



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 3 • January 26, 2012

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

## Winds of change



An industrial wind turbine rises up behind the Narragansett Regional High School/Middle School complex in Templeton, Mass. The 383 foot IWT is in the track field behind the football field and about 700 feet from the gym. Fairhaven faces stiff opposition to two 397-foot wind turbines 900 feet from houses and 2100 feet from the Wood School, with opponents saying they are sited too close and will cause learning difficulties for students and adverse health issues for nearby residents. See page 17 for story, and related story on page 16. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com). Visit us on Facebook for more photos of this turbine and two 397-foot IWTs on the grounds of Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner.*

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.

Y'know, I love a good argument. Anyone who knows me well, or has known me even peripherally for a long time can attest to that.

I love lofty language. I love clever speech. A turn of a phrase can set me to chuckling for days.

When Barney Frank speaks, I listen, because he's so colorful. When Newt Gingrich speaks, I listen, because he can entertain even when he's being ridiculous.

In my mind, when arguing an important issue, nothing is off limits in the right context, even invoking the Nazis on occasion, as long as the comparison is a valid one. But when it comes to Nazi Germany, it damned well had better be a valid comparison.

When I saw the word "Nuremberg" on a slide presented by Curt Devlin, who represented Windwise at the forum (see page 16), I thought he must be citing some study or other. Surely he couldn't mean Nazi Nuremberg, could he?

Yes, he could.

Shame on you, Curt Devlin. Shame on you all. To compare the erection of industrial wind turbines in Fairhaven to the experiments that Nazis did during World War II is so far beyond despicable that I wanted to leave it out of the article entirely. But then I decided it would deprive my readers of seeing the lengths that Windwise will go to in order to stop this project.

Nuremberg, Curt? Really? Nazi Germany?

Heaven help us all.

Windwise has scared the living daylights out of some people in Fairhaven. The rest of us are trying to take you seriously and listen to what you have to say.

But this rubbish has no place in the public discourse. Cut it out.

If anyone is acting like Nazis, it's the Windwise people who absolutely refuse to listen to even an intelligent question if it seems to challenge them. There's only one way to be: in total agreement with what they say. That kind of intolerance will get us nowhere.

I have alternately been accused of being pro-wind, anti-wind, a champion of justice and a colluder to thwart open government.

In other words, I've been doing my job as a journalist: presenting the facts as I find them and sometimes getting both sides pissed off at me in the process.

In the interest of finding out the truth, I took a trip with one of my reporters to Templeton and Gardner, Mass. Both places have wind turbines on school grounds. Templeton is on a High School/Middle School campus, and Gardner is at a community college (see page 17).

Jean and I were investigating claims by Windwise that the Fairhaven IWTs would harm children, particularly special needs students, at the Wood



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 7, Issue 3

Thursday, January 26, 2012

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Published weekly on Thursdays by  
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at  
166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

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www.NeighbNews.com

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## CORRECTIONS

In our Fairhaven Selectboard article last week we mistakenly said that the board approved a 1% raise for non-union clerical employees. The raise is for all non-union employees, including clerical workers.

LETTER: cont'd next page

School.

Jean's son is on the "spectrum," which means he's autistic. She was scared, very scared, after hearing what Windwise had to say. As a reporter, she had to keep quiet, though. And with what I pay her, it wasn't easy.

I decided we should use her energy and her knowledge to find out the truth. Who else would dig for the truth more than the mother of a child at risk? The first thing I learned is that there are SpEdPACS: Special Education Parent Advisory Councils.

"Okay, Jean," I thought, "you go, girl."

Some may say I should've kept her away from anything to do with turbines...forever. But I beg to differ. She searched for the truth with a ferocity that I could not match.

I look for the truth for truth's sake; she looked for the truth to protect her child.

I think my readers are smart enough to decide if our story is biased or not.

Also be sure to read the personal narrative of her journey to truth. She did a great job. See page 17 for that.

Well, I do have a bunch of other stuff I want to say about the wind turbines on the other school grounds, but time is linear in this dimension, and I really, really need to get this to my printer.

The good part is, it can all wait until next week.

And so it will. See ya,

# PHIL WASHKO SEEKS TO SERVE

Phil Washko's Selectman campaign is off and running with an established campaign team, a rapidly growing support base, planned fundraisers and the initial task of communicating his motives, mission and ideas to anyone who will listen.

His motives are simple: serving the town and contributing to the welfare of everyone in it.

