



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 7, Issue 1 • January 12, 2012

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

Balmy weather for balmy plungers



Batman joins the plungers at Fort PHOENIX on January 1 for the annual Polar Plunge. The warmer weather was still cold enough to cause some serious shivers, but also made it comfortable for hundreds of spectators to come out for the show. Story on page 16. Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook to see more photos of this and other events.

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Oh, this is so embarrassing.

After all that time off and I'm later than ever.

I even bumped my great brainstorm for 2012.

Starting next week (okay, was supposed to be this week, but I was too busy watching TV in the middle of the day and trying to break the record for how much weight a middle-aged American, sedentary 50-something can gain during Christmas), we will have a cool new feature telling you all what was in the Fairhaven Star 100 years ago.

I went to the Millicent Library and started reading the old newspapers from this week in 1912. After about an hour and a half, archivist Debbie Charpentier asked me how I was doing. I was only on week three.

What fun.

Patterns for coats for 10 cents, the dedication of the HHR monument in front of the high school and no misplaced apostrophes! Oh, what a joy to read.

Which reminds me. The whole reason I got onto the idea was because I discovered the writings of Mabel Hoyle Knipe.

I know, I know....I've heard about her since I started this Thursday sheet (the Fairhaven Star was a Saturday sheet). I should've discovered her years ago, but I didn't.

Anyway, I'll tell you all about her delightful writing style next week.

For now, I've got to get this baby to the printer.

Pray tell dear editor in the heavens, this is not, perchance a portent of the deadline woes I will face in 2012, is it?

Alas, oh woe is I if it be true, this horrific turn of events.

Okay, we're off...just one more thing: we have a race! We have a bunch of races. Finally, an election that a reporter can be proud of...providing people actually show up at the polls. Speaking of which, one of those Star articles was about a man who walked for hours with a cold just to vote. No time to look up the details now. I wonder if he'll come back from the grave to slap silly the 85% who stayed home last year.

Check out page 3 for the election stuff.

Well, that's it. Thumb through, check out our stories and our advertisers.

Next week I promise to be more organized...really.



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS

We strive for accuracy in all our reporting. Please tell us if we made a mistake in any of stories. Call 508-979-5593 or email NeighbNews@comcast.net

All Town Meeting members must run

By Beth David
Editor

Due to shifts in population identified in the 2010 federal census, some precinct lines have been redrawn. The result is that all 400+ Fairhaven Town Meeting members must run for their seats in April, even if their terms are not up. Whether or not they are supposed to run, they must take out papers, get the requisite signatures and be on the ballot on April 2 in order to vote in the May 5, 2012 Town Meeting, according to Fairhaven Town Clerk Eileen Lowney.

Town Meeting members whose addresses may have been moved to a different precinct should have gotten letters informing them, but all TM members should check with the town clerk when they pull papers to be sure.

All TM candidates will run for a full three-year term and the staggered re-election schedule will be determined by the number of votes. The first 23-25 (depending on the precinct) will be elected to full, three-year terms; the next 23-25 will win two-year

Also inside: residents submit enough signatures to force special Town Meeting
See page 18

terms; and the last batch will earn one-year terms.

According to Ms. Lowney, TM members have been steadily taking out papers, but not at the rate that she expected. She said time may run out for people who are unaware of the change.

Nomination papers are available for all seats until February 9. All papers must be returned with the proper number of certifiable signatures by February 13.

Town Meeting candidates must get 10 certified signatures in their respective precincts only.

Candidates for town-wide office must gather 50 certified signatures by Feb. 13.

This year's election is shaping up to be the liveliest in years, with contested races for four races as of press time.

DeSousa running for Selectboard

Planning Board Member Jaime C. DeSousa will not seek re-election to the Planning Board and officially announced today his campaign for the Board of Selectmen.

"Fairhaven voters gave me the opportunity to serve on the Planning Board. I have served my term to its fullest capacity. I am proud of the work I have been able to accomplish with my colleagues during my time on the Planning Board, but there is still much more to do in Fairhaven and that is why I am seeking the Board of Selectmen," DeSousa said. "I will continue my role as being fair and open minded and will continue to build on my experience to better serve the residents of Fairhaven."

Mr. DeSousa is an active Town Meeting member and works as an Account Executive with a construction management firm. He oversees business development, conceptual planning, design and budgeting of projects valued at millions of dollars. He also serves as Chairman of the St. Luke's Business Council.

Jaime and his wife Teresa are the proud parents of three boys: Justin 13, Jadin 8 and Jacob 3, who attend Fairhaven's Public Schools.

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

Selectboard chairperson Michael Silvia announced that he will not seek re-election, leav-

ELECTION: cont'd on page 11



Southcoast Primary Care is growing to better serve you

Mazhar Jakhro, MD
is accepting new patients

Dr. Jakhro specializes in family medicine, providing high-quality health care for families and individuals of all ages. He is currently accepting new patients.

Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Jakhro completed his training at Brown Medical School. His clinical interests include diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and pediatric care.

He is in practice at Southcoast Primary Care with Dr. David Clark and Dr. Brett Hurteau.

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Selectboard accepts new COA van, sets turbine forum date

By Mail Lim

Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven seniors can soon enjoy added transportation services, thanks to a brand new E350 van donated by the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority. Funded by state money, SRTA is awarding all the Councils on Aging in each of its member communities a new van, designated for COA activities.

The Fairhaven selectboard voted, at its meeting on 1/10, to accept the van. Although the van comes with stipulations for insurance coverage and maintenance schedules, the board was pleased to accept the van and thanked SRTA on behalf of the town. SRTA will own the van.

Selectboard chair Michael Silva, who represents Fairhaven on the SRTA board, noted that the organization has been undergoing several changes recently, including the appointment of a new administrator, Eric Russo.

"He's very interested in what's going on in the towns and I think we can expect to have him visit our community in the near future," said

Mr. Silvia

The board also voted to give a GMC Yukon, declared surplus by the town's fire department, to the Emergency Management Agency to use as a police vehicle, particularly during snowstorms. The Board of Public Works had also expressed interest in the vehicle, but the Selectboard noted that the BPW had been allotted up to \$5,000 at a recent town meeting to spend on a used truck. BPW superintendent Vincent Furtado informed the board that he has not had any luck in locating a four-wheel drive truck within the allotted price range at the past two government auctions. He said he had hoped he could have the GMC Yukon and return the \$5,000 allotment.

The board reasoned that Mr. Furtado could continue to try government auctions, especially since there is money already set aside for that purpose.

"Even if there's something a little bit out of his price range, we might be willing to consider supplementing it," said selectboard member Brian Bowcock. "This [vehicle] is a good

function for the EMA as it would allow the police department to answer calls in a snow situation. Crown Victorias are just not good vehicles in the snow."

In another matter, the board held a brief public hearing on a request from the Melanson family for a new package store/beer and wine license to allow their company, Emma Jean's Cupcake Factory and Ice Cream Shoppe to package wine with its gift baskets.

Resident Ted Lorentson asked whether or not this would allow the confectionary shop to eventually include beer coolers and other alcoholic beverage sales on the premises but the Melansons' attorney, Andrew Ruff, assured the board that the application was specifically for gift basket wines and that the shop owners had no intention of expanding the scope of the license.

The board agreed, noting that any changes beyond the sales of gift basket wines would necessitate another hearing before town officials, and like other establishments serving

SELECT: cont'd on page 30

Another hit & run claims another life in Fairhaven

By Beth David
Editor

For the second time in as many months, a Fairhaven resident was hit and killed by a car. According to police, Jose Martinez, 49, was killed by a Ford F150 pickup truck driven by Richard Martinez, 33, of New Bedford. The two men are not related.

Fairhaven Police received a 911 call around 11:45 p.m. on Fri., Jan. 6, that a man was lying in the road near 9 Francis Street. As police were investigating that night, they learned that Richard Martinez had turned himself into New Bedford police shortly before 2 a.m.

He was transported to Fairhaven for questioning and was officially charged on Saturday morning with leaving the scene of an accident death resulting.

At his arraignment on Monday, 1/9, in New Bedford District Court, the additional charges of manslaughter and intimidation of a witness were added. He pleaded not guilty and was held on \$15,000 cash bail or \$150,000 surety.

According to news reports, prosecutors claim that Mr. Martinez

drove two men and Jose Martinez to the house in Fairhaven. There was an argument and a physical altercation, in which Mr. Martinez said he heard drugs mentioned. According to reports, Mr. Martinez said he was forced at gunpoint to drive away and panicked.

News reports credit police as saying it was a drug-related incident and that police do not believe that Mr. Martinez was threatened with a gun.

Police are still searching for the other two men.

Nearly all court documents have been impounded, including the arrest warrant. No explanation was given on the criminal docket as to why the records were impounded or who requested it.

Fairhaven Police spokesperson Kevin Kobza said he had no knowledge of why the records would be impounded. He would not comment on the case, referring reporters to the Bristol County DA's office.

The DA's office did not return a phone call by press time for this article.

The investigation is being conducted by Massachusetts State

Police Detectives, Fairhaven Police and prosecutors from District Attorney Sam Sutter's office.

Richard Martinez is due back in court on 1/19.

On November 8, 2011, Katie Brienzo, 29, was struck and killed by a car on Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven as she crossed the road with her boyfriend Ellery Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds was also struck, but recovered from his injuries.

Ms. Brienzo's uncle, Robert Waitt, was also crossing the street, but was a few steps ahead of the couple.

Renee Andrews of Fairhaven continued driving after the incident, turning herself in to Fairhaven police several hours later, according to police reports.

A clerk magistrate found probable cause on 12/15 to have her charged with motor vehicle homicide by negligent operation, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and leaving the scene of an accident personal injury resulting, and leaving the scene of an accident death resulting.

She is scheduled to be arraigned in New Bedford on 1/25/12. ●●●

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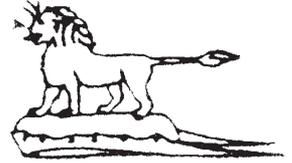
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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

HMS performs “Grease” at FHS

Hastings Middle School students will be performing *Grease: The School Edition* next week. This full-length musical features a cast of 30+ middle schoolers and is sure to be a crowd pleaser for people of all ages. The show is being performed at **The Fairhaven High School Performing Arts Center at 12 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven (accessible), on Friday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, January 22 at 2:00 p.m.** General Admission Tickets: \$10.00/Adults and \$7.00/Students & Senior Citizens

To purchase tickets call: Melissa Duarte, 508-328-0757, or email: mduarte@fairhavenps.org

Tickets will also be available at the door.

Sailing Club

To all sailors, I am trying to organize a sailing club in Fairhaven. It will be open to everyone and free. The goal is to get a group of sailors with any type of sailboat to have a pick-up regatta. Any type of sailboat, wood, home built, or fiberglass, any size or style are welcome. This will be a fun family regatta. Maybe we can get our children interested in sailing.

Anyone who is interested should call Ron Lacasse at 508-996-0303, or email goodpepere@comcast.net

Spaghetti Dinner

Windwise announces that tickets are available for a Spaghetti Dinner Monday January 16, 2012 Knights of Columbus Hall from 5:00-8:00 PM, Tickets \$10.00 for adults; 8 and under, \$5.00. Call Dawn for tickets at 508-984-5843. Windwise is a group organizing to stop the construction of wind turbines behind the wastewater treatment plant on Arsene Street. Visit www.windwise.org for more info.

