



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



*The little paper
with a big voice!*

Volume 9, Issue 6 • February 13, 2014

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

102 years old...and counting



Surrounded by family and friends, Marion Makin (seated) holds a stuffed animal she got for her 102nd birthday. The outspoken, voracious reader turned was born on February 4, 1912. Family and friends held a party for her on Saturday, 2/8, at Alden Court, where she now lives. See story on page 12. *Photo by Beth David. Visit us at [www.Facebook.com/ NeighbNews](http://www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews) to see more photos of this and other events. Individual photos are available for purchase.*

Also Inside:

- **Selectboard:** page 4
- **Acushnet Select:** page 16
- **Police Officers sworn in:** page 13
- **Health Insp. under fire:** page 18



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Don't lie to me and don't ignore me. That's all I ask of our town officials, both elected and appointed. I really don't think that's a very hard threshold to reach, do you?

As a reporter, my job is to get information. Very often, they see their jobs as trying to keep that information from me. I get that. It's the nature of the beast. All I ask is that they answer my calls. Tell me you can't answer my question, and why. Tell me you just don't want to answer my question. Tell me I'm a (fill in expletive of choice) for asking the question. But don't lie to me and don't ignore me.

You are town officials. My readers have a right to know what you are up to. Period.

You have no business trying to keep it from them.

Now, did you really think I wouldn't write about it just because you refuse to answer my calls? If that were the case, reporters would only be writing about flowers on Main Street, crisp apple strudel and brown paper packages tied up with string.

Anyway, see page 18 for the story. It seems our health inspector is under fire for unclear reasons. Now, there may well be legitimate reasons why she needs to be canned. I don't know, it's all done in executive session — that evil, little contrivance that keeps everyone from knowing what's really going on. If those minutes ever get released, and they are not totally sanitized, I'll let you know. Don't hold your breath, though. Just sayin'...

I suppose I could've held the story one more week, but, I think that two days of phone calls to home and work and cellphones should be enough time for officials to get back to me.

So, if they don't like it, I suggest a letter to the editor, I'd call and tell them that, but, hey, they won't answer my calls.

Taylor Seafood wants to expand the aquaculture farm from 35 acres to 101 acres. They also want to build a hatchery in that old falling-down-excuse-for-a-building next to Hoppy's Landing. See page 4 for that. Now, I have to disclose that I have a vested interest in this one two fronts. The hatchery will abut the private beach that has been in my family since I was too small to see over the seaweed piles over there. And, I go kayaking, boating (well... depends on your definition of "boating," I guess), and possibly could go quahogging in the area of the suggested expansion.

What upsets me most about the whole thing is that it almost got voted on the last time it went before the board, with no public input. This time, the room was jam-packed with people who spoke against giving Mr. Taylor free rein over there.

The reality is that the ocean is a public resource, and aquaculture farms take that resource away from the public and give it to a private entity for profit.

And that's wrong. I suppose if there is some greater public benefit that comes from it, then that's supposed to make it all okay. I don't see that here. Read for yourself on page 4 and decide for yourself if Mr. Taylor singlehandedly saved Nasketucket Bay. Personally, I'm more likely to think it was the sewer line going down Sciticut Neck Road, not Mr. Taylor's for-profit venture that throws a few tidbits back to the town in the way of shellfish.

Well there's more stuff in here of course, including our super-fun cover story about Marion Makin, who turned 102 this month (see page 12). She's a spitfire, that's for sure. I'm not sure she particularly likes reporters, either, although she did say she liked the *Neighb News*. May we all be as entertaining to those around us if we are blessed enough to live that long.

Fairhaven has three new police officers. See page 13 to meet the newbies. And, um....dare I write it out loud?...drive carefully because they need the practice stopping people.

The bridge is going to be closed for awhile starting in a couple of weeks. See page 10 for details.

We also have BPW (page 18), Acushnet Selectboard (page 16) and a bunch of other stuff in here. But...my time is up.

So, until next week then...see ya

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, February 13, 2014

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story on Fairhaven murders past in last week's issue, we made a mistake in the name of a witness in the case from 1962. She was Elizabeth Garcia. We apologize for any confusion our mistake may have caused.

Selectboard presents proclamation to family of fallen Marine

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard presented the family of Fairhaven native Lance Corporal Matthew Rodriguez with a proclamation in honor of his service and sacrifice in the US Marine Corps. LCPL Rodriguez was killed in combat operations in Afghanistan on December 11, 2013.

"Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez has been the ultimate example of kindness, leadership, bravery, honesty, strength, pride, and courage for the people of the Town of Fairhaven," reads the proclamation, which also declared February 6, 2014, Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez appreciation Day in the Town of Fairhaven, for the leadership and loyalty he has brought to our Fairhaven community and how he selflessly gave his life in the service to the country he loved. We honor and thank this extraordinary young man who has made Fairhaven and the United States of America a better place to live. He will be greatly missed."

Selectboard chair Charles Murphy

said that "the Town of Fairhaven suffered a great loss," with the death of Lance Cpl. Rodriguez.

"It was an obvious outpouring of emotion," said selectboard member Bob Espindola referring to the people who lined the streets and the highway as LCPL Rodriguez's casket passed by on his return to the area and the day of his funeral. "It was inspiring to see how many people cared about his sacrifice."

Mr. Espindola said he would never be able to hear the words of the National Anthem without thinking of Matt.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Haworth said he had known Matt since he was a baby and it was a "tragedy for the town and for the family."

Matthew's mother Lisa

thanked the entire town, including officials for helping to coordinate the many logistics of returning Matthew's remains to town and the funeral.

"From our eyes, it went very smoothly. The outpouring was amazing," she said, adding it was "wonderful" that everyone pitched in for it all to go "as wonderfully as it did."

The crowd then stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.



Lance Cpl. Matthew Rodriguez's mother, brother and father, Lisa, Adam and Roland "Rod" Rodriguez, listen as Fairhaven Selectboard members present a proclamation honoring the sacrifice of the 19-year-old Marine who was killed on December 11, 2013, in Afghanistan. Photo by Beth David



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THE MINIONS ARE COMING!



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SCHOOL VACATION SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2014		14 FRIDAY VALENTINES DAY TEEN SKATE 7-10PM	15 SATURDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY SKATE 7-10PM
16 SUNDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM	17 MONDAY PRESIDENTS DAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM <small>MEET THE MINIONS</small>	18 TUESDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM	19 WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY PIZZA SKATE 6-8PM <small>FREE PIZZA & SODA</small>
20 THURSDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM ADULT SKATE 18+ 7-9PM	21 FRIDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM TEEN SKATE 7-10PM	22 SATURDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY SKATE 7-10PM	23 SUNDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM

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Selectboard holds off on Taylor Seafood decision

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard faced a roomful of residents on Thursday, 2/6, many hoping to weigh in on the proposed expansion of Taylor Seafood's aquaculture farm in Nasketucket Bay. Rodman Taylor, President of Taylor Cultured Seafoods, presented a proposal to expand his 35-acre farm to 101 acres.

Mr. Taylor told the group that he has been processing scallops in Nasketucket Bay since 1987, and oysters since 1999. He said he wants to expand the business to make more money so he can renovate the building he owns on Goulart Memorial Drive to build a quahog hatchery.

The aquaculture farm is located near the Seaview boat ramp. The plan would expand it mostly west and north of his present location, moving his farm closer to the shore.

Mr. Taylor said he would provide quahog seed to the town, which would give local diggers more "count neck" size, which is the smaller size that commands a higher price for commercial diggers.