With no political aspirations beyond serving Fairhaven in the greatest capacity he can, Phil is driven only by his sincere and selfless desire to contribute.

Phil's mission is also a simple one: unite our community through a spirit of collaboration and thoughtful leadership to create a partnership between our government and those they serve.

By harnessing Phil's unique skills in communication and collaboration, Phil intends to demonstrate that effective town leadership and maintaining the public trust are achieved through open and effective lines of communication and working together to make our town better.

Learn more at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Phil-Washko-for-Selectman/219097451506927>.

## Seeking candidate statements

The *Neighb News* will give all candidates for townwide public office in Fairhaven a chance to get their message out. You may submit an article of approximately 500 words, with a picture, and we will publish at no charge before the April 5 election.

Please contact the *Neighb News* as soon as possible so we can plan for space allocation in the issues leading up to the election.

**DEADLINE: Friday, 2/17.**

Please email to [NeighbNews@comcast.net](mailto:NeighbNews@comcast.net), call 508-979-5593, fax 508-991-5580, or mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Please put information in the body of the email and NOT in an attachment.



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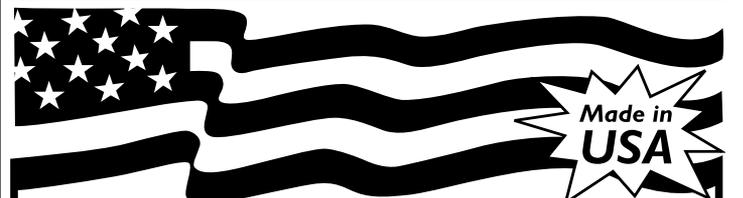
Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Jakhro completed his training at Brown Medical School. His clinical interests include diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and pediatric care.

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# Selectboard hires town accountant; denies car repair permit

By Joyce Rowley

## Neighb News Correspondent

After interviewing two finalists for the position, the Fairhaven Selectboard voted unanimously to hire Kimberley Fales as the new Town Accountant at their 1/23/12 meeting.

Chairperson Michael Silvia said she was his choice because of her experience in both the public and private sector. The other candidate, David Grab, was a certified government accountant (CGA), but not a certified public accountant (CPA). Ms. Fales also has experience using VADAR™, Fairhaven's accounting software.

"Both people, I believe, are good accountants. My preference is for Kimberly," said Selectboard member Brian K. Bowcock. "She knows the VADAR system and she could start tomorrow."

"When we have two good candidates, I look for the one with the best experience. I feel Kimberly is that candidate," said Selectboard member Charles K. Murphy, citing her vast amount of experience and education.

Ms. Fales received a BS in accounting and business from Bentley College and is both a CPA and a CGA. She worked previously with the Town of Dunstable and has worked part time for the Town of Townsend for the past nine years.

Early in her career she worked with Ernest & Young, a prominent accounting firm in Boston, and then with Cullen & Associates of Chelmsford. She also worked for several years for Eliot Community Human Services in Lexington before taking time off to have a family. She recently moved to Dartmouth to be with her fiancé, Dartmouth's Director of Finance Gregory Barnes. Coincidentally, Town Accountant Anne Carreiro is leaving Fairhaven to become Dartmouth's accountant.

Asked by Mr. Murphy how Ms. Fales would handle the stress of having to hold to a tight budget, she answered that she "walks a lot" and that she wasn't new to the circumstances.

"Townsend has been hit hard as well," she said of municipal budget cuts in the current economy. "It means people dig down and see what they can do."

The Town Accountant position pay range is \$57,928 to \$68,411, according to the job description. Ms. Fales' salary will be \$62,962, according to Town Treasurer/Finance Director John Nunes. She will start part time on Thursday, 1/26 and begin full time in four weeks.

The Selectboard also held a public hearing on Jack's Auto Sales & Service by Donald LaMarr. Mr. LaMarr plans to open the business at 322 Huttleston Avenue on the former Al's Auto Sales site.

According to a letter by Building Inspector Wayne Fostin, however, no repairs are allowed within 300 feet of a school, and the vehicles can be parked no closer than 20 feet to the street. Auto sales were "grandfathered" by the previous use of the

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**...the Board closed the hearing and voted unanimously to turn down the service business but to allow a 15-car auto sales lot, same as the previous owner.**

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property. The Walnut Grove Day Care and Pre-school is located within 300 feet of the proposed business. There was no public comment on the application.

After a brief discussion, the Board closed the hearing and voted unanimously to turn down the service business but to allow a 15-car auto sales lot, same as the previous owner.