Book Club

“Olive Kitteridge” by Elizabeth Strout, is the book chosen to be discussed for the Book Discussion on Thursday, January 19th at the Millicent Library, 45 Center Street, Fairhaven. The library’s Walnut Street entrance should be open by this date, but those requiring wheelchair

accessibility should call to make sure the repairs to the building have been completed.

All are welcome to attend the 10:00 a.m. gathering in the Library’s Art Room. The story is about Olive — a wife, mother, and retired teacher living in the small coastal town of Crosby, ME. Ms. Strout takes readers below the surface of small-town ordinariness to show the human struggle and triumphs. She constructs the plot with rich irony, and moments of genuine surprise, intense emotion. There are a number of copies available which can be ordered through the library.

Future selections are: February 16th, “The Iambics of Newfoundland” by Robert Finch; March 15th, “Little Bee” by Chris Cleave; April 19th, “The Secret Life of the Grown-Up Brain” by Barbara Strauch; May 17th, Your Theatre Play, “Moon Over Buffalo.”

Time Capsule to be Unearthed

It’s time to open the time capsule. On **Tuesday, January 24th at approximately 9 am**, the Fairhaven Bicentennial Committee with the help of the Fairhaven Department of Public Works will open the time capsule on the Town Hall lawn just under the flag pole. The time capsule was buried there during the 1962 Sesquicentennial Celebration and was scheduled to be opened in 2012 for the Town’s 200th anniversary.

The public is welcome to watch the unearthing of the capsule but, we will not actually open it that day to check the contents.

“That will be done at a later date in a controlled area where we can secure and protect the items that are in the capsule,” according to Wayne Oliveira, the Bicentennial Chairman. “We are not sure exactly what is in the time capsule or how it was prepared prior to its burial. We may need additional services to cut open the capsule depending on how it was sealed up in 1962. Once opened, the items will be displayed at a future Selectman’s meeting, the Official Bicentennial Signing Ceremony at Town Hall on Feb 25th and again at the Bicentennial Ball on March 10th at Seaport Inn.

This will be a year long celebration

and we want to have as much fun as possible with all of the events that are planned. In case of inclement weather, the opening of the time capsule will be rescheduled to a later date.

Valedictorian Proj.

The Fairhaven High School Alumni Association, in a joint project with Principal Tara Kohler, is trying to generate a list of all class valedictorians throughout the years.

It seems that no valedictorian records are kept by the high school, and once graduation exercises have ended and printed programs have been discarded, there is no written record of such awards. The Alumni Association feels that since we honor athletes in a number of ways, it would be appropriate to have a plaque placed in a prominent place in Fairhaven High School that lists the valedictorians by class.

If you were a valedictorian, or are related to someone who was, or if you remember who your class valedictorian was, please e-mail the information (name and year of graduation) to: info@fairhavenalumni.org

FHS Yearbooks

The Millicent Library maintains a collection of Fairhaven High School yearbooks. Unfortunately, we are missing 1998, 1999, and 2005. The school’s collection is also missing these volumes.

If anyone has one of these years and would be willing to donate it or loan it for scanning, it would be greatly appreciated. We also always appreciate having extra copies of any year as well.

Call 508-992-5342 or email dcharpentier@sailsinc.org.

Free Vascular

Southcoast Hospitals Group will hold free vascular screenings at Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care, 206 Mill Road, Fairhaven on Thursday, January 26. Appointments will be scheduled between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please call 800-276-0103 to schedule an appointment, which is required.

Open to both men and women. Space is limited. No walk-ins will be accepted on screening days.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

MLK Day Events

Mayor Mitchell is pleased to join with the Greater New Bedford Area Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee in welcoming the public to attend the "Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Remembrance Celebration." **The Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 3:00pm at Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Avenue, New Bedford.**

Dr. King was an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement which laid the foundation for the equality of treatment and opportunity enjoyed in America and around the world today. Though he was assassinated in 1968, Dr. King's dream lives on, touching the hearts and minds of people throughout the world.

The theme for the 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Remembrance Celebration is "A Stone of Hope" inspired by the MLK memorial recently dedicated in Washington D.C. The Committee will incorporate special features of the memorial within the program. The keynote speaker this year is **Congressman Barney Frank**, an influential legislator who represents New Bedford and was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1980. Congressman Frank recently announced that his current term will be his last term in office.

The program will also include performances by the Carney Academy and Betsy B. Winslow School Chorus and the New Bedford Public Schools Marching Band. Also scheduled to perform are Miss New Bedford 2012, Marlena Johnson, Lavalle "Chops" Turner and extraordinary vocal talent and recording artist Sririam of Berklee College of Music will make a special musical presentation.

Prior to the Celebration, attendees will gather in the Tifereth Israel parking lot at 2:30pm and will march into the building's main entrance located on Hawthorn Street. The procession will be led by the New Bedford High School Marching Band.

Members of the MLK Program Planning Committee include representatives of New Bedford Branch of the NAACP, the Human Relations Commission, the City of New Bedford, Grace Episcopal Church, Bethel AME Church, New

Bedford Public Schools, Tifereth Israel Congregation, Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. James, and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford.

Members of the MLK, Jr. Service Planning Committee include the New Bedford Branch of the NAACP, The Human Relations Commission, The City of New Bedford, Grace Episcopal Church, New Bedford Public Schools, Baha'i Faith, Tifereth Israel Congregation, The Jewish Federation and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

For additional information visit the City website at www.newbedford-ma.gov or contact Marci Pina-Christian or the City of New Bedford Human Relations Commission at (508) 979-1464.

Depression Group

Southcoast Hospitals Group Department of Psychiatric Services will hold free support groups for individuals suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), also referred to as seasonal depression.

The group will be facilitated by Mary Hadala, RN, LICSW, a social worker from St. Luke's Hospital, and will cover various topics and resources available for treating symptoms of depression.

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, January 21, at 7 p.m. in Rice Auditorium at St. Luke's Hospital, 101 Page Street in New Bedford. Coffee will be served. Please call 508-961-5900 to pre-register.

The group will continue to meet every other Saturday at 7 p.m. in the same location through March 31. Meeting dates are as follows: Saturdays, 2/4, 3/3, 3/31

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that occurs during a certain time of the year, most commonly during winter. SAD is also known as winter depression, winter blues, or seasonal depression. People who live in places with long winter nights are at greater risk for SAD. Symptoms typically build up slowly in the late autumn and winter months and may include: Increased appetite leading to weight gain; Increased sleep and daytime sleepiness; Less energy and ability to concentrate in the afternoon; Loss of interest in work or other activities; Slow, sluggish, lethargic movement; Social with-

drawal; Unhappiness and irritability.

Baby Shark

The Ocean Explorium is pleased to announce the arrival of a baby White Spotted Bamboo Shark. After approximately 100 days in the egg, this fully-formed young shark hatched on January 6.

The egg-laying White Spotted Bamboo Shark is one of three species exhibited in the Ray and Shark Touch Tank within the Ocean Explorium; other species include the Atlantic Stingray and Cownose Ray. In addition, a Scallop Touch Tank and Rocky Shore Touch Tank permit visitors to interact with sea life.

The Ocean Explorium, located at 174 Union Street in Downtown New Bedford, is open Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, and is wheelchair accessible through the building's rear entrance.

Burn While You Learn

Have you made a New Year's resolution to get in shape this year? Why not feed your mind, body, and spirit by taking a walk in the park while learning about local history? Just grab a calorie counter map from the park visitor center and burn while you learn. Four walking tour routes explore historic locations such as New Bedford's working waterfront, the Seamen's Bethel, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, the Nathan and Polly Johnson House and more. Calories burned for each route are printed on the map along with links to more information about healthy living. Taking a walking tour in any National Park is a great way to move outside and these maps are a great tool for visitors who wish to do so. Maps are available seven days a week, from 9 am to 5 pm at New Bedford Whaling National Park Visitor Center, 33 William Street, downtown New Bedford.

The National Park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and is free of charge. For more information, call the visitor center at 508-996-4095, or visit www.nps.gov

Acushnet's Cusson House

If anyone has pictures or information about the Captain Severance House, aka, the Cusson House, located at 60 Main Street in Acushnet, please contact the Acushnet Selectboard office at 508-998-0200. The town is currently in the process of considering the rehabilitation of the property as an historical site and would appreciate any and all information it can gather about it from the community.

Relay for Life

The Relay For Life of the Tri-Town will hold a planning meeting on Friday, 1/20, at Old Rochester Regional High School Library on 135 Marion Rd, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. We will carry our message to the people of our community on June 8-9, 2012 at Old Rochester Regional High School. Join us in creating more birthdays & helping to end cancer. Last year we raised a fundraising record of \$84000.00 & you can help!

Everyone in the community is encouraged to take part in fighting the battle against cancer and hear how they can make a difference in what has become the largest single non-profit organization in the world. For more information please call Heather at 774-634-9301 or email the event at tritownrelay@comcast.net. You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter at TRITOWNRELAY. Our website is www.relayforlife.org/tritownma.

Hearing Impaired Creative contest

Deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students are encouraged to enter two creative competitions for cash prizes offered by Rochester Institute of Technology.

Digital Arts, Film & Animation

The first contest is the RIT Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students. Qualified students in 9th through 12th grades may submit up to two entries (one per category) from the following: Web design, graphic media, film, 3-D animation,

interactive media and photo illustration.

To qualify, students must submit the following by postal mail: an entry form; a 150- to 300-word descriptive essay about their work; and the artwork itself on CD or DVD.

Winners will receive cash prizes at an awards ceremony in the spring and have their winning work exhibited in the Dyer Arts Center on the RIT campus. For an entry form or more information, visit www.rit.edu/NTID/ArtsNR. **The deadline to register is January 15, 2012.**

Writing

The second competition is RIT's SpiRIT Writing Contest for deaf or hard of hearing students in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade. Students can win their choice of a scholarship and travel expenses to the Explore Your Future program at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, or a \$500 cash prize.

EYF is a six-day summer career exploration program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students that gives them the opportunity to sample different careers as well as college life.

Complete contest guidelines and entry information are available at www.rit.edu/NTID/WritingContestNR. **The deadline to enter is March 15, 2012.**

For more information about either competition, call (585) 475-7695 (voice/TTY) or (585) 286-4555 (videophone). Visit: www.rit.edu/NTID.

Mattapoisett Library

The following events are being held at the Mattapoisett Free Public, 7 Barstow St. Accessible.

Children's Room

Saturday, January 21, will be Snow Globes making from 2:00-4:00 pm. Come explore how science and art can blend together to create a lasting memory. Participants will sculpt their own winter scene and preserve it in individual hand-made globes.

Technology Workshops

Confused about whether to buy a Nook or a Kindle? Wondering what all the hype about e-readers means to

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Fish Council Seat

Massachusetts is seeking interested individuals for nomination to open seats on the New England Fishery Management Council. Candidates, "by reason of their occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, must be knowledgeable and experienced in ways related to fishery resources of New England." The seats that will be open to nominations are:

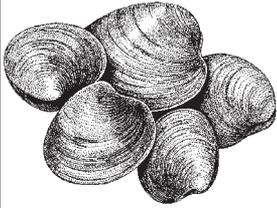
A Massachusetts obligatory seat currently held by Rodney M. Avila of New Bedford, who is completing his third consecutive term and is thus ineligible for re-nomination in 2012, and an at-large seat currently held by Glen A. Libby of Tenants Harbor, ME, who is completing his first term and is eligible for re-nomination.