He explained that the three species of shellfish he would be growing are filter feeders that eat phytoplankton, keeping the organisms under control and clarifying the water, and reducing nitrogen, resulting in a healthier bay and seabed. Although an important feeder plant, phytoplankton can cause "dead zones" if it grows out of control. After it decomposes it turns to mud, he said.

"When we started in 1987, most of Nasketucket Bay was muddy," said Mr. Taylor. "And I think it was in dire straits."

He said his aquaculture farm has helped the bay recover from that time, along with the town now being 99% sewerred. He said his series of nets in the water also creates a safe haven for smaller fish, which then bring the larger fish.

"Almost like a reef system you would find in the tropics," he said, adding that he has donated scallop seed to the town nearly every year he has been in business, including 1.5 million seed worth \$75,000 this year.

Several people expressed concern about the hatchery, the condition of the property, and where the pipe would go that would discharge the water into the ocean. Some West Island residents complained that the

building has been an eyesore for years, and the property is rat-infested.

Mr. Taylor said they were only asking for a vote on the expansion of the aquaculture farm on the north side of the causeway, not the building side, but then he continued to refer to the hatchery throughout the night.

He said the water that would go into the hatchery from the ocean would be "super clean," and so would the water going back out.

Fairhaven Shellfish Warden Timothy Cox said that the state Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) would test the water as often as the town asked.

"If we are allowed to build a hatchery, the benefits of that would so outweigh anything," said Mr. Taylor. He said he would need a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency, much like the one that the wastewater treatment plant needs to discharge water into the bay.

It would be really sad if we didn't have an aquaculture farm in town [Rod Taylor]

You're taking bottom away from our people, too [Robert "Hoppy" Hobson]

Attorney Matthew Thomas, representing Octavia David and the Cottage Realty Trust, abutters who have beach rights to the private beach next to Mr. Taylor's property, said that they were more concerned with the hatchery and the possibility of the water being fouled by the project. Mr. Taylor assured Mr. Thomas that the evening's vote was strictly for the expansion of the aquaculture farm and that the hatchery was still in the early planning stages.

Resident Frank Coelho invoked the memory of the late David Ward, who complained about Mr. Taylor's equipment that got blown away in a storm.

"It stayed there for a year," said Mr. Coelho, and only got cleaned up when Mr. Taylor's lease was up for renewal. "So you're not a very good neighbor."

Mr. Coelho said the building Mr. Taylor owns is "falling apart" and the net storage area is infested with rats.

"If you approve more acreage, he's not going to fix the building. I guarantee it," said Mr. Coelho.

He also pointed out that his waterway fee costs more than the \$25 per acre that Mr. Taylor pays.

"How do you justify it," said Mr. Coelho, when people on West Island are paying high taxes. "And yet we're giving the water away for \$25 an acre. I think that's wrong."

Jerry Moles of the DMF said the rate was set by the state.

Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, a Board of Public Works member and former owner of Hoppy's Landing, traps lobsters and conch. He said he took a lot of both in the area that Mr. Taylor wants to expand into.

"You're taking bottom away from our people, too," said Mr. Hobson.

He said that 95% of the scallops in the bay are "all natural" and not from Mr. Taylor's cultured stock, which are distinguished by their colorful shells.

Mr. Taylor, however, said that the next generation of shellfish lose the color.

"They don't hold the color," he said, insisting that all the scallops in the bay are a direct result of his farm, either because it is spawn from his scallops, or because the seabed is healthier. "I'm pretty sure there'd be no bay scallops at all in southeastern Massachusetts," without the farm.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Haworth suggested that if Mr. Taylor cleaned up the building and the property, it would "go a long way with the people of West Island."

"People don't feel confident giving you the acreage because you have not been a good neighbor," said Mr. Haworth.

"I need a place to store my nets. It's an aquaculture storage site," said Mr. Taylor. "I am aware it is an eyesore."

He also said that if he builds a hatchery there, he will move the nets, "And we are going to build this hatchery and it's going to look a heck of a lot better."

Vincent Manfredi warned people that the type of gear Mr. Taylor wants to use for the expanded farm is very different than what is out there now.

"We are talking about an extremely different visual impact," said Mr. Manfredi, and took issue with Mr. Taylor claiming to be the largest aquaculture farm on the east coast and "wanting to grab more land away

SELECT: cont'd on page 20

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



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Ash Wednesday

On March 5, we will be open in the evening until 8 p.m.
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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Sun., 3/16 & Mon., 3/17, Jevon will be preparing his
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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Feb. Vaca. Art Week

Art on Center has a variety of amazing classes for children and teens to explore on February Vacation Week. All classes held at the Center, 15 Center Street, Fairhaven.

Music and Movement: Especially for the little ones, we explore different types of stretches and fun movement set to music. Age 3-6. Tues. & Thurs., 2/18 & 20, from 10-11am

Paint the Masters: Van Gogh, Monet or Picasso, no matter which one is your favorite this acrylic painting class will show you how to recreate a masterpiece of your own! All materials are provided. Tuesday 2/18, 12-2pm Ages 7+ Cost: \$20

Design your own sketchbook including a canvas wrap cover. The term "Color Field" describes a style of abstract painting characterized by large canvas "fields" of color. Create a one-of-a-kind sketchbook. Wed. 2/19 10:30am-12:30pm Ages 13+ Cost: \$25

Life Drawing: Increase your knowledge of the effects of light on form, volume and line. This is a great class to begin your studies in art or to improve your drawing skills. Wed. 2/19, 1-4pm Ages 13+ Cost: \$15

Suminagashi Painting: "Ink-floating" is the ancient Japanese technique of painting on water to create marbled effects on paper. Use the finished print to make cards, journal covers, etc. Thurs. 2/20 1-4pm Ages 12+ Cost: \$22 Also "Create your own painted Sumi fan" class for ages 7-11. Cost: \$20

Wearable art: Jocelyn Souto will be teaching two great "no sew" classes. All materials provided. No-Sew Tutu: Fri. 2/21 10:30am-12noon Ages 10+ Fee \$25 "No-Sew T-shirt Scarf: Fri., 2/21 12:30-2pm Ages 10+ Fee \$20

Class sizes are limited and prepayment is required for most classes. Call 774-206-1709 or send an email to info@artoncenter.org Art on Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 arts organization.

Fhvn Dems Caucus

On Sat., Feb. 22, members of the Democratic Party who are registered in Fairhaven will caucus to elect nine delegates and three alternates to attend the party's state convention in June. The caucus will commence at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Millicent Library at 45 Center St. in Fairhaven.

Participants should enter by the Walnut Street side entrance to the library. Accessible. Registration will begin 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the caucus.

Individuals wishing to run as a delegate or vote at the Fairhaven caucus must be registered Democrats in town as of January 31, 2014. The official purpose of the caucus is to select delegates to the 2014 Mass. Democratic Convention, where Mass. Democrats will vote to endorse candidates for statewide office. The convention will be held at the DCU Center in Worcester on Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14, 2014.

The caucus is open to all registered Democrats in Fairhaven and the Democratic Town Committee welcomes participants. Details on the rules can be found at www.massdems.org. For Fairhaven Democratic caucus information, please contact Rich Taber, Chair at 508-542-6748. For general information on the Convention or the Democratic Party please call 617-939-0800 or email contact@massdems.org.

Winter Encampment

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

The Fairhaven Village Militia, the Fairhaven Office of Tourism and guests present a historical winter encampment at the Academy Building on the west lawn of Fairhaven High School. Talk to period costumed men and women about life in the 1770s. See military drilling, flintlock musket and cannon firing demonstrations and camp cooking demonstrations and more. For more information, call 508-979-4085 or email FairhavenTours@aol.com.