The Selectboard also discussed the Board of Public Works request to spread the BPW Superintendent's cell phone costs over the four BPW divisions this year.

"It may be legal and ethical, but it doesn't allow for tracking the

usage," said Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch who opposed the request. Dr. Bowcock said that he had had a dialogue with the department heads on cellphone usage. Noting there is a policy in place to get costs under control, department head cell phone upgrades run counter to the policy.

"[Getting upgrades] becomes a competition between department heads," said Dr. Bowcock.

Mr. Murphy said that the new Superintendent had made a lot of concessions to save the Town money, but that the cell phone bill should be put into the Administration budget.

In another matter, Donald Arsenaault sent a reminder to the Board that tickets will cost \$40 for the 2012 Bicentennial Ball to be held on February 10, 2012 at the Seaport Inn. The other upcoming Bicentennial activities will be read at each Selectboard meeting.

In other business, the Selectboard vote unanimously to approve:

- Tim Garcia as constable;
  - Renewal of a repair license for Jet Wash carwash;
  - Renewal of Jake's Diner's common victualer's license;
  - The Union Wharf slip renewal;
  - A \$716,000 State loan for anaerobic digester overages at 2% interest as requested by the BPW and approved at the 10/25/11 Town Meeting;
  - Formation of a Dog Park Ad Hoc Committee to study designation of a dog park at the request of Cat Mindlin, Animal Control Officer.
- The Selectboard accepted with regret Carl G. Bissonnette's resignation from the Finance Committee due to health concerns.

The Selectboard voted by roll call vote to hold an Executive Session on the following items not to reconvene in open session: Blue Sky Power; Special Town Meeting articles; the Clerical contract; the Seaport Inn; and to negotiate the Town Accountant salary.

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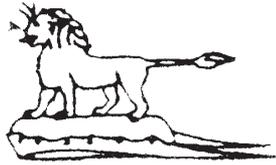
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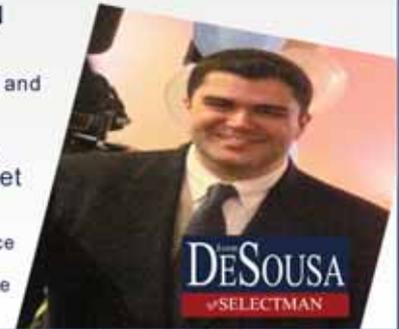
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## Valentine's Day Dance

**Saturday, February 11, Hors d'oeuvres 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Dance 9:00 - ? Fairhaven VFW, 109 Middle Street, Fairhaven. Accessible.**

A dance hosted by George and Cheryl Brownell will benefit the Vietnam Veterans "Moving Wall" exhibit in July, and other Fairhaven Bicentennial events. Music will be by the band Reliable Source. **Tickets are \$15 each, available at the door.**

## Book discussion

Book Discussion: The Iambics of Newfoundland, Thursday, February 16, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven (Walnut St. entrance). Accessible.

"The Iambics of Newfoundland" by Robert Finch will be the discussion book. Public invited. Free. For more information, call 508-992-5342.

## Windwise Forum

Windwise Fairhaven presents a panel forum in town meeting format. Everyone will be encouraged to ask questions and voice your concerns. February 2, from 7-9 p.m., at the VFW, 109 Middle St., Fairhaven. Accessible.

## Catholic Schools Week

St. Joseph in Fairhaven invites you to visit the school on Sunday, January 29, from 1-3 p.m., 100 Spring St., Fairhaven, 508-996-1983. St. Joseph's promises a quality Catholic education: faith, values and excellence. The school includes full day 2.9 to 4-year pre school, full day kindergarten, elementary grades 1-5, middle school grades 6-8. Visit [www.saintjosephschool.org](http://www.saintjosephschool.org)

## Foster Parent Training

The Department of Children and Families is offering a free training for individuals and families interested in learning about fostering a child. We have a significant need for care of infants, toddlers, sibling groups and adolescents.

This is your chance to make a real

difference in a child's life! Trainings begin every Thursday evening throughout the year.

Pre-registration is required.

Daily reimbursement, health insurance for the child, ongoing training and support is offered.

Please call Lynn Mourao at (508) 910-1083 to learn more about foster care opportunities.

## USCG comment period

The U.S. Coast Guard is requesting to hear from mariners, maritime industries, commercial fishermen, recreational boaters and other port and waterway users that operate offshore along the Atlantic Coast.