The New England Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional councils that manage our nation's marine fisheries seaward of state territorial waters. Responsibilities include the development of fishery management plans that are submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation.

Qualified individuals interested in being considered for nomination to the Council must contact and provide a resume to Shannon Davis (617-626-1621, shannon.davis@state.ma.us) by **February 1**. Applicants will then be required to complete a comprehensive nomination kit that will be provided by Marine Fisheries and includes a philosophy statement and financial disclosure statement. For further information please visit www.nefmc.org.

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Appetizers

Scallop Stuffies served on Sea Scallops Half Shells: \$ 2.95
Scallops Wrapped in Bacon (6): \$ 5.95

10 Menu Choices, one low price: \$ 11.95 + tax

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1: Fried Scallop Plate | 6: Scallop Stir Fry in sesame sauce over rice |
| 2: Pan Seared Scallops, balsamic glaze, rice, baby spinach | 7: Scallops and bacon with maple sauce and rice |
| 3: St. Jevon Scallops, mushroom sherry cream sauce and herb potatoes | 8: Sauteed scallops with tomato basil cream sauce, baby spinach over penne pasta |
| 4: Southwestern Scallops, corn black bean salsa served in a tortilla basket, Spanish rice | 9: Baked scallops with seasoned bread crumbs |
| 5: Sauteed Scallop Scampi, Greek style spinach, tomatoes, penne pasta, feta cheese, black olives | 10: Scallops Wellington and herb mashed potatoes |

Add shrimp (5) to any dinner: \$3.50
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Recipes of the Week

Oreo Bon Bons

- 1 pkg Oreo cookies
- 1 pkg cream cheese
- 1 pkg semisweet morsels

Pulverize cookies in food processor or blender. With hands, blend in softened cream cheese until mixed well. Roll into balls & place on cookie sheet lined with waxed paper.

Melt chocolate in microwave or on on stovetop on low. Dip balls into melted chocolate & chill.

You can sprinkle with colored sprinkles or sugar if you'd like

By Rosie Dupre

Sugar Glazed Pecans

Preheat oven to 250°. Spray baking sheets w/nonstick spray.

Separate 4 egg whites and whisk. Add 1/2 cup champagne or ginger ale for effervescence. Add 2 tsp salt, 2 tsp cinnamon and 1 tsp ground ginger. Add 2 cups sugar and 8 cups of pecans.

Fold until nuts are coated.

Spread on baking pans and bake at 250 for 1 to 1-1/2 hours stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. The nuts are ready when the coating is absorbed and the nuts appear dry. Separate nuts with forks or fingers and cool.

By Bob Joseph

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighbnews@comcast.net

A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

FHS girls roll over Voke, OR

The Lady Blues got big wins over New Bedford Voc-Tech and Old Rochester Regional. Kara Charette, Kelsey Perron-Sovik and Ashley Brown were top scorers.

On Sunday, the girls in blue took on New Bedford High in a super game won by NBHS, 52-48. It was a thriller from buzzer to buzzer with both teams trading the lead. A big basket by New Bedford's Breanna Perry iced the game in the final minute. Lexi Barros led NBH with 21 points. Fairhaven's Downtown Ashley Brown had 21 for the Blues. Thursday and Friday away to Abington and Seekonk.

FHS loses in OT to Voke

FHS boys lost a toughie in OT to Voke 52-42. Billy Lessa and Tanner Kisla led with 9 points apiece. FHS

lost to ORR, 53-41. Lessa had 19 points.

Prose on Pros

Well, Pats made playoffs, got bye and should play Denver at home. Defense still very suspect, but should be able to beat Denver on Brady's arm. Should beat Baltimore, but NFL Giants, Saints or Packers will beat Pats.

How about that Bill O'Brien, O.C. gets Penn St. job. Another Charley Weiss move.

All these Brady playcallers get big jobs and flop. Weiss just got Kansas had coaching job. There are not Bradys in Kansas or So. Bend.

Celtics look very old and will need lots of help from bench, need Big Man back. Whole league is awful.

Sox get new pitcher closer to Bailey?!?!? How about Jenks & Dice K!!!!? Should have picked Carlos Zambrano from Cubs.



Fairhaven's Kelsey Perron-Sovik is airborne on the home basketball court as she faces off against a New Bedford High player on Sunday, 1/7. FHS lost 52-43 in a nail biter that saw both tams trade the lead up until the final minute of the game. *Heidi Winnett photo.*

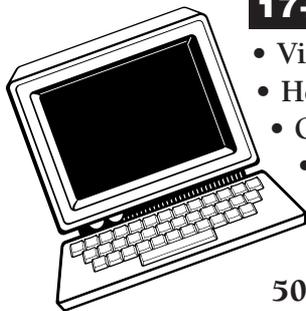
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ing an opening for a couple of newcomers to the political scene. Jaime DeSousa chose not to run for re-election for his Planning Board seat, instead taking out papers for Selectboard. Mr. DeSousa was elected to office in Fairhaven for the first time last year when he won the seat vacated by Marinus Vanderpol, who retired.

Mr. DeSousa will face off against Phil Washko, who became well known during the new Wood School debate last year. Mr. Washko was heavily involved in "Yes for Fairhaven," the group that drove the debate towards building the new school and combining the student populations of the Wood and Rogers schools. The controversial measure, which was endorsed by the administration and Selectboard, passed at a special town meeting in October.

Also running for Selectboard is Jeffrey Messier, owner of Designed Temperatures in Fairhaven, a 30-year old company he started. Mr. Messier is a former chairperson of the Finance Committee, whose members are chosen by Town Meeting members by precinct.

Just before press time, Board of Public Works chairperson Geoffrey Haworth pulled papers to run for Selectboard. Mr. Haworth was re-elected to his seat last year, so he does not have to give up his BPW berth to run for Selectboard. His BPW term expires in 2013.

The Board of Health, which was recently pulled into the Wind Turbine controversy, also has a contested race. Long time incumbent Dolores Caton, who forced the board to seek the advice of town counsel before voting to declare that the BOH had no right to stop turbine construction, is facing a challenge from Lindsay Gordon.

Ms. Gordon is executive director of Atria, an assisted living facility in Fairhaven and is on the Fairhaven Council on Aging, a position appointed by the Selectboard.

Long time School Committee member Colin Veitch, who lost his bid for re-election last year, is running for one of two seats with three contenders. Incumbents David Gonsalves and Louis Kruger have also taken out papers for their seats.

Newcomer Carol Murchie is taking on incumbent Antone Medeiros for

tree warden. Mr. Medeiros has held the post for many years and usually runs unopposed. Ms. Murchie said in an email that she has a "different style" that will include a lot of public information and community engagement.

Other races to be decided on April 2 are:

- Moderator. Incumbent Mark Sylvania has taken out papers.
- BPW, two seats, held by Robert "Hoppy" Hobson and Steven G. Riley. Only Mr. Hobson had taken out papers by press time.
- Planning Board, two seats, held by Alberto Silva and Jaime DeSousa. Jeffrey Lucas has taken out papers. Mr. DeSousa is running for Selectboard. Mr. Silva had not taken out papers by press time.
- Commissioner of Trust Funds, one seat. Incumbent Gail Isaksen has taken out papers for her seat.
- Fairhaven Housing Authority, one regularly scheduled seat and one unexpired term left vacant when Kenneth Nelson resigned after less than one year. He was elected last year to fill Tom Perry's unexpired term.

...

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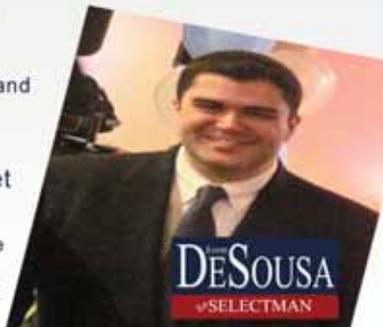
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Acushnet solar farm hinges on decommissioning agreement

By Diane Kozak

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet selectboard discussed several official and employee related matters at its December 19th meeting. They voted to accept the resignation of the Registrar of Voters, Michael Sylvia, who stated he was no longer able to serve in the position. They also accepted the resignation of Paul Pelletier, the chairperson of the Finance Committee, which was effective on December 15th.

Kevin Gaspar, selectboard chairperson, thanked both officials for their service to the town.

The selectboard also announced that Scott Alexander will fill the open building maintenance position. Selectboard members David Wojnar and Leslie Dakin both stated that they were pleased with the selection and felt that Mr. Alexander was the best candidate for the job.

Michelle Prisco, the newly hired Payroll Benefits Administrator, was introduced to the selectboard.

Alan Coutinho, Town Administrator, explained that there were 47 applicants for the position, and 10 people were interviewed. He stated that Ms. Prisco was the unanimous choice of all the interviewers.

In a deviation from the board's vote at their December 5th meeting, the Fire Department grievance hearing regarding Captain Alfred Robichaud was not handled in open session, but rather was delayed to executive session held at the end of the meeting.

The Wing Lane Solar Array Plan was reviewed by the selectboard. Stephen Poole of Lakeview

Engineering Associates of Hudson was present to represent the solar farm developer Berglund Enterprises of Burlington.

Building Inspector James Marot opened the discussion by stating that he will be in favor of the plan once the modifications that he and the developer have agreed upon are made. Mr. Gaspar questioned if the project approval and special permitting process currently in place

aware of any solar panel buy back program currently in place for the recycling of used solar panels.

Micheal Desrosiers, an abutter of the proposed farm and Chairperson of the Acushnet Park Commission, expressed concern about the toxicity of the solar panels should the farm catch fire. Mr. Marot responded that since the solar field will be on a gravel bed and anything that can burn is being removed from the area, that any fire on the property would only happen if it was deliberately set.

Mr. Desrosiers asked why the approval of the farm seemed to be moving so quickly. Town Planner Henry Young explained that the state and federal grant programs require that the special permits be issued to the developer by year end.

The board also discussed special fire training and maintenance, including snow removal at the site. Mr. Marot explained that the fire chief learned how to shut down the equipment at the first solar farm project, and the same procedure would be followed.

Mr. Poole explained that the panels are inspected regularly and are washed down routinely by an automated system. He said snow should slide off the panels, but if it did not it would be removed.

Mr. Young told the board that he had discussed the decommissioning issue with the developer. He said he was working with them to prepare an agreement to present to the Planning Board on the next day.

Mr. Gaspar responded, "The town should be the one writing up the

If the site becomes dysfunctional I wouldn't want the taxpayers of this town to bear the expense of recycling the panels. It would be prudent to address these issues today and not burden selectmen of the future. [Kevin Gaspar]

includes a decommissioning agreement. Mr. Marot replied that it did not, however, he said, the Planning Board could request one.

Mr. Gaspar expressed concern about ensuring that the costs associated with decommissioning the solar farm should it be abandoned in the future was addressed before construction was permitted.

"If the site becomes dysfunctional I wouldn't want the taxpayers of this town to bear the expense of recycling the panels," said Mr. Gaspar. "It would be prudent to address these issues today and not burden selectmen of the future."

He also stated that his concerns regarding the decommissioning plans are particularly strong as he is not

ACUSH BOS: cont'd on next page



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agreement, not the developer," responded Mr. Gaspar.

Mr. Poole asked if the special permit could be issued but no construction permit allowed until the decommission agreement was approved by all parties.

"We can sign the site plan review but everything will be on condition of the decommission agreement," said Marc Cenerizio, Chairperson of the Planning Board.