Book Group

"Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet, a Novel" by Jamie Ford, is the next book selected by the Millicent Library's Morning Discussion Group. **The group will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, February 20.**

The novel is set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II, and Japanese internment camps of the era. It is a heart warming story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love, Keiko Okabe.

All are welcome to come to the 10:00 a.m. meeting in the library's conference room, which is accessible from the Walnut Street entrance. The book is available at the library and can be reserved by visiting www.MillicentLibrary.org.

Future meeting dates and book selections are also listed at this site.

Discussions last about an hour. For more information, please contact Norma Markey at 508-993-3745.

Outdoor Adventure

Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition for Family Bay Adventure Week, a **free series of three eco-challenges** to test and grow your family's knowledge, creativity and connection to Buzzards Bay. We'll enjoy a variety of activities that will teach you about your local environment while providing a fun way for your whole family to work together.

Obstacle Course

Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 10-11 a.m. at West Island Town Beach (end of Fir Street, Fairhaven)

Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 10-11 a.m. at LaPalme Farm (end of Blain Street, Acushnet)

Orienteering

Thursday, Feb. 20 from 10-11 a.m. at Buttonwood Park (meet at the tennis courts by the Zoo parking lot)

All events are FREE. Registration is required. To RSVP, email bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org or call 508-999-6363 ext. 219.

These programs are 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, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/BayAdventures.

Tea & Open House

Historical Tea & Open House, Sunday, February 23, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at Coggeshall Memorial House, 6 Cherry Street, Fairhaven.

The Fairhaven Colonial Club holds its annual open house and tea in observance of the town's anniversary. Visit this historical home and see the collection of Fairhaven art and artifacts on display in this large colonial-revival home built in 1908. Free. The historic building is not wheelchair accessible.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Diesel Workshop for Women

Deadline to register: 2/15 for two-day workshop, March 15-16, at the Mack Boring & Parts Company, 59 Tarkiln Place, New Bedford.

The two-day workshop will familiarize you with the proper methods of performing basic engine service and emergency repairs, with two-thirds of your time working on the engines yourself.

On Saturday, you'll get an introduction to diesel engines and periodic maintenance with lots of opportunities to do some work yourself. Sunday you'll kick into high gear with hands-on work focusing on the diesel engine's lubrication, fuel, cooling and electrical systems. A take-home reference manual is also included.

This excellent opportunity with Mack Boring is based on a minimum of seven and not more than 15 women. Fee is \$425 for National Women's Sailing Association members (add \$45 for NWSA membership) and includes workshop, training materials and lunch. For more information, contact Claire Gerrish at 978-979-7241 or email: wsf@womensailing.org

A Program of the Women's Sailing Foundation, c/o 146 South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Marine Corps League

The Greater New Bedford Marine Corps League invites you to attend an informational session about the Marine Corps League. Learn about opportunities, accomplishments and benefits of your local detachment.

All Male and Female Marines and FMF Corpsmen are invited to the **Poirier Post VFW at the corner of Appleton St and Ashley Blvd. (near NB vocational high school) on Thurs. Feb. 13, from 7-8:30pm. Refreshments will be served.**

Check out our website at GNBMCL.ning.com. Call Rick Seguin 508-496-9023 or Pete Lantz 508-505-6311 for more information.

YTI Auditions

Auditions for *Squabbles*, by Marshall Karp, on **Feb. 13 & 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the handicap accessible Your Theatre, Inc.** at St. Martin's Church, 136 Rivet St. at County St.,

New Bedford. Parking and entrance at rear of church on County St.

For further information call Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or e-mail to info@yourtheatre.org. Visit www.yourtheatre.org

River & Rail Symposium

Noted historian, Kingston Heath will lead a weekend symposium on enterprise and industry in New Bedford titled **"The River and the Rail" February 15-16 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.**

The Port of New Bedford's historical evolution as a manufacturing and commercial center provides valuable perspective on the growth challenges it faces today — managing ocean resources, cleaning up a century of pollution, and mapping a path forward for other maritime related industries while preserving its fishing industry.

Starts at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday, February 15; ends on Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

Registration: \$65 (non-members \$75); students \$50 with valid i.d. Includes all sessions, Saturday's complete breakfast, luncheon, refreshments, Sunday's continental breakfast and admission to all museum galleries. **Saturday breakfast and keynote lecture only: \$30.** To register, call 508-997-0046 ext. 100, online: www.whalingmuseum.org.

Feb Vacation at Whaling Museum

Three great American Presidents — George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt — will visit with children at the annual Presidents' Day Birthday Bash Monday, February 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Come explore how the Founding Fathers influenced New Bedford history, participate in a scavenger hunt, create your own soap scrimshaw, and more. Children will have the opportunity to dress as their favorite president and have their photograph taken beside the famous Resolute Desk, created from the same ship's timbers as the one used in the Oval Office.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Presidents' Day events in

the Jacobs Family Gallery and Wattles Family Gallery are free. Regular admission rates apply to all other museum galleries.

Presidents' Day kicks off a week of events for school vacation week that includes special tours and hands-on activities each day, culminating with "All aboard the Lagoda" on Friday, February 21.

For details call, (508) 997-0046, or visit www.whalingmuseum.org

Feb. Vacation Art

February vacation classes run February 17-21, in Downtown New Bedford. By Artworks and held at the NB Art Museum, 608 Pleasant St. To reserve your place call 508-984-1588.

Tweens on Wheels/Clay, Film, Acting and Video, Paper-mache Animals/Birds, Make it and Use it!/Clay Beginner to Intermediate

Various prices and times/dates. Visit <http://artworksforyou.org/programs/kids-programs/>

Bouchard Spill Mtg

The Natural Resource Damages Trustee Council for the Bouchard Barge-120 oil spill released a draft restoration plan (RP) and environmental assessment (EA) for shoreline, aquatic and recreational use resources impacted by the 2003 spill in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The Trustees will hear comments on the draft plan at a public information meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford.

Review the Draft and submit comments through Sunday, March 23, 2014. A hardcopy of the Draft RP/EA is available in the City of Fall River and Town of Bourne public libraries. The electronic version of this Draft RP/EA document is available for public review at the following web sites:

<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov/northeast/buzzard/index.html>

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/cleanup/nrd/>

Comments on the Draft RP/EA should be submitted in writing to: NOAA Restoration Center, Attention: Buzzards Bay RP/EA Review Coordinator, 28 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, R.I. 02882; buzzardsbay.rp.ea.review@noaa.gov

STILL OVERTOWN

Fish Stock Workshop

A workshop hosted by the Mass. Marine Fisheries Institute (MFI) on "Fishery Monitoring and Survey Selectivity" will be held **Feb. 24-25 at the Waypoint Event Center in New Bedford (185 MacAthur Boulevard, New Bedford); and Feb. 26 at the Waterfront Grille (across the street, at 36 Homer's Wharf).**

The MFI is coordinating an End-to-

End Review of New England Groundfish Stock Assessments, and this workshop topic was identified at a recent scoping meeting in that process.

This workshop on fishery monitoring and survey selectivity will be describing current data collection programs and soliciting feedback from the fishing industry to complement the technical recommendations from a recent data collection program

review by NMFS. A draft agenda is below. Given the wide scope of these topics, the workshop is expected to provide an overview and broad recommendations for a longer-term approach to improving fishery monitoring and surveys.