In an effort to ensure everyone affected is represented in the process, the Coast Guard announced in the Federal Register a notice of study and reopening of comments entitled "Port Access Route Study: The Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida" to evaluate the applicability and need for potential modifications to current vessel routing measures off the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida.

The notice of study addresses the need to enhance navigational safety by examining existing shipping routes and waterway uses and if practical, reconcile rights of navigation with other potential waterway uses such as the leasing of outer continental shelf blocks for the construction of renewable energy facilities. The recommendations of the study may lead to future rulemaking and appropriate international agreements.

The original notice of study and comment period was opened in May 2011, and resulted in 26 comments. After reviewing the comments, the Coast Guard determined that it needed to reopen the comment period to seek more information to ensure the study is comprehensive in its data collection and analysis.

The Coast Guard encourages the public to participate in this study by submitting comments and related materials on or before January 31, 2012 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USCG-2011-035. For alternate forms of submission, please

read the Federal Register notice at <http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/ACPARS/default.asp>. All comments received will be posted without change.

## Bicentennial Events

**Saturday, Feb. 4:** Miss Fairhaven Pageant at Fairhaven High School

**Feb. 22, Open House at Town Hall** Employees will be in period dress. Birthday cake.

**Sat., Feb. 25. Concert** by the Providence Brigade Band, Town Hall, 1-3 p.m. **Ceremony of Incorporation, Town Hall, 4 p.m.** Lantern walk to Cushman Park and ground **fireworks, 6 p.m.** (weather permitting).

**Sun., Feb. 26.** All-faith ecumenical service, First Congregational Church, 2 p.m.

## Public Comment Period

The Department of Conservation and Recreation held a public meeting on 1/11 to present the draft resource management plan for Fort Phoenix, Nasketucket Bay and West Island State Reservations.

The full draft plan is available to the public on the DCR website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

DCR will invite written comments on the draft plan through February 13, 2012. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to [DCR.Updates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCR.Updates@state.ma.us); please put "Fort Phoenix" in the subject line.

Comments may also be submitted via U.S. mail to: Fort Phoenix RMP Comments, P.O. Box 66, 194 Cranberry Rd., So. Carver, MA 02366.

## Hall of Fame noms

Applications for Fairhaven Hall of Fame nominations are available at the Fairhaven High School office. Nominees must have competed at Varsity level and been out of FHS for at least 10 years.

Also seeking nominations for Lifetime Achievement Award, Memorable Teams, booklet dedication, etc. For more information call 508-997-0138.

Last year's inductees were Manny Cabral, Bob Gauvin, Paul Cleurzo, Kim Melanson, Sam Galvin, and Dave Jennings.

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## Your Theatre Play

Your Theatre, Inc. proudly presents the Southcoast Area premiere of Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's powerful and heartwarming play *Gee's Bend*. Directed by Cynthia J. Messier of Fairhaven, the play will run Thursdays through Saturdays January 19-21, and 26-28 with Sunday matinees on January 22 and 29. See ad on page 5 for details.

## Scholarships

The Greater New Bedford Garden Club is accepting applications for \$1000 scholarships to be awarded to area high school or college students who are pursuing a degree in conservation, landscape architecture, horticulture or environmental sciences and related fields.

Applicants must have maintained a legal residence in Mass. for one year or more prior to June 1 of their graduating year and must have enrolled at the college of their choice and will begin studies no later than Feb. 1, 2013. Students are encouraged to apply and can be assured that full consideration will be given to each application.

Applications must be received by May 1 and can be obtained from Doris Pollycarpo, 508-997-4703, 521 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747, or from your high school guidance counselor.

## Teen Pageant

The Greater New Bedford Scholarship Foundation presents the 2012 Miss New Bedford's Outstanding Teen Pageant on **Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 3:00 PM at Keith Middle School.**

The pageant will feature 14 young ladies from across the Greater New Bedford area. New Bedford residents competing for the title include Aubrie Britto, age 16, Lorae Tavares, age 16, Alexa Gonsalves, age 13, Lindsay Mota, age 16, Olivia Marques, age 14, Taylece Veiga, age 15, Megan Sylvia, age 14, and Kimberly Souza, age 15. Fairhaven residents competing are Raegan Docca, age 15, and Kendra Sarmiento, age 16. Freetown residents include Hayley Morais, age 16, and Michaelah Nunes, age 13, as well as Dartmouth residents Morgan Pimentel, age 13, and Amy deSilva, age 16.