"Don't take action tomorrow night," said Selectboard member David Wojnar, Selectboard. "The Planning Board can delay action for another week until everything makes sense. Our credibility is on the line."

"Give us an opportunity to look at the decommissioning agreement and have it reviewed by town counsel," said Mr. Dakin.

"At the end of the day we have a responsibility to our community," added Mr. Gaspar. "We're doing the right things and we have to continue to do the right things to protect our residents."

The selectboard commended Mr. Poole for cooperating with the town by making changes to the plans and thanked Mr. Marot for all the work he put into solar farm development related issues on behalf of the town.

In other energy related matters Mr. Coutinho asked the selectboard to approve the hiring of an energy consultant at an approximate cost of \$9,000. He explained the complexities of pricing out electricity purchasing contracts for the town in today's market and how he believes that a consultant is likely to save the town a considerable amount of money. The selectboard approved the recommendation.

In another matter, Mr. Gaspar read a letter from the post office to all Acushnet residents about the closing. The letter includes a two page survey that needs to be responded to by January 19th. He reminded town residents that there will be a meeting with the postmaster at the Ford Middle School on January 12th at 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

In other business:

- The Selectboard approved Mr. Laycock's class 3 motor vehicle junk license which was on hold until he cleaned up his property.
- Mr. Dakin reported that he has received reports from two architects who toured the historic home of whaling Captain Serverance located at 67 Main Street, also known as the Cusson House. He stated that both reports indicate that the house is historically significant and structurally sound. He said the Historical Commission members are scheduled to meet to discuss possible future plans for the property.
- Mr. Coutinho reported that he was notified by Trident Insurance that the workers' compensation pool had reserve shortfalls for the years 2003–2006 causing the town to have to pay the company just over \$18,000 toward those coverage years. Although Acushnet is no longer part of the plan, Mr. Coutinho explained that the town will be responsible for potential shortfalls through the plan year of 2007.
- Mr. Gaspar announced that Fire Chief Gallagher has received a state grant of \$4,665.00 for the town's fire education program. The program is run by firefighter Tom Fallon.
- The selectboard held payment on a \$3,348.91 bill for a hot water heater that was installed for the town because Mr. Dakin expressed concerns about the costs of the materials.

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Session starts: Tuesday February 21. Time: 745-300pm. Cost 100.00 for members / \$125.00 for non-members

Babysitting Workshop

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Thursday, January 30st. Time 5:30-8:30pm. Cost \$40 for members /\$45 non-members

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Lisa Nuno will be returning to the Fairhaven Senior Center on Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for pedicare. She will return every second Tuesday of the month. Call for your half-hour appointment.

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Make an appointment with Barbara Canel, Dietician. First and Third Tuesday in Dec. and Jan. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

You can make a half hour appointment to discuss one-to-one your specific dietary concerns. Call

Senior Center for appt.

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Mon. Dec. 5, 12th, 19th, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Chair Yoga with Susan Ashley. Are you interested in a gentle, tranquil form of exercise for body and mind? Please call to sign up \$3.00 per class

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Plunge: still not warm enough

By Beth David
Editor

The second annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge broke all records this year on January 1. According to organizers, 226 people registered, but probably more than 250 actually took the plunge. Hundreds more turned out to watch the show.

Based on the number of registrations, the average plunger is about 31 years old. The youngest plunger was 4 years old and the oldest was 71 years old. The split between men and women was 52% men and 48% women. The majority of participants were from Fairhaven with 74 and then New Bedford with 47. The Fort Phoenix beach also had participants from California, Ohio,

North Carolina, Georgia, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The truly family event is a New Year's tradition/

The plunge was originally started 12 years ago in honor of Nancy Schonheinz who was killed by her boyfriend in 2000. The group raised money for scholarship to a physical therapy student.

The new incarnation is the Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge started two years ago and is in honor of all domestic violence victims. All proceeds go to scholarships for high school students.

The weather this year made it a little easier for people to jump in the water, but not quite like summer.

"I don't know [why I plunge]," said

12-year-old Matt Reed "I'm crazy."

"It's a total purification. All the old, stale energy was shocked out of my body," said Jean Perry of Fairhaven (who also writes for the Neighb News).

"It's a good way to start the new year and celebrate life," said Debbie White.

The weather was so warm that the fires burned merrily by themselves. Plunging is free. Money is made through t-shirt sales, and organizers ran out of most sizes, and had to sell last year's leftovers.

Photos this page by Beth David.

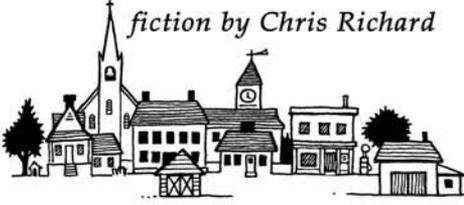
See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com.

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The report from Potter's Point

fiction by Chris Richard



Well, not an awful lot went on in Potter's Point last month except that Everett Zurcotte faced a crossroads in his political career. Or maybe the better word would be crossfire.

Zurcotte is coming to the end of his twelfth term as a Selectman and has somehow managed almost thirty-six years on the board without being caught with his hand in the public cookie jar, though some folks have suspected he's been sneaking around in the kitchen at night.

There have been some close calls public relations-wise — getting caught groping a constituent at the club BaZoom! out past the airport west of Hope Falls, for example. Fortunately the scantily clad waitress and mother of three, Lyn Arbutus, accepted his generous offer of a job at E.Z. Loan & Check Cashing in return for not talking about Zurcotte's little indiscretion.

Then a few years ago the Selectman's niece-in-law Dorlene Spratt got caught misappropriating Ho Hos from the Town Hall vending machine. Again Zurcotte managed to keep things quiet and Dorlene got off lightly with a suspended sentence and a membership at Jenny Craig.

Even before he was elected to office, he and real estate developer Nik Koleslawczowicz managed get permits to build Hi-Way Plaza on land that had been considered to be too wet for cranberry bogs. Coincidentally, just shortly afterwards, the town's first four-way stop was instituted at the intersection of Cranberry Drive and the highway, bringing traffic to a halt right alongside that little strip mall, which housed a small electronics shop, a chiropractor's office and Everett Zurcotte's own business, E.Z. Loan & Check Cashing.

It was at Hi-Way Plaza where Everett Zurcotte's latest venture caused a big stir. It almost went unnoticed because most folks in town had their eyes focused on Nik Koleslawczowicz's plan to wreck the

natural environment of The Point by building waterfront condominiums for the lower-tier members of the One Percent who cannot afford to live at Sandy Beach Resort in South Eastport. A group of concerned citizens formed the Save the Point action committee and has dotted the scenic roadsides with a multitude of bright plastic signs urging folks to keep Potter's Point beautiful.

While Prudence Worthy and Janice Starboard and the Clinkerbilts and Orfords and Boggses were figuring out how to put up roadblocks to the drivers of Chrysler Town and Countries and Subaru Foresters on Point Road, Everett Zurcotte had quietly secured approval to add a new building to Hi-Way Plaza.

It was a rather nondescript brick and glass building, though if one looked closely one might have noticed a drive-up window. It wasn't

As fine upstanding
citizens, we do not want
people who drive into
Potter's Point to be greeted
with a big golden F
[Prudence Worthy]

until early in the morning of Christmas Eve when most people were testing the eggnog and planning last minute runs to Good Spirits that a flatbed truck pulled into Hi-Way Plaza bringing signs, including a giant plastic golden F.

"Fatty-Burgers!" exclaimed Prudence Worthy, bursting into The Blue Plate, where the breakfast crowd was gathered with their eggs and muffins and newspapers and lottery tickets. She waved her arms a bit but no more words came out.

"Hush, Prudence," said Clem Snow Jr. from behind the counter. "Closest Fatty-Burgers is over to the North End of Hope Falls, thank goodness."

Prudence shook her head and flapped like a hen until Haddie Finnan slapped her back. Prudence breathed.

After a few more seconds she said, "There's a Fatty-Burgers right next to E.Z. Loan in the plaza. It's that new

little building they just built. At this very moment they're putting up the big golden F!"

"Who let this happen?" asked Roy Hathaway. "What kind of sneaky wheeling and dealing did somebody do to get a permit to build a Fatty-Burgers in Potter's Point?"

All eyes turned to Bud Clinkerbilt, who has been on the zoning board since the Kennedy administration.

"Zurcotte filed a plan with us for a restaurant building and we approved it," said Bud. "Four months ago. The only other person at the meeting was a fella who came into the room looking for the john. He suggested more shrubbery."

"We have to stop them!" said Prudence. "They're about to put up the big golden F!"

Well, Everett Zurcotte was completely unprepared for the backlash caused by his latest business venture. He had thought Fatty-Burgers was a popular place — at least among those consumers who also shop at Mega-Mart and enjoy foods like deep fried Twinkies. When he arrived at Town Hall for the first selectmen's meeting after Christmas, he found a large crowd of townspeople spilling out the front door.

There was considerable overlap between the citizens against Fatty-Burgers and those against the waterfront condo, so the two groups joined forces and changed the "Save The Point" signs to ones that read "Save Potter's Point."

The agenda of the meeting was supposed to be a report on the transplanting of baby quahogs and a vote about whether or not something or other in Town Hall should be dedicated in honor of Aggie Bristol's many years of service while Aggie still has enough marbles to appreciate the honor. But it soon became very clear the only topic of discussion was going to be the evil Fatty-Burgers empire and Everett Zurcotte's role in sneaking it into Potter's Point.

"Fatty-Burgers will kill our children," cried Anne Arbor.

"People living thousands of feet downwind will be driven insane by the aroma of French fries," said Utopia Willikers.

"A fella in Indiana opened his Fatty-Burgers wrapper and found a cooked rat," Virgil Boggs added.

"As fine upstanding citizens, we do not want people who drive into

POTTER'S: cont'd on page 21

Windwise files suit; gets signatures for special town meeting

By Beth David
Editor

Windwise, the Fairhaven group opposed to the construction of two industrial wind turbines behind the Wastewater Treatment Plant, appeared in court on January 3 in another attempt to stop the project. Represented by Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis, the group filed a petition in superior court seeking an injunction to stop work at the site while they contest the legality of the project.

The group presented four arguments to the court, that one of the lot numbers is different than what Town Meeting agreed to in 2007, that the lot size is smaller than the 10 acres the bylaws require, that the building permit is for a different lot, and that the Selectboard signed the contract before it was approved at an open meeting.

The judge took the matter under advisement and work on the site has continued.

Meanwhile, a petition to force a special town meeting aimed at shutting down the project had the requisite certified signatures.

According to Fairhaven Town Clerk Eileen Lowney, she certified 299 signatures on January 9. In order to call a town meeting, voters need 200. The petition was presented to the Selectboard on the 10th and they forwarded it to Town Counsel to review the wording of the three articles.

In addition to asking for a vote to stop the wind turbine project, petitioners have submitted articles to make it easier to recall an elected official and to impose term limits.

Article one would change the current recall procedure from requiring the signatures of 20% of

registered voters in 14 days to requiring 10% of the registered voters to sign within 30 days.

Article two would enact term limits beginning with the April 2, 2012 election. It would prohibit elected officials from serving more than six years in any particular office.

Article three is the wind turbine article and would require the town to "immediately take all actions necessary to stop and suspend the construction, installation, and operation of" the two wind turbines being constructed behind the WWTP on Arsene Street.

According to the bylaws, the special town meeting must be called within 45 days of the signatures being certified.