The meetings are open to all interested parties who register by contacting Emily Keiley, ekeiley@umassd.edu. **Please register no later than Monday, February 17th.**

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Scholarship Brunch

The Irene Erickson Croteau Scholarship will hold its 6th Annual Scholarship Brunch on **Sun. Feb. 16, at the Century House, 107 South Main Street, Acushnet.**

Doors open at 11:00, brunch served at 12:00. **Tickets: \$22 adults/\$12 children 12-6. Children 5 and under free.** For tickets call Marybeth at 774-217-0474

Raffles. Great food...to benefit scholarships for local high school and college students.

Bluebird Nest Walk

Bluebird Nest Box Walk Saturday, Feb 22, 2014 1:00 pm-3:00 pm at the Allens Neck Trail Head, Allens Neck Road South Dartmouth

Join us at the Allens Neck trail head (part of the Allens Pond Wildlife Sanctuary) for a FREE bluebird nest box training session and nature walk. The walk is free and open to anyone but will focus on teaching participants how to monitor nest boxes on our property as well as their own private properties. You will visit approximately 30 nest box sites along this three mile hike while learning how to attract and monitor bluebirds. You'll also have the chance to join the Allens Pond Volunteer Bluebird Nest Box Monitor Program. Please bring your questions!

Meet at the Allens Neck parking lot, located off of Allens Neck Road in South Dartmouth. Dress for an outdoor walk and bring a water bottle.

Fishing Fundraiser

On **Sat., Feb. 22**, the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) will host a fundraiser, including a raffle and auction, with the proceeds going to

benefit the work of the NSC in advocating on behalf of the region's struggling groundfishermen. The event will take place from **6-11 pm at The Gloucester House, 63 Rogers Street in Gloucester, Mass. Tickets are \$100**, and will go directly to helping NSC continue to work for our fishermen and fishing communities.

Admission to the event includes dinner and live music from the band Just Like Newman. The NSC will also be hosting an auction and a 50/50 raffle, awarding \$18,500 in prize money. The winner of the raffle will take home \$10,000, with \$5000 awarded to the runner-up. Third prize wins \$2,000, with \$1,000 and \$500 going to fourth and fifth place.

To purchase tickets or to find out more information, contact Christine Sherman of the Northeast Seafood Coalition at 978-269-4555. To learn more about NSC visit <http://northeastseafoodcoalition.org/> or call 978-283-9992.

Free Concerts

Running Brook Vineyards and Winery has announced the lineup for the Local Music & Wine Winter Series. Music events are always free at the Dartmouth winery. The winery is open every day noon to 5. Running Brook, established in 1998, is located at 335 Old Fall River Road, North Dartmouth MA just minutes from Fauce Corner Road and I-195.

Wes from Georgia will play on February 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. The Delta Charlie Trio returns on February 15 for another evening performance starting at 5 p.m.

The winter series concludes in March with performances by reggae band Dubbest on March 1, Delta Charlie Band on March 8, Midlife

Crisis on March 15, Wes from Georgia on March 22 and a special Wine Club Party on March 29 with James Gagne of Shipyard Wreck.

Running Brook will be holding the Local Music & Wine music series nearly every weekend in 2014.

Visit runningbrookwine.com or call (508) 985-1998.

My Funny Valentine

Ocean State Theatre Company (OSTC) is proud to announce the continuation of their Piano Bar Series. "My Funny Valentine" will be held following select evening performances of the company's current production, Neil Simon's hilarious comedy, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*.

The theatre's lobby will be transformed into an intimate performance space, at which patrons will be entertained by cast members, OSTC alumni, and staff members, while enjoying beverages and late night appetizers, which will be available for purchase from the theatre's lobby bar.

"My Funny Valentine" will be presented following Friday and Saturday evening performances of *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* on **Feb. 14 & 15. Attendance at the performance preceding the cabaret is not required.** The lobby doors will open for the cabaret at 9:30 pm. The theatre is located at 1245 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI. **Admission is free, but seating is limited**, so reservations are strongly recommended. Call (401) 921-6800.



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ENTERTAINMENT:

Thurs., 2/13: Scarlett, 7-11 p.m.
Fri., 2/14: James Gagne, 8-Mid.
Sat., 2/15: The Relics, 9 p.m.
Fri., 2/21: Jeff Dunn Band, 8-Mid.

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Recipe of the Week

Easy Swedish Apple Pie

6 apples peeled, cored and sliced
 2 T. cinnamon
 1 stick butter or margarine
 melted
 1 c. sugar
 1 c. flour
 Dash of salt
 1/2 c. nuts (optional)
 1 egg

Grease pie plate with the wrapper of butter. Line plate with apples; sprinkle cinnamon and mix. Melt butter. Mix sugar and flour together. Add butter and mix well. Add egg. Mix well.

Add salt; spread batter over apples. Sprinkle with nuts if desired. Bake at 350 for 30-35 minutes.

Serve warm garnished with ice cream or whipped cream.

Yummy!! Enjoy!

Bevy Lussier

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

Carl Reiner

Bridge closing on 3/4 for up to 3 weeks

Press Release

MassDOT (Department of Transportation) will initiate around the clock work to install a new transformer and motors on the New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge beginning at 6:00 am on Sunday, March 4. The bridge will be closed to traffic during the work.

The electrical system that allows both cars and vessels to pass the New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge requires urgent transformer and motor upgrades that could take three weeks. The work, if left undone, could cripple the span for an unknown period of time.

The inadequate transformer capacity issue was brought home last February when a problem caused a closure. The incident initiated MassDOT's current effort to provide a permanent remedy through the installation of new transformers and motors.

"A March start offers us an appropriate time for addressing this job. The procurement has been completed, the contractor has agreed to a 24/7 mobilization, and NStar is on board," said MassDOT Highway Administrator Frank DePaola. "While we understand the bridge closure is an inconvenience to area drivers, the March timeframe

also allows us to avoid impacting the busy tourist season."

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell said, "MassDOT is taking a proactive approach to the problem. It's critical to fix the bridge's electrical system before another breakdown triggers an extended closure. I appreciate MassDOT accommodating the City's request that contractor adopt the extraordinary measure of deploying work crews around the clock until the job is complete."

During the electrical upgrade, the bridge will be set in the open position to allow marine vessels to transit the area in accordance with Federal Law and the US Coast Guard. Specific detour routes will be posted on MassDOT's website.

The work includes replacing the existing transformer and the replacement of the bridge's 14 motors. The goal is that the upgrade will minimize impact to marine and vehicular traffic when future maintenance and repair work becomes necessary.

The aggressive work schedule is dependent on weather conditions. MassDOT will provide updates.

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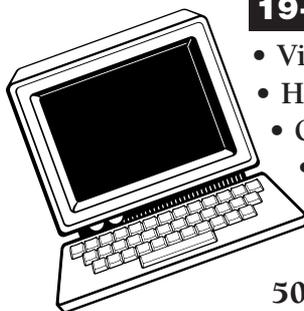
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2: Sweet Valentine

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Dessert: Pumpkin Custard

3: Love Passion

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Sat., 2/22: Eddie Dillon/Celtic &

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Marion Makin: making it to 102

Text and photos by Beth David
Editor

"She says 'imagine having a son who's 80,'" recounts Marion Makin's son Russell, to which he responds: "Imagine having a mother who's 102."

"She's got grandchildren in their fifties," he adds.

And so it goes whenever 102-year-old Marion Makin is surrounded by her children (a son and daughter; one son died at 33), grandchildren and great grandchildren (no one seems to have an exact count of either), and one great-great granddaughter.

Born Marion Gibson in England, Ms. Makin has survived a sister who lived to be 89 and a brother who died in infancy. Up until a little more than a year ago, when she fell and broke her arm, she was living alone. She moved to Alden Court just before her 101st birthday.

Before that, she lived at Dana Court for more than 20 years.

