President Obama refused to veto the spending bill and instead lobbied for its passage. I guess political blackmail works.

Hillary Clinton, whose wealth is now over one hundred million dollars, did not speak out.

It took the freshman Senator from Mass. Elizabeth Warren to speak out on what she stated to NPR: "Republicans slipped in a provision at the last minute that would let derivatives traders on Wall Street gamble with taxpayer money and then get bailed out by the government when their risky bets threaten to blow up our financial system."

We as Americans in the past six years have seen the very foundations of our democracy threatened. The recent Citizens United Decision which allowed unlimited amounts of money to go to outside groups and the McCutcheon decision which allows plutocrats to give up to 5.9 million dollars directly to political campaigns has begged the question being asked by many Americans: Who's looking after my interests and How can we restore our democracy?

The answer may lie in the national movement led by Move to Amend to Amend the US Constitution.

Move to Amend is a national organization with the goal of amending the US Constitution. In Massachusetts Move to Amend will be introducing a bill in January called "We the People Act" petition for an Article V Amendments Convention to be held to propose amendments for state ratification.

All across the country Move to Amend is working with state legislators to move this Act forward. The act declares that rights protected under the constitution are the rights of natural persons only and that both congress and the states may place limits on political contributions. Furthermore that money is not free speech and that human beings, not corporations are persons entitled to constitutional rights.

On the local level Citizens for Economic Justice and the Coalition for Social Justice have strongly endorsed Move to Amend's We the People Act and are asking our local legislators to support this measure.

We have seen in Washington Democratic and Republican leaders who failed to stand up to the corrupting influence of money in our politics.

We are now asking our local leaders to take a stand and support the We the People Act. Our democracy is broken and we the people must take it back.

*Kenneth Pottel, Fairhaven MA
Co Chair Citizens for Economic Justice*

CRS Can lower Flood insurance

Many of us paying high flood insurance premiums are unaware that FEMA offers a Community Rating System (CRS) Discount program to coastal towns. This is a point based program that could potentially give some relief to many residents, as well

as, help the real estate market in town. However, the application process is a large task.

Below is a quote from a consultant from MWH, who helps communities with their applications. He will soon be coming to a Selectmen's meeting to explain how the program works, the application process, and the benefits to both individuals and the town as a whole.

"The Town of Fairhaven has participated in the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) since 1976. Today, nearly 800 property owners in Fairhaven are paying a total of approximately \$1.4 million in annual premiums for their flood insurance policies — an average of more than \$1,700 per policy, per year. There are two key changes occurring with the NFIP that may increase these figures considerably in the near future. First, due to recent legislative reform, the NFIP is phasing out premium subsidies and moving policies toward actuarial (full-risk) rates. Second, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps which often results in more properties located in flood zones that trigger mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements.

"Fortunately, the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) encourages and rewards local planning and floodplain management activities by providing up to a 45% discount in premium rates, depending on the level of participation. Currently the Town of Fairhaven does not participate in CRS and its resident policyholders receive no discounts. By improving the Town's CRS participation level by just one Class you can save residents an estimated \$70,000 annually in total premiums paid. Of course, additional savings are possible with greater levels of participation. In many cases, increasing your CRS Class requires very little investment in time or money."

For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate>.

Any questions can be directed to Susan Sullivan at otwfhn@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenWaterfront>.

The consultant will be at the January 26th Selectmen's Meeting at 7:15 p.m. This is an important issue for the whole town and I look forward to a good turn-out at the meeting.

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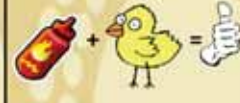
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