New Group Formed

Windwise has also combined forces with residents who were opposed to the building of a new school at the Wood School site on Scoticut Neck Road which will combine the student populations of the Wood and



Windwise members stage a "silent protest" in front of Fairhaven Town Hall on January 9, to stop construction on two 1.5 MW wind turbines being erected near the wastewater treatment plant. Windwise members say the industrial size wind turbines are too close to homes. Photo courtesy of Gayla M.D. Reilly.

Rogers schools. Fair Action Fairhaven will promote openness in town government. Both groups have complained that town officials were secretive in their dealings with the public on both the new school and the wind turbine issues. Visit www.FairActionFhvn.org for information on the new group.

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Liberian National Police face obstacles on way to rule of law



By Gary Souza
Special to the Neighbor News

LIBERIA: The United Nations Police Advisors are tasked with training and mentoring

the Liberian National Police force. The difficulties we face in our mission are daunting.

Liberian Police patrolmen are paid only about \$200 a month in US dollars. The presence of the UN and thousands of Peacekeepers have driven up prices for everything including basic staples such as food and clothing, but the police officers' pay has not come anywhere near to keeping pace.

The result is that corruption runs rampant. Police here do not need a reason to stop a motor vehicle. Random stops to check license and registration are allowed under the law. Whereas most vehicles are not registered and most drivers are not licensed, the driver faces the choice of appearing in court or tendering a gift to the officer called "small-small."

"Small-small" is never solicited in the presence of a UN Advisor but we know it is widespread. The problem facing the UN and Government officials is how to stop "small-small" when the officers' pay is so low that they would not be able to support a family without it.

I am certainly not defending this practice, but African countries like Ghana and Kenya have solved the problem by paying their police a

living wage. The problem here can only be solved by doing the same here and then coming down hard on corruption at any level of the police.

The police here are unarmed except for two small elite units called the Police Support Unit (a riot squad) and the Emergency Response Unit (SWAT). There is still a UN embargo on importing firearms into Liberia even though there are numerous caches of assault rifles hidden in the countryside left over from the war.

The reluctance to arm the police stems from the memory of the 13-year civil war in which it is alleged the army and police were responsible for tens of thousands of murders of unarmed men, women and children. The most notorious was the murder of between 300 and 600 men women and children who had taken refuge in St Paul's Lutheran Church here in Monrovia.

With so many weapons left over from the civil war, it's no wonder police are reluctant to go into certain areas and situations where they would be at the mercy of armed criminals or former child soldiers who are now grown but are still armed.



ABOVE: the main police station, or "depot" in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, is the busiest police depot in the country. It has no window or doors and the outside is strewn with trash. The cells (BELOW) are small and crowded. Prisoners are fed by family members. Photos by Gary Souza. See them in color at www.NeighborNews.com

facility in the country.

The central Monrovia precinct, "depot" here, is the busiest police station in the country. It has no windows or doors, and outside is strewn with trash. The cells are small and crowded. Prisoners are not fed even if held for the weekend unless relatives bring them food or an underpaid officer takes pity and buys them food from his or her own pocket.

Police vehicles are standard, small Toyota pickup trucks, most donated by UN member nations. Hundreds of Yamaha, 125 cc motorcycles have been donated by Sweden to be used by officers in the outlying areas.

The problem is that there is very little gas available to fuel these vehicles. The shortage is so bad that LNP detectives are often not able to get to serious crime scenes outside the capital because their monthly gas allocation has been exhausted.

The problems here in Monrovia, an overcrowded city of a million people, are different from those facing UN police in the outlying districts where they tell me their greatest danger is at night from elephants crashing through the jungle, and king cobra snakes.

If that's the situation out there, I'll take the problems of Monrovia any day.

Gary Souza retired as Fairhaven's police chief in 2009, and is now serving as a UN Peacekeeper training police officers in Liberia. He is deployed until December 2012, and will periodically update us on his activities. He can be reached by email at souzag@un.org.



Another problem facing the LNP, and us as their advisors, is economic.

The police facilities are in terrible shape. The National Police Headquarters is old, without running water and has electricity through a generator only about 12 hours a day, but is the best police

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POTTER'S: cont'd fro page 17

Potter's Point to be greeted with a big golden F," said Prudence Worthy.

Everett Zurcotte sat and blinked. He could not decide whether to run for reelection or run for the hills.

That's the Report from Potter's Point for this month. Hope to see you soon!

EDITORS'S NOTE: *The imaginary town of Potter's Point is located in the southeastern part of Massachusetts, on the shore of Butler's Bay. Its primary industries are cranberry growing, boat building and quahogging.*

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Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/25, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Tues., 1/17, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Mon., 1/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Wind Turbine Forum

Tues., 1/24, Hastings MS, 7 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Health

Tues., 1/17, Parting Ways Sch, 6:30 p.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/23, BPW Bldg, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Tues. 1/17, Ford Middle Sch., 5 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 1/23, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Post office closure

Thurs., 1/12, Ford Middle, 6:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	January 2012	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	12	0946	2217	0256*	1531*
Friday	13	1035	2307	0342*	1608*
Saturday	14	1126	----	0430*	1651*
Sunday	15	0000	1221	0526*	1741*
Monday	16	0056	1318	0635	1842*
Tuesday	17	0156	1420	0807	1954*
Wednesday	18	0300	1526	0935	2106*
Thursday	19	0407	1631	1039*	2209*
Friday	20	0509	1732	1133*	2306*
Saturday	21	0605	1826	----	1221*

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

Stubborn and ardent
clinging to one's opinion is
the best proof of stupidity

Michel de Montaigne

Time has a way of
demonstrating that the
most stubborn are the
most intelligent

Yevgeny Yevtushenko

Letters from our readers

Shaw's in Fairhaven now a Shepherd's Pantry drop

This letter of thanks goes out to all the generous people who contributed money and/or non-perishable food to the 8th annual Shepherd's Pantry holiday fundraiser. The total amount collected during this year's fundraiser exceeded expectations once again. With a monthly expenditure of around \$6000.00 used to purchase food that is either running low or out of completely, monetary donations are necessary to keep the pantry running smoothly.

And in order to never turn away a needy individual looking for help, the pantry volunteers need to receive both monetary and non-perishable donations all year long. According to Blanche Pepin, the pantry's administrator, volunteers handed over 270,000 items of food to over 1,300 families during this past year with an average of over 120 families who come each week between the hours of 10 AM and noon on Saturdays.

A BIG thank you for this year's success goes to the much needed and appreciated newspaper articles from The Standard-Times, The Fairhaven/Acushnet Advocate and The Fairhaven Neighborhood News.

Another BIG thank you goes to Public Affairs Director Elsa Franco from Stop & Shop Supermarket, Store Manager Jeff Perry from Shaw's Supermarket in Fairhaven, both head of Human Resources Kathy Freedman and Manager Jackie Braley from Price Rite Supermarket and Store Manager Paul Quigley from Market Basket Supermarket, both located in New Bedford for their continued contributions towards this yearly venture.

Also, the long list of donations from the area's businesses, churches, schools and non-profit groups and organizations will not be forgotten for their generosity towards the area's needy.

Another "very special" thank you goes to the Stop & Shop Bakery Dept. workers and management located in Fairhaven who hand over to me outdated bread and pastries on Friday afternoons to be given out the next morning to the needy who frequent the pantry.

And new this year; Fairhaven Shaw's manager Jeff Perry decided to leave a large container in front of his

store to accept donated non-perishable food items dropped off from generous shoppers after they had made purchases before exiting the store. Through his efforts and kindness, Fairhaven has another place for people to donate food designated for the Shepherd's Pantry.

And Finally, the food bin located at the Millicent Library and at the Stop & Shop Supermarket, both located in Fairhaven, where generous people have dropped off thousands of pounds of non-perishable food this past year will continue.

If you have any questions about the pantry located at the Long Plain United Methodist Church, 1215 Main St., Acushnet, please call 508-763-9289.

*Sincerely, Gerry Payette
Holiday fundraiser coordinator*

Readers disapproves of wind turbines

I'm expressing my disapproval on the installation of 2 industrial wind turbines [in Fairhaven]. The safety/health major issues far outweigh the saved energy costs; both now, and even more important on the livelihood of our children's prosperity.

The 1.2 km (mi) radius site location, being only 900 ft way from residential homes/land; does not meet the minimum distance of 1.5 mi (between turbine & occupied house). From a National Geographic website article, Carbon Dioxide is released during manufacture & maintenance of wind turbine. There is the possible leaking of this gas, intermingling with other gases (from the nearby treatment), entering into the land, water, or air; as a toxic gas/liquid and released to the populace.

Not only will this cause health defects to the present people; but it will also be passed to future prosperity (both by family genes & the environment). For proper efficient cooperation of turbine rotors; it needs to be mounted on towers greater than a 20 story bldg. Hence, it needs to be installed on towers higher (30-140' high) than nearby trees & bldgs, for use of the wind. Their profile distracts from the appearance of the skyline.

Blade noise irritate neighbors (even at 2400 ft away, shakes the homes, and goes through the human bones/bodies (as expressed by a

Maine resident).

Blades kill 20,000-37,000 birds/year (stated by US Fish & Wildlife Service). Wind energy systems need greater than 1 acre to support stand-alone turbines. Estimate of \$1,000-\$5,000/kwh is the price of residential wind turbines. Federal tax credits/state incentives change regularly; therefore one should examine thoroughly before investing. The blade speed (8m/sec or 180 mi/hr) sound & vibration disrupts the air pressure.

In this state (INFRASOUND); it bursts blood vessels and vibrate the eardrums through the atmosphere, at thousands of kilometers. Resulting in breathing & digestive problems. Symptoms resulting from close to wind farms are: headache, sleep problems, night terrors/learning disabilities in children, ringing in ears (tinnitus), mood problems (irritability/anxiety), concentration, memory problems, issues with equilibrium, dizziness & nausea.

Wind turbines produce audible hum & vibration through the air. The 2008 Green Communities Act stated cost to consumers would grow by \$4 billion over next 4 years. Implementation of delivery cost of electricity will exceed 7% by 2015. 1200 ft set backs (are unsafe/unhealthy distance to the populace). Blade failure projectiles 220 pieces (104 last 5 years). they can travel up to 1300 m (4265.09 ft).

There needs to be a minimum distance of 1.5 mi. between turbine & occupied house. 900 ft away is an unsafe/unhealthy distance. There is no plan to planes chemical drops, to contain forest fires (as a result of atmospheric dryness & increased oxygen burn ignition, from the wind turbines). 71 fires occurred in 5 years, to Sept 30, 2011. 2 fires resulted, from the Chinese Shinoval Co, on 1.5 units in 2010. Hence, there is no contingency plan to avoid/prevent/contain forest fires. Thereby resulting in millions of dollars to the destruction of homes & properties. The taxpayer should not have to increase their health & property insurance; as a result of installing these 2 industrial wind turbines. If no action is taken at the local Fairhaven Select Board or Board of Health; then I shall submit this email to my US

LETTERS: cont'd on page 24

Great sports from Fairhaven's past

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

The Neighb News Sports Department will try to highlight sports in Fairhaven from the last 100 years, in honor of the bicentennial celebration. Sports have been a big part of history in Fairhaven and we will try to bring back some of those golden days with old photos and stories.