Asked for her secret to living to be 102, Ms. Makin looked up like it was the dumbest question she ever heard.

"Because I lived past a-hundred-and-one," she said with a big smile.

Seriously, though, her advice to those wishing long life?

"Just be a good Christian," she said. "That's my advice."

She added that not drinking and not smoking also help.

With her mind still sharp and her tongue still sharper, Ms. Makin is full of life and entertains (okay, embarrasses) her family wherever they go. She still studies her bible every morning, "when it gets light out." She also reads historical romances, magazines, newspapers and anything else that's around.

"I read constantly," she said. "I have all my life. I started with the Bible."

Family members recount the stories surrounding a woman who was divorced at a young age, was a strong single parent, and who always told it like she saw it, never one to pull a verbal punch.

Marion's son David was killed at the age of 33 while he was serving as Senior Chief Machinery Technician in the Coast Guard on the USCGC Cuyahoga. In 1978 an Argentine coal freighter hit the Cuyahoga resulting in 11 deaths, including MKCS David Makin.

Russell Makin said his father died from a stroke while out at sea fishing. Russell's son David was in the Coast Guard when he got news of his uncle's

death.

"We've all been oriented with the marine trades," said Russell.

When relatives discuss the feisty matriarch, the conversation mostly revolves around her sharp tongue, especially in public.

Called "Momma Makin, Nana" or simply "Grandma," Marion can turn a phrase and heads at the same time.

"A little bit too much sometimes," said Russell. "She certainly has a knack for insulting people."

"In her mind she's kidding with people," said Marion's daughter, Judith Pinard. "But she's actually insulting them."

"She tells it like it is," said Farah



ABOVE: 102-year-old Marion Makin holds up a paperback she received for her birthday. BELOW: Her patience with a newspaper photographer runs out.



Costa, a friend of the family who enjoys talking to Ms. Makin about the old days. "She's a very smart woman."

"She's always been like that. She says whatever is on her mind," said granddaughter Debra Lemonde.

Karen Fostin was seven when she met her adopted "Nana."

"She was always there for me, because my mother died when I was young," she said, adding that Marion helped Ms. Fostin with her babies when they were born. "I tell her she's a brat and she calls me a rat-fink."

"If you have thin skin, you're in the wrong place," said Jeff McAfee who is married to Marion's granddaughter.

Marion's work life is also cause for discussion. She worked at Cornell-Dubilier, Advanced Cup and the

Norwood Research Center. She said they wanted her back at Cornell-Dubilier and when she didn't go, the place shut down. But, somehow, the timing doesn't quite work out.

There's no confusion, though about her artistic ability. Professional artist Ashlee (Brienzo) Lentini said that her adopted Nana was her "number one artistic influence," and gave Ashlee her first paint set.

Marion's paintings hang in her room and Ashlee still has a drawing that Marion made of Buddy the Beagle, Ashlee's childhood pet.

On the domestic front, Marion was also adept at making and preserving jams and jellies.

Ashlee said, though, that what she remembered most, was support for her artistic ambitions and advice on how to make her illustrations better.

"She's got a sharp wit and a sharper tongue," said Ashlee. "But that was the cool part. She's genuine. She let's you know if she likes you, and better yet, she lets you know if she doesn't."

Ashlee said that Marion is a "creature of routine," and that's what keeps her going strong.

"She lived on her own until 100. How many people can say that?"

Karen Faria of Fairhaven said Marion is fun to take to lunch, and her commentary on everyone around her is entertaining, albeit somewhat embarrassing at times.

"She makes us laugh," said Ms. Faria. "She has no filter at all."

The group at the table said that Marion always takes great care with her clothes, always matching her shoes with her outfit.

The oldest family story, though, might be that Marion came to America on a ship when she was two years old. A relative gave her a locket, a family heirloom, and Marion threw it in the ocean. Why?

"Because I was two," she would say.

After eating her banana cream pie (she's not particularly fond of cake), Marion had no patience for the foolish questions of a reporter.

She said she no longer painted, but there was no need to put that in the paper. Why not?

"Because it's none of their business. And it's none of yours," she said forcefully. "I'm not a-hundred-and-two for nothing y'know."

"She's a little firecracker," said one relative walking out the door.

Fairhaven PD welcomes three new officers

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven swore in three new police officers on Monday, 2/10, bringing the department back up to its full complement of 32 patrol officers. The department has 39 officers, including the chief and six sergeants.

Jason Tavares, Marcy Haaland and Christopher Bettencourt graduated from the police academy and started patrols this week.

"I'm excited," said Mr. Tavares, 30. "I just can't wait to go out there and start my new career."

He was with the Bristol County House of Correction (HOC) for seven years.

He said he left that job to be a police officer because, "It's just been a lifelong goal of mine, since I was a kid."

His girlfriend, Julie Haaland (no relation to Marcy), said she was a little bit nervous about his new job, "but it'll be okay. He's strong."

Mr. Bettencourt, 29, was also with the HOC, but said he always wanted to be a police officer, especially in Fairhaven, where he grew up and wants to raise his daughter.

"I want to protect the town," said Mr. Bettencourt. "To make it a good place for her to grow up."

Mr. Bettencourt received the 100% award at the academy, given to the person who gives 100%, 100% of the time.

"They chose me because I work hard," he said simply.

His wife Elizabeth said she was "very happy for him. I'm very proud of him," although she admitted to being "a little nervous."

He was a Marine serving in Afghanistan, though, so, she will get used to it, she said.

Ms. Haaland, 42, worked at the Bristol County HOC for 15 years. She said it was just time to move on. She was looking for a "change of scenery," when she saw this opportunity.

She especially likes the opportunity to work for her home town. She said the academy was "difficult, but rewarding at the same time."

"I feel elated," she said, adding that although she knows it's a large job ahead of her, "I'm glad to be at this point."

"I feel great that she's achieved the

goal she set for herself," said Marcy's husband John. "And I feel nervous a little bit."

"They're motivated, disciplined, professional, excited to be here and are looking forward to serving the town of Fairhaven," said Sgt. Kevin Kobza, the department's training officer. "Their performance in the academy was exceptional and they demonstrated a degree of professionalism that represents the finest traditions of the Fairhaven Police Department."

The three new officers will start out riding with an experienced officer for 3-4 months, according to Police Chief Michael Myers. He said it is the first time in a very long time that the department has had a full complement of officers.

"I'm very excited," said Chief Myers. "They all proved themselves just through the training."

He said the process of hiring police officers is long, difficult, and expensive. It involves extensive background checks, a battery of physical and psychological tests, and the police academy, which is 800 hours of training.



L-R: Jason Tavares and Marcy Haaland can't contain their smiles as they are sworn in with fellow police officer Christopher Bettencourt by Fairhaven town clerk Eileen Lowney on Monday, 2/10 in the Fairhaven Town Hall. The addition of the three new officers brings the town up to its full complement of officers. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at NeighbNews.com*

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Kool Kids February Vacation (almost full)

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

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Patrick Young

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Mall Trips

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

Entertainment

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

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Presentation

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

Singles Supper Club

Tuesday, 2/18. Call Fairhaven Senior Center for info. 508-979-4029

Weather Cancellations

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

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

Fuel Assistance

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If love is blind, why is
lingerie so popular?

Author Unknown

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Acushnet looking to save on retirees; DOR reports on BPW

By Michael Smith

Neighb News Correspondent

Financial consultants addressed the future of benefits for Acushnet town retirees during a presentation to the Selectboard on Monday, 2/10.

Acushnet Finance Director Cathy Doane introduced the presenters to the board to kick off the one hour and forty-five minute presentation, but not before Ms. Doane told the board that the town possesses a surplus of nearly \$400,000 in overlay funds.

OPEB stands for Other Post Employment Benefits, or more plainly, "a community's health, dental and life liabilities for your retirees," said Chuck Patterson, a representative from Bartholomew, the town's investment advisors.

Mr. Patterson provided a power point presentation on OPEB and how it will affect Acushnet if left unchecked. He said that he was not giving legal or tax advice, but only an overview of what OPEB is and means for Acushnet.

"If you don't deal with it, its going to effect the town down the road," Mr. Patterson said, adding that if Acushnet does not deal with OPEB, it could lead to tax increases and a reduction of services.

Mr. Patterson also talked about how crucial the town's bond rating could be affected if OPEB is not addressed.

"One of the main questions a bond rating company will ask a town is if you addressed OPEB," said Mr. Patterson. "OPEB could very well affect if a town gets to borrow money or not."

Factors for growth of OPEB liability, Mr. Patterson said, include number of participants, annual health care costs, and assumed rate of return on investments.

In funding OPEB, Mr. Patterson mentioned potential funding options to the board including: Acushnet dedicating a percentage of town revenue; free cash; a dedicated revenue stream; establish cost sharing structure with employees; and pension funding.

Mr. Patterson also briefly mentioned strategies in alternative investments and specific risks the town would be taking.

Selectboard member David Wojnar asked how many municipalities in the state have undergone tackling OPEB. Mr. Patterson answered that close to

100 communities are addressing the issue.

"Once it's in, it's there," said Mr. Patterson of money planned for retiree benefits. "Rating agencies like to see a plan."

Steve Lemanski, a principal consultant from Milliman Actuarial, followed up by talking about options for funding.

Mr. Lemanski provided the board with three baseline scenarios, including front-loading contributions, and how they could invest money into the trust, while showing its future projections when fully funded in 25 years.

Any plan would need a "reasonable set of time to build up something meaningful," said Mr. Lemanski, adding that 20 years would not be

**A loss of water that is
unaccounted for was also
discovered in the probe...
costing taxpayers over
\$150,000 a year.**

reasonable for a trust to be fully funded.

Town Administrator Alan Coutinho said the trust should be addressed each year as a line item budget, but also asked Mr. Lemanski if there were future changes in the law, could the town use the money to pay current employees.

"The purpose of an OPEB trust is to pay retirees, nothing else," said Mr. Lemanski.

Ms. Doane concluded the presentation by recommending that the board use the \$400,00 surplus toward the OPEB liability to ease tax relief on taxpayers.

"If we don't start funding our liability, we will see an increase in taxes. We also need to protect the town's services," she said.

Mr. Wojnar decided not to vote on the issue until all municipal committees hear the information and have their say on the matter. Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar Sr. supports it, he said, but agreed with Mr. Wojnar to have further discussion with the

board on the materials presented.

The board voted unanimously to table the matter for further review.

The ongoing saga of the Acushnet Board of Public Works came closer to a conclusion when Zack Blake, a representative of the Department of Revenue, spoke to the board of his department's report on the financial management of the town's Board of Public Works.

The report was requested by the Selectboard.

Mr. Blake said that their December report probes into the practices of the BPW and interviews with several people including Acushnet Town Administrator Alan Coutinho, Finance Director Cathy Doane, and various town officials.

"Based on our observation, we saw a lot of leadership issues," said Mr. Blake of the BPW.

The report stems from public outcry of years of controversial practices by the municipality, which included questionable rate increases, sewer-billing practices, and construction costs.

Town meeting voted in December 2013 to eliminate the Board of Public Works and transfer oversight to the Selectboard.

One finding Mr. Blake noted in the report was a long expired purchase agreement with New Bedford by the town's BPW, which Mr. Blake said expired more than five years ago.

The report also mentions the lack of a capital improvement plan by the BPW.

"This is an aging infrastructure from the 1920's that needs to be tackled with a long-term plan," said Mr. Blake of Acushnet's water and sewer system.

A loss of water that is unaccounted for was also discovered in the probe, which stated an annual loss of 20%, costing taxpayers over \$150,000 a year. Mr. Blake pointed toward aging meters as part of the issue.

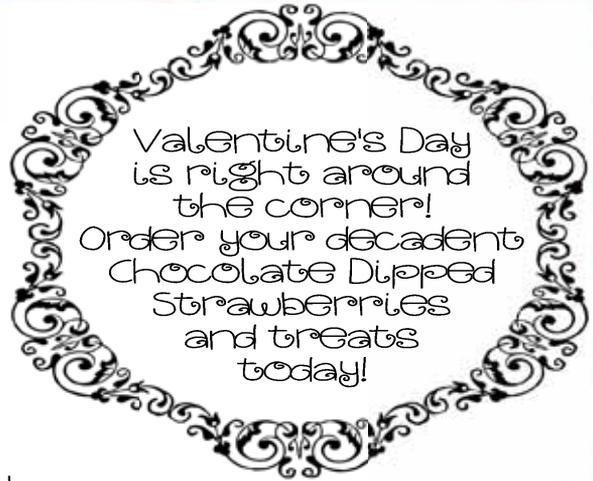
Recommendations by Mr. Blake include reviewing the sewer rate structures, establishing a capital improvement program, and addressing the expired New Bedford water purchase agreement in order to move the department forward.

"The whole lynch-pin of this report is having the Selectboard oversee the Board of Public Works," said Mr. Wojnar.

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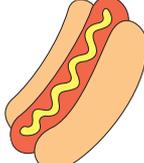
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BPW holds abbreviated meeting, with abbreviated board

By Michael Smith

Neighb News Correspondent

On a cold night, the Fairhaven Board of Public Work's went with a three-member board with Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson presiding over the February 10 meeting. Chairperson Steven Riley was unavailable to attend the start of the meeting. Kathy Sturtevant was also not in attendance.

The board began by meeting with Manual Fontes, of Mercury Heavy Equipment, a subsidiary of Long Built Homes, who came before the board requesting approval to be the town's newest drain-layer.

Mercury Heavy Equipment is currently a licensed drain-layer in Dartmouth and New Bedford.

The board, after hearing Mr. Fontes' qualifications, was "quite

satisfied" in accepting Mr. Fontes as a drain-layer for the town and he was unanimously approved for licensure.

Due to deteriorating road conditions on her road, Susana Lachat sought out the board in seeking support to pave Billy's Way in fiscal year 2015. Ms. Lachat has been petitioning the issue to be on a town meeting agenda.

Billy's Way, currently a dirt road, is an accepted street in Fairhaven, according to Ms. Lachat, who would also accept gravel.

"My yard receives a tremendous amount of water," said Ms. Lachat to the board.

Board member Mike Ristuccia sympathized with Ms. Lachat, "We know there are certain roads that need to be addressed, but the key is the funds. You have my support to get

that done, but it's up to the monies."

Mr. Ristuccia then wished Ms. Lachat well at town meeting.

"If we get more than \$300,000, we can do your street," said board member Brian Wotton.

Mr. Hobson said that the board tries to pave at least one dirt road a year, but does not know how much money they will receive yet.

"If it's not done this year, it most certainly will next year," said Mr. Hobson.

In items for action, Pavao Construction was awarded a final payment of \$8,141.90 by the board for improvements to the Main and Park Street roadways.

Fairhaven Director of Planning and Economic Development Bill Roth filed a request for \$350,000 in Chapter 90

BPW: cont'd on page 21

Did Fairhaven health inspector inspect the wrong place?