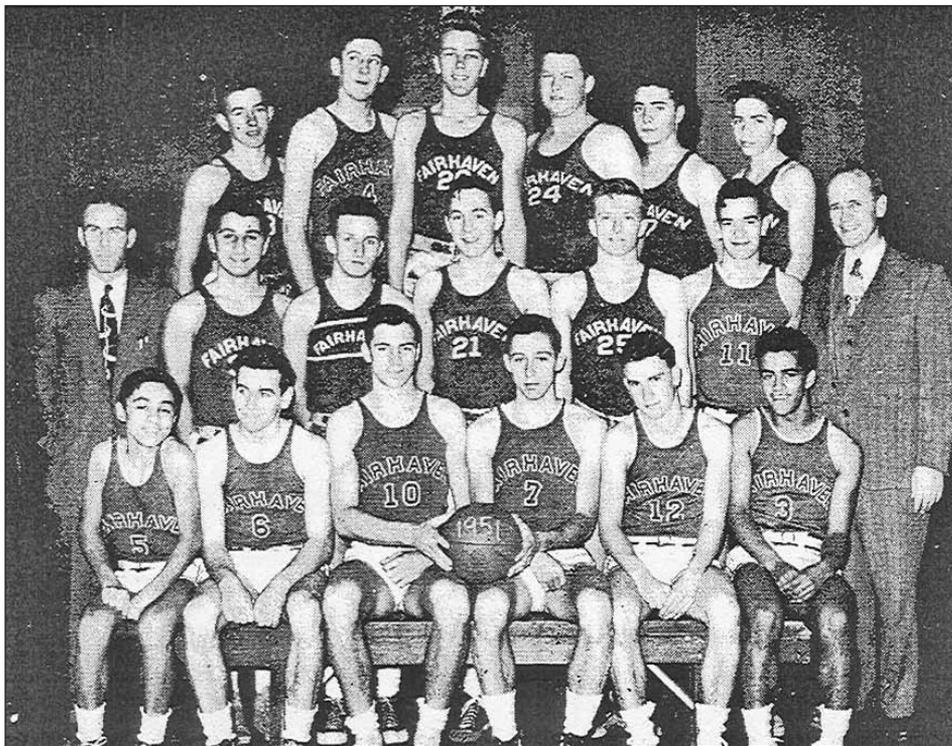
Fairhaven High School has had great teams and players: Fairhaven sports organizations like the Varsity Club, Livesey Club, Fairhaven Little League, Midget and Pee Wee Football, Fairhaven Recreation, Fairhaven Boys Cllub, Southcoast Girls Softball, Livesey Fast Pitch and Modified Softball and more.

If you have old photos or Fairhaven sports information that you would like recognized, contact us at NeighbNews@comcast.net or call 508-979-5593.

FHS 1951 Basketball & Baseball

We started out with basketball season and Bart Leach, 20-1 Class B+ New England Champion Ship Season. Two newcomers joined the 1951 teams replacing George Graves, Dick Norman and John Hennessey from 25-0 1950 B Champs.

Five-foot-four Vern Gomes and 6'3"



Bob Honahan combined with Biff MacLean, Norris Drew and Leach. Playing in Boston Garden Tech Tourney, the Blues won it all. Leach, Gomes and Honahan were named to all Tourney Team.

The 1951 baseball team was also very good with Bart pitching a no-hitter. With Biff's catching, Tony Pina

and Bobby Demanche's speed, team was 10-4.

The football team did all right also, behind QB Bart Leach and running backs Bob Demanche, Biff MacLean and lineman Paul Fitzgerald.

Bart went on to Penn where he set records, and was drafted by Celtics, but he chose the ministry school at Princeton.

The best athlete, by far, that Fairhaven ever produced.



ABOVE: The 1951 Basketball team. First row: Vern Gomes, Biff MacLean, Bart Leach, Walt Silveira, Tony Pina. Second row: Coach Entin, John Xifaris, unknown, unknown, unknown, Bill Walker, Coach Clement. Third row: Unknown, Bob Honahan, Ron Hanson, Dave Hemingway, John Cabral, Dale Stetson.

LEFT: The 1951 Fairhaven High School Baseball team. First row, L-R: A. Pina, W. MacLean, R. Demanche, B. Leach, K. Cadieux, J. Cabral, W. Lopez, A. Ribeiro, V. Gomes. Second Row: Coach Clement, R. Perry, A. Allardt, E. Allaire, N. Hansen, G. Viera, R. Monteiro, Mgr. Third Row: W. Bettencourt, A. Cabral, M. Bordwick, W. Sherman, P. Fitzgerald, T. Dudgeon.

Photos from the FHS yearbook, courtesy of Debbie Charpentier, Millicent Library Archivist. Contact the Neighb News with information on unknown players.

LETTERS: cont'd from page 22

Representative & US Senator.

Appreciate your review & consideration, in this major health/safety/property energy issue.

*Sincerely, Cesar D. Sousa
USAF Veteran, Fairhaven*

Wind Turbines not kind of thing Fairhaven needs

I am writing to you with concerns about this wind turbine project that is under way in our town. I recently have been informed about the potential health risk involved with such a huge project (size of the turbines) and never mind the depreciation in my property value.

I have been a Fairhaven resident for over 50 years, I am 3rd generation Fairhaven resident and although my parents and grandparents are no longer living, I would bet that they would be against the wind turbines being so close to homes.

I have seen other ideas and projects come into this town that did not benefit the town residents in any way, Biosafe comes to mind and using the AT&T building (now Titleist) as a federal jail.

Fairhaven is a beautiful town, wind turbines smack dab in the middle of town and close to an elementary school, is not the kind of thing Fairhaven needs or wants.

*Sincerely, Cleve Matheson
Fairhaven, USN reserves, ret.*

Opponents should curb the shouting

To Windwise Members:

Whereas I do wish that the questions you've raised regarding the health and safety of wind turbines be answered in a public forum, I am loath to throw my full support into your efforts based on what I witnessed on your video of the Select Board Meeting.

On your site www.windwise.org, under the "Voice Your Concerns" tab the statement to the right of the comments box includes the words, "Please be polite, they are doing their best to bring savings to Fairhaven," but what I saw on your video was far from polite.

The Select Board Chairman was repeatedly badgered and bullied. Several times when he tried to respond to your demanding questions he was shouted down and not allowed to finish his comments.

Not liking the response he was attempting to give is not the same as not being giving a response.

I understand the frustration at not being allowed to be heard as I have been in that position myself during the course of my several years of participation in Town government, as both a Town Meeting member and a frequent attendee at School Committee meetings.

I know and respect many of you on a personal level so I know that you are good and decent people, but your collective intelligence and influence cannot be fully appreciated by many of your potential supporters in town because of the appearance of hostile attacks against the good people on our elected boards. I feel that you are right in demanding answers of our public officials, but please try to curb the public shouting matches so that your point of view will be heard by the silent majority in this town.

Respectfully, Diane Hahn, Fairhaven

Turbines not a safe alternative

People that know me would tell you that I am passionate about the environment. I've read a lot about the Industrial Wind Turbine project in Fairhaven and we, as a community, know a lot more than we knew five (5) years ago. It is absolutely not prudent to install that much power 400 feet in the air, 900 feet from a residential neighborhood, and just a stone's throw from a public bicycle path.

It's not safe, not necessary, and represents a liability the town just does not need. The Town should be looking at safe alternatives that would accomplish the same goals.

Solar Photovoltaics or "PV" for short is one such alternative. PV is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation directly into electricity. This technology has proven to be very safe and very reliable.

Five years ago during a Wind Turbine Information session, I asked the Select Board if they would consider PV as an alternative to wind. Their response was "that technology does not work well in our area." Well, it most certainly does work in our area.

Our family did our own research and, in February of 2009 we installed a PV system on our roof. In three

years, our PV system has produced more electricity than our family of six has consumed. We're not alone. Thousands of systems have been installed in Massachusetts, on homes, on office buildings, factories and on schools.

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center reports that there are 67 Megawatts (MW) of solar installed in the state compared to 44 MW for wind and the state has set a goal of installing 400MW of PV by 2018. Solar does not come with any concerns for noise, infrasound, pressure pulsing, shadow flicker, ice build-up, catastrophic mechanical failure, etc.

One of the largest Solar PV development projects in the state is located right in the New Bedford Industrial Park. It is a 1.9 MW system. A number of other systems, similar in scale will be up and running in 2012. More than 40 Cities and Towns all across the state have jumped on the solar bandwagon too, each one having submitted applications with their local utility to tie in such PV projects on a municipal level.

New Bedford signed on for 10 MW of PV (Fairhaven turbines are 1.5 MW). Dartmouth decided Industrial Wind Turbines were not for them and moved toward PV.

Solar PV is not entirely new to Fairhaven. The prior BPW Chairmen installed several small scale solar PV systems on BPW Buildings just last year. Most people do not even know they are up and running, despite the fact that they are located at the BPW buildings on Arsene Street and on West Island.

If you are still concerned that wind won't get off the ground without our help in Fairhaven, don't be. Cape Wind (approved earlier this week) and NSTAR have combined contracts in place to build 529 MW of Wind. That is an average of 1.5 MW per city/town in Mass. Not one of them will be sited within 900 feet of a residential neighborhood.

Another alternative we need to consider is conservation. While we may not have the open space required for Wind, we do have another resource that is equally important — people. There is tremendous power in numbers and it is fundamentally important in a movement as epic as saving our

LETTERS: cont'd on next page

LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

environment for future generations, that every person does their part or we will never stem the tide.

I urge every single person weighing in on this issue, whether you are for or against the Wind Turbines, whether you are from Fairhaven or from another local town, to take the South Coast Energy Challenge at <http://southcoastenergychallenge.org>

It is easy for the average person to save 10%, especially with some of the incredible incentives currently available. If we all did, we could collectively surpass the amount of environmental benefit of the two wind turbines. The developer estimates \$200,000 in annual revenues from the turbines. That is about \$25 annually per household. You most certainly can find that in energy savings in your own home — immediately. Making the pledge would be a great New Year's Resolution.

Whether we generate electricity from the wind, or we simply consume less, haven't we accomplished the same thing? Consume less and build your own renewable project at home. Doing so is more environmentally friendly than building new generation of any sort (building consumes resources).

There is no reason that the town of Fairhaven can't just slow down, switch gears and move in a safer direction. It is the right thing to do and I think those responsible for the Wind Project in Fairhaven know that, deep inside. It's not too late.

Bob Espindola, Fairhaven

Officials blind to community, deaf to constituents, files with AG, Ethics

"Selectmen voted to authorize the three-member health board to seek legal counsel, pending the signature of Chairman Peter DeTerra, according to Selectman Mike Silvia. The decision allows the health board to ask Town Counsel Thomas Crotty if it can legally challenge the wind turbines as a health nuisance before the turbines are even operational." (From the ST,12/28.)

The chairman of the [Fairhaven] Health Board has already received his answer. It was in the form of a memo, he said he wrote to himself. He read it at the 12/19 meeting of the Health Board. He and the health board he

chairs will do nothing on their own.

For too long my town has been driven from a vision provided by those who are blind to their community and deaf to their constituents.

It is my contention that any consultation with the town's attorney is unnecessary, it is only meant to obfuscate the issue and a way to delay any action.

I believe the elected Health Board has the power independently of the Board of Selectmen and its attorney to act, and is, in fact, required to act on its own bylaw. But unfortunately we have a local government led by people who lack any understanding. They govern through ego, ignorance, and arrogance. This is not the way it should work.