By Beth David
Editor

Rumors have been bouncing around town, and Facebook has been abuzz with an allegation that the Board of Health has been muscling out veteran Health Inspector Susan Griffin because she cited a person just a little too connected to a board member. Throw in a shouting match in the middle of the day, executive session minutes that haven't been released, and a sudden need to re-write Ms. Griffin's job description and re-arrange her hours after 9 1/2 years, and the situation has all the earmarks of small-town shenanigans.

Getting to the bottom of it is no easy task, either. Board members refuse to return calls or cite the confidentiality of executive session, the Health Agent simply says it's a

"personnel matter," and the restaurant owner in question threatens to sue anyone who writes about it.

Ms. Griffin said the whole mess started back in November when she inspected Scramblers restaurant and found a number of minor violations. She said the problem was not the severity of the violations, but that owner Donald Santos was "very rude and sarcastic, not cooperative and verbally abusive," and told her he would just call "Pat," which is written in her official report from 11/25/13.

Even that is not a big deal, she said. The real problem arose when she called Health Agent Pat Fowle, who told her to call BOH chair Jeannine Lopes. Ms. Griffin had already tried to call Ms. Lopes. Ms. Griffin also tried to call BOH member Peter DeTerra, who reportedly gets

scraps from Scramblers for his farm animals.

Ms. Griffin said the problem is that she no longer feels she is getting support from the board. In the past, when she had an unruly restaurant owner, which happens only occasionally, either Ms. Fowle or a board member would meet her at the establishment and they would walk through together, but no one would accept her calls that day.

She went back to Scramblers with Ms. Lopes on 12/12/13 and the violations, which were mostly for dirty horizontal surfaces and a lack of the proper kinds of cleansers, were all "OK," which is written on the report. That day, she said Mr. DeTerra confronted her in the town hall BOH office, yelling at her to go back and

BOH: cont'd on page 22

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SELECT: cont'd from page 4

from people who might want to start a farm.”

“The question is whether a public resource should be handled this way,” said Mr. Manfredi.

Mr. Cox explained that the town has a moratorium on additional aquaculture farms and that he has already turned away some people who have asked.

Mr. Thomas suggested that town counsel be consulted, since the moratorium may not allow the expansion.

“It would be really sad if we didn’t have an aquaculture farm in town,” said Mr. Taylor. “There’s so much seabed in the town that’s underutilized because it’s gone to mud.”

Two representatives from the DMF suggested that the town create a management plan for the water. The board decided to hold off on a vote until that plan could be created.

“We do want to protect our water and we do want to have aquaculture,” said Selectboard chair Charles Murphy. “We need a plan.”

All three board members voted to have Mr. Cox work on a management plan for the bay.

CRS designation

In another matter, the Selectboard heard from Susan Sullivan about the Community Rating System, which would allow Fairhaven residents to get a discount on flood insurance. To receive the CRS classification, a community must pass certain criteria. The designation can give up to 20% off flood insurance to individual property owners.

Building Inspector and Conservation Agent Wayne Fostin said he had been trying to navigate the website, but was having trouble with an error message at the same point each time he tried. He also said he had just located his copy of the CRS Coordinator’s manual, a five-inch-high, 630-page binder, with the instructions on how to apply for the designation.

A major sticking point is that all town buildings in flood zones must have flood insurance. Hoppy’s Landing and some of the pump stations in low lying areas do not.

“That’s a major hurdle to overcome,” said selectboard member Geoffrey Haworth, adding it would be a financial cost to the town.

“So that’s it?” asked Ms. Sullivan.

Mr. Fostin, however, said that he believed there were exceptions to

that rule.

Ms. Sullivan and several other people in attendance offered to help with research or other tasks that might help the process along.

“I understand it’s work, it’s more work,” said Ms. Sullivan, adding that the designation for the 5% was less work than the maximum 20%. “When you’re paying thousands of dollars, five percent can seem like an awful lot.”

A resident who said she was a realtor in Fairhaven told the board that “buyers don’t want anything to do with property in flood zones,” and also offered to help.

The Board instructed Mr. Fostin to pursue the designation.

Resident ignoring codes

The board also heard a complaint from Debra Bertrand of 54 Adams Street, charging that Mr. Fostin did nothing to remove a wood-framed plastic-covered, temporary structure that her neighbor placed so close to the property line that she is unable to open her car door in the driveway.

Mr. Fostin said he had done what he could but the owner would not comply. The board authorized the use of town counsel to handle the matter.

Ms. Bertrand, however, was not satisfied and wanted an explanation of what she said were inconsistencies in Mr. Fostin’s handling of the incident. She said he accepted a verbal assurance from the neighbor that an agreement had been reached when it had not, yet she was required to submit a letter disputing it.

“Why did they not have to put anything in writing and I had to do all the due diligence,” asked Ms. Bertrand. “Why was I just left hanging again and again?”

This led to a testy exchange between Ms. Bertrand and Mr. Haworth, with Ms. Bertrand’s friend jumping into the fray to defend her friend and also to complain about Mr. Fostin.

“Sitting here going over what already happened isn’t going to fix your problem,” said Mr. Haworth.

The board authorized funds for town counsel not to exceed \$1500.

Union Wharf slips not free

The board also heard from Mr. Hobson about some slips at Union Wharf being used by people for free. If someone pulls his boat for a period of time, it is common for someone else to use the slip, but is generally some-

one who has a paid slip at a different spot on the dock. Mr. Hobson said the practice was being abused by people who have not paid. They are getting free dock space. The board authorized Mr. Cox to charge a fee for boats using the spaces temporarily.

Slips for residents are \$1500/year and Mr. Cox said he would probably pro-rate the cost based on that figure.

Rogers/Oxford Committee

The board also heard from the Rogers/Oxford Study Committee, which gave recommendations as the board had requested in the fall.

The committee recommended removing the portables from both sites before offering the properties for sale; and only selling lot 9 of the Rogers School with deed restrictions that include retaining the original architecture of the original building and requiring that any addition conform to the neighborhood.

The board took under advisement those recommendations, but pressed the committee on finalizing the amount it would ask for in the town meeting article. The number was revised to \$4,000 for an appraisal of the Rogers site. The Oxford site has other complications, including a paper street and unclear lot lines.

Conference fee too high?

Just before the meeting ended, Mr. Espindola pointed out a \$351 expense for a conference that Mr. Haworth attended. Mr. Espindola said he never would have voted for the expenditure if he had realized that Mr. Haworth would be staying in a hotel in Boston for two nights.

“People travel every day to Boston, back and forth,” said Mr. Espindola.

Mr. Haworth countered that there was a cocktail hour on Friday and he did not want to drive home after drinking. He also said the mileage would add up to 215.

Mr. Espindola pressed his point, that Boston was not far enough away to warrant a hotel bill.

Mr. Haworth mumbled something about saying something he would “regret. Honestly,” he began, but Mr. Murphy stopped him.

“Let’s move on,” he said.

Editor’s Note: Editor/Publisher Beth David has a beneficial interest in the Cottage Realty Trust, which abuts the Taylor Seafood property on Goulart Memorial Drive.

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Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals
Tues., 3/4, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works
Mon., 2/24, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

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

Conservation Commission
Mon., 2/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thurs., 2/13, Arsene St., 7 p.m.
Thurs., 2/20, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Government Study Comm.
Wed., 2/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Personnel Board
Tues., 2/18, Town Hall, 3:30 p.m.

Planning Board
Tues., 2/25, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard
Wed., 2/19, Town Hall, 6:30
School Committee
Wed., 2/26, Media Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

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

Selectboard
Mon., 2/24, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Historical Commission
Tues., 2/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

BPW: cont'd from page 18

funds to supplement the Francis Street project, which includes road reconstruction and fire hydrant replacement.

The project is being funded by a community development block grant (CDBG), but it might not be enough to finish the work. An additional \$50,000 would come from the Sewer Department for a total of \$400,000 needed for the project.

"The town is certainly benefitting from what money is available," said Board Superintendent Vinnie Furtado of the financial resources available for such projects.

"We have more than enough money there," said an approving Mr. Riley, who had arrived after being detained from a previous commitment.

The motion was approved 4-0. The request will be sent to the state, which must approve use of the funds.

The Board of Public Works will have a budget meeting with the Selectboard on February 20 at 6 p.m.

I don't understand
why Cupid was
chosen to represent
Valentine's Day.
When I think
about romance,
the last thing
on my mind
is a short, chubby
toddler coming
at me with a weapon.

Author Unknown

TIDE TABLE					
US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck					
	Feb.	HIGH		LOW	
	2014	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	13	0644	1905	0010	1406
Friday	14	0721	1943	0028	1302
Saturday	15	0800	2022	0101	1329
Sunday	16	0839	2102	0141	1404*
Monday	17	0919	2142	0222*	1440*
Tuesday	18	0959	2224	0301*	1517*
Wednesday	19	1043	2311	0341*	1555*
Thursday	20	1133	----	0423*	1637*
Friday	21	0004	1228	0513*	1729*
Saturday	22	0100	1325	0616	1834*
Sunday	23	0156	1424	0727	1942*

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

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

Peter DeTerra, Chairman

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 24, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fairhaven Town Hall. Purpose is for the Request for Determination of the following matters as required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Request for Determination Applicant Patricia A. Jayson Location 82 Fort Street Plot 5 Lots 8 & 8A Purpose chip seal driveway within a shaded Zone X.
- Request for Determination Applicant Jimmy Papas Location Cedar Street Plot 4 & 27 Lots 81, 123, 125, 159, and 22, 341, 344 purpose verify wetland line.

Jay Simmons Chairman,
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

1. **Petitioner: Brenda & Nuno Ferreira**, RE: 11 Lawton Street, Plat 6, Lots 52, 53, Book 10615 and

Page 151; 198-19 B: No boundary fence, wall or hedge shall exceed 6' in height.

2. **Petitioner: Thomas E. Wilson**, RE: 51 Grandview Avenue, Plat 29C, Lots 563-569, Book 10273 and Page 008; 198-18: Short 14' of the required 30' front setback, short 8' of the required 30' rear setback in a RR District.
3. **Petitioner: Mark & Theresa Wright**, RE: 6 Misty Bay Road, Plat 43C, Lots 87, 88, Certificate #23180; 198-18: Short 18.5' of the required 30' front setback, 5% over the maximum allowed building coverage of 15%; 198-22 A2: 12" higher than the 20' maximum height allowed for an Accessory Building in a RR District.
4. **Petitioner: Francis Demers**, RE: 40 Grandview Avenue, Plat 29C, Lots 446-450, Book 4579 and Page 246; 198-18: 10% over the maximum allowed building coverage of 15%; 198-22: 996 sq ft over the maximum allowed 700 sq ft for an Accessory Building.
5. **Petitioner: Christopher A. Medeiros**, RE: 4 Meadow Lane, Plat 30, Lot 25B, Book 50 and Page 5; 198-22: 260 sq ft over the maximum allowed 700 sq ft for an Accessory Building.

BOH: cont'd from page 18

inspect Scramblers. When she finally got a word in to say they had already been re-inspected, she was nervous and felt intimidated and that she was being harassed.

After Mr. DeTerra left town hall, Ms. Griffin said she went to see Jeffrey Osuch, who is the designated person in town hall to receive complaints about harassment, a hostile work environment, discrimination, etc. As she was speaking to him, Mr. DeTerra suddenly appeared at the door.

She said he told her that he was her boss and he was the one she should be talking to.

At the next meeting in January, Ms. Griffin said she wanted to talk to the board in executive session about not being supported. When she got there, Mr. Santos, from Scramblers, was there. Mr. DeTerra, she said, told her that if she was going to talk about Mr. Santos he had a right to be there in the executive session. She insisted that she did not want to talk about him specifically, just about the general support from the board that she felt she was no longer getting.

Somewhere along the way, Ms. Griffin said she learned that Mr. Santos gave all his "day-olds" to Mr. DeTerra for his farm animals, which was confirmed by several people familiar with the arrangement. She said she felt she was being pressured to go easy on him because of that.

Mr. DeTerra did not respond to five phone calls to his cell phone or house over a two-day period to answer to the allegations.

The idea, however, of political pressure to "treat certain people with kid gloves," is not new, said Ms. Griffin. She said every board over the

years has had their favorites, and the owners would always call their friend on the board.

"But I would still cite them," she said, and they would still have to comply.

"People are eating this stuff. If an inspector doesn't do her job, people could get sick," she said, and it does not matter if the owner is a political supporter.

Now her job description is being revamped and so are her hours. She said for 9 1/2 years she has worked 18 hours a week, setting her own schedule. She punches in at the time clock at Town Hall to keep track of her hours. She needs the flexibility because her son, who lives with her, is on dialysis.

Although minutes to the executive session, which was about the lack of support, have not been released, the "unofficial" regular meeting minutes reflect most of what Ms. Griffin says about the hours and job description.

The board discussed, in open session, changing her hours to 11-3, and requiring her to give them a list of places she would be inspecting before she went to them, something she never had to do before.

BOH member Barbara Acksen was the only board member willing to talk to the *Neighb News*. Citing the confidentiality of executive session, she would not discuss the details of the conflict. As for the reason for the executive session in the first place, Ms. Acksen said she was confused.

"I asked a lot of questions," she said, adding that she didn't know where it all was coming from. "I was in the dark about what happened. She said she wanted more support and wanted to talk about it in executive session."

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 Tuesday, February 25, 2014, in the Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA.

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on a Zoning By-Law amendment to Section 198-28 Floodplain and Nasketucket River Basin Districts. The purpose of the amendment is to update the flood map and state law references within the bylaw.

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 please call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9.

Wayne Hayward, Chairman of the Planning Board

That meeting, which took place on January 13, got loud enough for people in other parts of town hall to hear and ask why Mr. DeTerra was so angry. He could be heard through the door.

As for Mr. Santos, he insists that he was not rude to Ms. Griffin.

"I've got no complaints with the Board of Health," said Mr. Santos forcefully. "There's no argument between any of us. She comes in, she does the inspection, I sign the sheet and she left."

Asked if he used his relationship with Peter DeTerra to ease things over with the inspector, he said, "ease what over? I have no complaints about Sue. I like Sue, she's a nice person. She does her job and I got a business to run. There was no argument. There was no conflict."

He also said that if the allegation continued, "there could be a lawsuit. If you print it, I'm coming after you."

Ms. Griffin said that Mr. Santos apologized to her when she returned with Ms. Lopes, saying he was just having a bad day.

When reached at work, Ms. Lopes said she did not remember if Mr. Santos apologized on 12/12 for his behavior the previous week. She then asked to be called back at home. Ms. Lopes did not return three subsequent phone calls to her home.

Ms. Griffin said she feels that all the administrative wrangling over her hours, mileage and whereabouts during the day is retaliation for doing her job.

"It's so frustrating to me, because you just try to do your job and do it right, and then you come across someone who's evidently connected," she said. "I just want my side of the story to be told."

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February 14 • 6 p.m.

Complimentary Buffet from, 7–9 p.m.

Dancing, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

Music by: D.J. Howie

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