The following is from a complaint recently sent to Massachusetts Attorney Generals Office, Massachusetts Board of Ethics, The DEP and the MA Office of General Counsel in relation to developers Gordon Dean of Palmer Capital and Jim Sweeney and the town's wind turbine project.

In going forward with this project the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen ignored a growing body of evidence concerning their negative impact on people. While alternatives to carbon fuel energy sources are of vital importance it is imperative that industrial turbines are placed correctly and their location is determined in an open, safe and fair way. There is now a move to develop state legislated setback regulations concerning the siting of wind turbines with the input of abutters taken into account.

This complaint is aimed primarily at the Health Board. And secondarily at the undue influence on the Health Board. I am concerned about the inability of the Health Board to act; due to ignorance of its own authority, or lack of will to execute its legal responsibility.

The Health Board in my town is an elected independent board. I believe its function in law is to act independently from all other town boards using only health and safety as determining factors in siting projects of this

type.

The chairman of the Health Board, Peter DeTerra, at the 12/19 meeting, read from a prepared memo that his board lacked the authority to act because the turbines were not a health issue or nuisance because they had as yet not been erected.

Besides common sense the following authoritative voices say otherwise; the town's own attorney Tom Crotty was quoted in the New Bedford Standard Times on 12/8" "The Board of Health has the authority to make you stop doing something if they determine it is a public nuisance, but you have the right to sue them if they're wrong," and this paragraph from the web site for the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, <http://www.mahb.org/violations.htm> "Nuisances and Noisome Trades: The local board of health is responsible for the assignment of sites for the operation of noisome trades within their community and to hold hearings prior to assignment as part of this process."

The town attorney gives them the power and their own association says they need to exercise it before the fact.

I'm not sure if my town's Health Board inaction is due to ignorance or lack of will. We have only one board member, Dolores Caton, who is unencumbered by any conflicts of interest, who has shown the ability and integrity to make an informed and independent action.

I am writing this to your office to file a complaint against the Fairhaven Health Board for failure to perform what I believe is its legislative duty. And I believe an investigation of the Board of Selectmen, for undue influence on the Board of Health is in order. The erection of the turbines is imminent. Action by your office to slow this project or to force the Board of Health to act is imperative.

Sincerely, Henry Ferreira

 No Job Too Small	Nick's Services Nicholas J. Costa Electrician MA Lic. 10986B	"Keeping Your Hometown Energized"
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free Estimates• Fully Insured• 24-Hour Emergency Service	508-993-0344	Complete Electrical Services 

Planning reduces 2% per FinCom edict; to rescind McCoy plan

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Members of the Fairhaven Planning Board discussed details of their fiscal year 2013 budget at a meeting on 12/27, after the Fairhaven Finance Committee requested a two-percent deduction from the Planning Board salary line item.

Chairperson Wayne Hayward quoted Finance Committee Chairperson John Roderiques as having said, "If you don't make a two-percent reduction I'll do it for you," to which Mr. Hayward said, "I believe him."

Board members agreed to the two percent decrease amounting to a reduction of \$133 from the salary line, admitting that they had not utilized all the money allotted to them last year. The also acknowledged that the money does not necessarily have to be spent solely on meetings.

Mr. Hayward said the Planning Board is authorized to spend some of the salary budget on other things, such as paying interns to do extra work for the board, which they have yet to take advantage of.

"If we run short on salary they'll [FinCom] compensate us," said Mr. Hayward.

Although the board agreed to the decrease in the salary budget, an increase of \$210 to the travel expense line item was added to compensate board members who often attend events such as Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District Commission meetings in Taunton for which some members never received reimbursement.

The SRPEDD Commission meets about ten times a year and, according to Director of Planning & Development Director Bill Roth, in the past, board members attending the SRPEDD meetings would receive only a partial reimbursement, since the travel expense budget was only \$100. The annual cost for a board member to attend all SPREDD meetings would equal the entire \$310 travel expense budget.

"I've done it for free for about eight years," said board member Albert Borges. "It's only about the last two years I've been reimbursed. I thought it was part of my job."

The town currently pays 55 cents per mile to cover fuel and general wear and tear of the vehicle, which is the standard set by the federal government.

"No way is \$100 going to cover that for the full year," said Mr. Hayward.

Mr. Hayward said that FinCom is forced to cut down on spending, and then commented that FinCom makes a point to "look like they're not showing favoritism."

"I think we all appreciate what the chairman of FinCom does for the town," said Mr. Hayward.

A different discussion about the jurisdiction of town boards was prompted by an earlier Conservation Commission decision made on a Washburn Avenue property owned by Todd Eisenberg.

On 12/5, ConCom ordered a private road that abuts wetlands to be composed of gravel, instead of a different method known as "chip seal," which was recommended by the Board of Public Works and Planning.

"This might work in some areas, but...If they want to do that in their

These [subdivision] plans
are useless. Let's just end
it and he can start from
scratch [Wayne Hayward]

jurisdiction that's fine," said ConCom chair Andrew Jones on 12/5 about the BPW's chip seal recommendation. "This can't be an arbitrary decision by BPW and Planning."

This prompted multi-department requests for rules and regulations to clarify the policies of each department/board.

"I don't want to start a turf war here," said Mr. Hayward, adding that there are rules and regulations by which other boards must abide. He said he acknowledged the validity of ConCom's concerns over chip seal.

Mr. Roth made clear that ConCom cannot tell the Planning Board what type of road to build, however they can tell Planning what kind of impact a particular type of road could have on the wetlands, which Planning could take into consideration.

Mr. Hayward took the opportunity to comment that all town meetings should be televised "to see how each board operates."

He went on to praise the Planning Board for getting its rules and regulations onto the website for easy

access, after pointing out that ConCom and BPW currently do not have theirs online.

Mr. Hayward concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of getting copies of each board's policies to avoid any future disputes.

The board also discussed rescinding a 2007 Wigwam Beach Subdivision Plan, originally submitted by the property's previous owner, Barbara McCoy.

The Planning Board released a covenant for a 1997 subdivision back in October, which raised concern over a 2007 plan for the same subdivision that required further improvements to the roadway, including the use of crushed seashells. The 2007 plan was approved by the board but never endorsed due to inaction by Ms. McCoy.

Mr. Hayward brought up the idea of alerting the new property owner to the existing plan, giving him the option of moving forward with it or letting the board rescind it.

"I was told the [new] owner took recycled asphalt instead of shells and spread it around," Mr. Roth told the board.

This raised the concern that the new owner may be having work done on the subdivision property that is not authorized, including a stone wall surrounding the property that the new owner is allegedly building.

"These [subdivision] plans are useless," said Mr. Hayward. "Let's just end it and he can start from scratch. There's no prejudice...What he is doing has nothing to do with that plan. That thing has been sitting around out there causing confusion. What if he turns around and tries to sell the place? It's just not right."

The board debated on which action to take, either by sending a letter alerting the new owner and requesting information, or by holding a public hearing.

The board voted to set up a public hearing to rescind the subdivision plan, which has been tentatively scheduled for 2/28/12.

Mr. Roth added that he would have to look up the state law to see what to include in the public notice.

"It's a learning curve," he said, and commented that the board had not yet encountered the need to rescind a subdivision plan under similar circumstances.●●●

Shed flap going to court, despite protestations and pleading

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on 1/3, granting four special permits before permitting a resident, not listed on the agenda, to approach the board before adjourning the meeting.

Scott Hyman of 54 Bayview Avenue explained to the board that a criminal complaint was filed against him by the town of Fairhaven for failing to remove an unpermitted shed, and he would be going to court on 1/9 for the pre-trial conference.

Mr. Hyman had requested a variance for his shed that was constructed prior to permission from the board, and originally appeared before the board on 12/7/10. The board continued the matter until 1/4/11 when the board denied his special permit because the foundation of the shed did not meet bylaw requirements.

Mr. Hyman told the board that he was unaware of how he had arrived at the point of having been summoned to court.

"Can I go in front of the board again?" Mr. Hyman asked, attempting to avoid going to court for resolution.

Building Inspector Wayne Fostin explained to Mr. Hyman that he was denied his variance for the shed because the foundation of the shed did not meet bylaw requirements. Mr. Fostin then pointed out that Mr. Hyman failed to present himself at the 1/4/11 meeting, and subsequently allowed the 20-day appeal period to pass without taking any action.

Mr. Hyman pleaded ignorance, defending himself by stating that he was never informed about the date for the continuance, and that he was unaware of the legal announcements published in the Fairhaven Neighborhood News, which led to his missing the opportunity to appeal the decision.

"The only thing you can do is take it down. It's not up to code," advised Chairperson Peter DeTerra.

"I'm trying for the mercy of the board," pleaded Mr. Hyman. "Without that shed I'll have to move."

"There is nothing we can do," replied Mr. DeTerra. "It's in the court now...and the court will decide."

Board member Daryl Manchester turned to Mr. Hyman and said, "We don't have the authority...The court will dictate what to do...You didn't

appeal it. We have no jurisdiction whatsoever at this point."

Mr. Manchester explained to Mr. Hyman that he would have to file a repetitive petition with the Planning Board and contact Director of Planning & Economic Development Director Bill Roth to explain to Mr. Roth what Mr. Hyman would like to do, regarding the shed.

Mr. Manchester then said to Mr. Hyman, "Quite frankly, I think you know what to do. I think you're just playing..."

"I'm not playing...What is that?" asked Mr. Hyman as he held his arms out in front of him. "Why are you saying I'm playing?"

Mr. Manchester responded by stating that the board was "just indicating that you [Mr. Hyman] have to go before Planning...The next step is pre-trial. You have to work something out with them and stand

Quite frankly, I think you know what to do. I think you're just playing...
[Daryl Manchester]

before Planning."

Mr. Roth will explain to Mr. Hyman what the process is.

In another matter, the board approved a special permit for applicant Doris Gallagher, owner of 57 Nakata Avenue. Ms. Gallagher was represented by her two children, Joann Gisborne and Mike Gallagher. Every year from 5/1 to 10/31, Ms. Gallagher stays in a trailer on her Nakata Avenue property which is stored on Ms. Gisborne's Massasoit Avenue property during the off-season. The permit for the continued use of a grandfathered travel trailer was up for renewal, which the board granted for the length of five years.

Peter and Dorothy Pinto were represented by their son, Steve Pinto, who spoke on their behalf requesting a special permit for the continuation of a pre-existing two-family dwelling on the couple's 15 Daniel Street property.

Mr. Pinto explained that the house,

which consists of two rental apartments, was becoming difficult to maintain as a result of the declining economy, and the owners wished to divide the first floor apartment in two to create a third apartment.

With no questions from the board, they voted in favor of the special permit, with board member Rene Fleurent Jr. opposing. In a follow-up interview Mr. Fleurent said he opposed the special permit because he misunderstood that the house was already a two-family house and believed the owners were seeking a permit to convert a one-family to a two-family dwelling. Mr. Fleurent stated that a two-family house would not be appropriate for a residential neighborhood consisting mainly of single-family dwellings.

Mr. DeTerra explained that the house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Pinto had not been legally permitted as a two-family before, but the special permit granted that evening would make it official with the town of Fairhaven.

The board then heard from Michael Edwards, applicant for a special permit to demolish an existing house at 113 Cottonwood Street, and build a larger house, short five feet of the required 20-foot setback on either side of the proposed building.

Mr. Edwards showed the board copies of the building plans and told them, "I did 114 Dogwood Avenue...I want to do the same thing here."

The board granted a special permit for the expansion and also approved the side setbacks.

Finally, the board granted a special Permit to Linda Wordell of 40 Point Street for the expansion of her porch and the construction of a car port measuring 22 feet deep and 18 feet wide.

The board read aloud a letter from an opposing neighbor. Nora Housey of 15 Hathaway Street, who described herself as new to the neighborhood, wrote that she was unable to attend the meeting because she is currently out of the area, and simply stated that she was against the project.

Ms. Wordell's Point Street property is located approximately two blocks, or 500 feet, from Ms. Housey's Hathaway Street residence and is not within sight.

The board voted in favor of the special permit.●●●

While we were away

Rotary members help Santa



Members of the Fairhaven Rotary Club rang bells for the Salvation Army as part of their volunteer community service goals earlier this month. L-R: Rotarian Paul Wesoly, Rotary volunteer CJ Murphy and Rotarian Charlie Murphy. Submitted photo. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com

FBA Food Drive



The Fairhaven Business Association (FBA) held its first Holiday Food Drive collecting canned and dry goods to benefit both M.O.L.I.F.E. Inc. food pantry and the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven. The FBA is a non-profit organization established in May 2011 by a group of local businesses whose object is the collaboration of marketing, encouragement of local economic development, revitalization and tourism within Fairhaven. For more information regarding the FBA please contact Debra Perrin, FBA President at 508-994-9971 or Diane Tomassetti, Secretary/Treasurer at 508-326-2567. ABOVE: Fairhaven Business Association members Linda & Leif Johannessen along with Joanne Bobola sort through donated food items collected during the FBA Holiday Food drive. Submitted photo.

Moby Dick Marathon draws people from all over the world



They come from all over the world to read for 10 minutes from "Moby Dick," Herman Melville's classic about a great white whale and as ship that sailed from New Bedford. The Moby Dick Marathon is an annual event held at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in New Bedford that draws Melville Aficionados, the famous, and the unknown to do their parts in reading the masterpiece from cover to cover. Many people in the audience follow along in their well-worn copies. Some sections are read at the Seamen's Bethel, made famous in The weekend of events included a buffet dinner and many opportunities to meet with Melville scholars and ask questions. The Marathon was free and open to the public for the entire 25 hour reading. LEFT, L-R: Mark Soucy and Tom Beall take their turns at the podium on Saturday night in the Jacobs Family Gallery. RIGHT: members of Culture*Park, a performing arts collaborative act out chapter 40 in the Cook Memorial Theater. For more on the whaling museum and the Moby Dick Marathon visit www.whalingmuseum.com; for more on Culture*Park visit www.CulturePark.org Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com

ML's Eye on History



An occasional column by ML Baron of the West Island Weather Station: westislandweather.com

By M.L. Baron
westislandweather.com
Special to the Neighb News

West Island Owner Protested Leper Colony

For those who enjoy the Fairhaven bike path, you might be interested in knowing that it once was the Old Colony Railroad that terminated at what is now the Hathaway/Braleay Wharf. The rising incline at David Drown Boulevard and Sciticut Neck Road once had an overpass where the train would transit underneath. There was a turnstile at the west end of the track that would turn the locomotive around. The era of train traffic in town ended in 1952.

The route has many stories to tell, from train railroad cars picking up and delivering cargo to the side of the Atlas Tack factory, to a baggage boy from Middle Street who would soon become Fairhaven's benefactor: Henry Huttleston Rogers.

The track also delivered human tragedy. They arrived by train in Fairhaven and were not allowed to leave the special, isolated cars until a vessel arrived to take them away to

Penikese Island, 15 miles south west off West Island, to spend the rest of their days in isolation. They were lepers.

Leprosy was a contagious disease that caused grotesque disfiguration to the victims. They were castaways, discarded human beings.

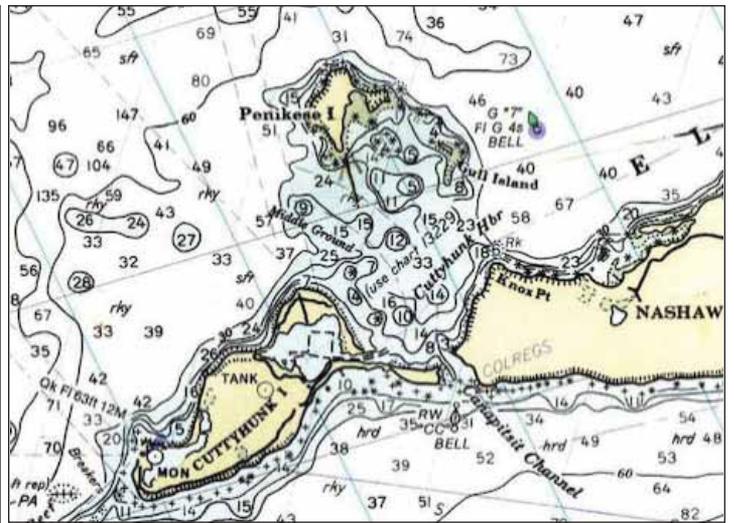
This is how a leper was treated during a time where ignorance prevailed with this disease in the early 1900s. There were times when

they sweltered in the train car during the heat of summer until they left their last contact with the outside world. Their final destination: The small, 75-acre Penikese Island. The sloop "Keepsake" departed from Fairhaven with passengers never to be heard from again.

Howard S. Crowell of Boston at the time owned West Island, and had further plans to take more land along the shores in Buzzards Bay for exclusive summer colonies. He incited outrage at this leper colony project collecting petitions from towns in the bay which included Mattapoisett and Marion. Only Fairhaven, the last place where these outcasts would ever see civilization from the mainland had mercy and declined to join in the protest.

For more info visit: http://www.westislandweather.com/penikese_island.htm

Penikese Island is now a



This chart from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Penikese Island just off the shore of Fairhaven. The small island is just a few hundred yards off Cuttyhunk Island. On a clear day Penikese is visible from Wilbur's Point and West Island looking south towards Cuttyhunk Island.

therapeutic boarding school facility for troubled teenaged boys in lieu of jail.

The link is here: <http://www.penikese.org/>

For more on The Penikese story I recommend the book: *Outcasts: The Penikese Island Leper Hospital 1905-1921* by Eve Rifkah

FYI: There was also a smaller railroad on Bridge Street that went from Alden Road down to Mill Pond with fill in 1909. The fill from the Alden Road site was used to fill in the pond near the newly constructed Fairhaven High School (1906). Later named Cushman Park, it was the last gift of Henry Huttleston Rogers before he died.

The deep cavity left to fill in the park ended up as the Fairhaven dump.

Parts of this story by Mabel Hoyle Nipe (1980) compiled from the archives of The Millicent Library.

Legal Notices/Public Hearings

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on January 23, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fairhaven Town Hall East Room (2nd floor). 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 Bryant Ribeiro Location 475 Bridge Street Plot 31 Lot 5 Construct stone walls, concrete walk, pea stone apron around pool, addition to garage, chicken coop, concrete apron around metal

storage container, asphalt binder around garage, canopy over granite, granite/ pea stone play area, proposed asphalt top coat and loam and seed area along north wall, within 100' of BVW and within the NRB (after the fact filing)

- Notice of Intent Applicant Skipper Realty LLC. Location 110 Middle Street Plot 11 & 12 Lots 2, 6A, 6B, 6C, 3 & 97/17 thru 20, 20A, 21 thru 24. Purpose marina improvements and increasing public accesses within an AQE flood zone.

Respectfully submitted
Andrew Jones Chairman
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

- Bob Vieira for Kathleen Curbone 6 Morgan Street Plat 19, Lot 290 Book 5723, Page 57
198-18 Short 32' of the required 45' rear setback and short 8' on the east side of the required 15' side setback in a RB District.

Very Truly, Peter DeTerra, Chairman

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

alcohol, the shop would require sales staff to be TIPS certified.

The board set the date for an open forum discussion on the wind turbines for Tuesday, January 24th at 7 p.m. at the Hastings Middle School. Although the panel of speakers has not yet been officially confirmed, the town is lining up commitments from individuals ranging from engineers, health specialists, and other experts from across the state who will address issues surrounding the wind turbine project, said executive secretary Jeffrey Osuch. The forum will include a question and answer period, he added.

The selectboard made brief work of a number of other routine matters, including renewals on town licenses, contracts and appointments. The board appointed Jack Oliveira to an associate board member position on the Council on Aging, signed annual waste disposal agreements with ABC Disposal, Inc., and Lombards Waste Services, Inc., and agreed to extend lease and PPA terms for Blue Sky Power to allow more time for the company to secure financing by the end of the month for a solar panel

array at the town landfill.

The board also signed a close-out agreement for completed community block grant program work, and signed an agreement allowing the Department of Transportation access to a 25-foot strip of town land near the Friendly's and CVS plaza.

The board tabled a request from Timothy L. Garcia for appointment as town constable, pending a decision on whether or not the town will require CORI checks on constable applicants. The board cited recent events in which other town constables have had brushes with the law, and stated that they wished to discuss CORI requirements with town counsel.

The selectboard also tabled an assessor's office request for a property tax abatement for land donated to the conservation commission, until members have had a chance to gather more information from the chair of the conservation commission.

The search for a new selectboard secretary yielded eight applicants, with final rounds of interviews slated for January 17th. Preliminary interviews for the 14 applicants for the town accountant

be on private property, while root growth had extended the trees into the sidewalks. Although the property owner is claiming that case law has established that trees growing into a public right of way automatically become town property, the board voted to take the matter to counsel before giving the tree warden permission to remove the disputed trees.

"A decision like this sets up a precedent; lots of trees in town were planted on private property but have grown towards the sidewalks," said Mr. Silvia.

The board agreed with Mr. Medeiros's reluctance to make a hasty decision, adding that it could open up a whole new set of problems.

"If this is the case, [Mr. Medeiros] just got in charge of a whole lot more trees," said Dr. Bowcock.

They instructed Mr. Medeiros to remove a tree on the corner of William and Union which is a specific safety hazard, and to trim branches that may be hanging over roadways, but any further action would be pending advice from town counsel.

Mr. Medeiros used his appointment with the selectboard to put in a pitch for a pay increase, stating that he currently makes \$6,000 a year and has not had a raise in approximately five years. When executive secretary Jeffrey Osuch noted that many other town officials also have not had raises in five years, Mr. Medeiros pointed out that in his particular position, he's on call around the clock.

"People don't realize I'm on call 24/7. People hit trees, or the trees come down in storms. I'm the one who gets called out at two o'clock, at three o'clock in the morning," said Mr. Medeiros. "I'm using my own vehicles and with a workload that gets heavier and heavier, it's getting out of hand."

Mr. Osuch advised him that he needed to inform the selectboard and finance committee what he'd like to get paid, and to submit an amount to be included in Articles 3 and 4 at the next town meeting.

"As an elected official, you need to submit an article for the warrant, go before the finance committee and then defend the request at town meeting," Mr. Osuch explained.

The board reconvened in executive session to discuss clerical union and public works union issues and matters involving Cushman Park and did not reconvene in open session.

scheduled in the near future.

The selectboard met briefly with town tree warden, Antone Medeiros, Jr. to discuss town liability issues over a number of trees at 25 Union Street. According to Mr. Medeiros, the homeowner is requesting the removal of several trees outside her home, claiming the trees are the responsibility of the town as they are in a public right of way established in 1832.

Selectboard chair Michael Silvia noted that there were a few legal issues raised, since the primary portion of some of the trees appeared to

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