Contestants will compete in three

phases of on-stage competitions; physical fitness, talent, and evening wear, in addition to a private judge's interview.

Kelsey DeGouveia, Miss New Bedford's Outstanding Teen 2011, has made over 60 appearances throughout the greater New Bedford area, promoting her platform "Operation Elderly" encouraging relationships with the senior population. She was the winner of the talent award at Miss Massachusetts' Outstanding Teen pageant and placed 2nd runner up.

The pageant will feature performances by Kelsey as well as Marlena Johnson, Miss New Bedford 2012, and the Cheryl McCormack dancers. Tickets are \$15 and are available via (508) 961-7288 or [info@missnewbedford.org](mailto:info@missnewbedford.org). For more info, visit [www.MissNewBedford.org](http://www.MissNewBedford.org).

## Free Credit Workshop

The Fall River and New Bedford Housing Partnership, will present at no cost, a Credit 101 Workshop. This workshop will provide valuable tips for setting goals and planning for your financial future. It will offer guidance on such topics as the meaning of a credit report to your financial future, how to obtain and reestablish credit and the amount of debt you can comfortably afford.

The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, February 1st at Fort Tabor Community Center at 1000 Rodney French Boulevard New Bedford, MA 02744**. Registration is at 5:00pm and the presentation will begin at 5:30pm. Credit counselors will be on hand to assist until noon and informational packages will also be available for anyone who attends.

**Prior to the event**, anyone attending is asked to obtain a "Free" annual credit report from <https://www.annualcreditreport.com> or by calling 877-322-8228. To preregister for this workshop call 800-643-2272.

Participating agencies for the Fall River/New Bedford Housing Partnership include BankFive; Bristol County Savings Bank; Bristol Elder Services; Catholic Social Services; BayCoast Bank; Fall River Affordable Housing Corporation; Fall River Community Development Agency; Fannie Mae, First Citizens' Federal

Credit Union; MassHousing; Mechanics Cooperative Bank; Money Management International; Neighborhood Housing Services of South Shore; New Bedford Office of Housing & Community Development; South Coastal Counties Legal Services; Rockland Trust; and St. Anne's Credit Union.

The Fall River/New Bedford Housing Partnership, founded in 2007, was formed to address the problem of increasing foreclosure rates due to the sub-prime mortgage crisis. The partnership looks to provide assistance to individuals and families facing a risk of foreclosure by providing foreclosure prevention counseling as well as an innovative loan product or mortgage refinancing options.

## Lecture Series

Gary Jobson, world-class sailor and president of US SAILING will be the first of 12 distinguished speakers in a combined lecture series beginning on Thursday, February 2 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Gary Jobson will present "Sailing: Speed and Passion." A world class sailor, television commentator and author, Jobson is President of US SAILING, the national governing body of sailing in the United States. He has authored 17 books on sailing, is Editor-at-Large of Sailing World and Cruising World magazines and has been ESPN's sailing commentator since 1985. In October 2003 he was inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame by the Herreshoff Marine Museum. In 1999, Jobson won the Nathanael G. Herreshoff Trophy, US SAILING's most prestigious award. He currently races a Swan 42, Mustang, and an Etchells, Whirlwind.

Jobson's illustrated talk is the first of 12 programs scheduled this winter and spring. Held on Thursday evenings, all programs include a reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Jacobs Family Gallery followed by the lecture at 7:30 p.m. in the Cook Memorial Theater.

Admission to each lecture: member, \$15; non-member, \$20. Select any number of programs when you confirm. Subscription to the combined series: members, \$165.00 for all 12 lectures; non-members, \$225.00. For tickets please call (508) 997-0046 Ext. 100.

## Photo Exhibit

Including Fairhaven photographer Jim Mahaney.

"Continued Vision – Seeing in New Ways". Eight "students" ranging from beginner to advanced are on display at Orleans Camera at Skaket Corners for the month of February 2012 for the second annual student show.

Lori Dumont, Mary Doering, Barbara Ford Doyle, Susan Karchmer, Valdo Kiiss, James Mahaney, Lou Martinage and Debbie Owen, have been students in various classes and lectures offered by Stan Godwin Photography Workshops, [www.stangodwin.com](http://www.stangodwin.com), during 2011.

The work shown represents new directions being taken in photography on Cape Cod by expanding technical and aesthetic knowledge using contemporary vision. While only eight students are displayed they represent the over 370 students that have taken part in the various workshops and classes since 2006.

The intent of the images is to bring the viewer in and show a new face to the visual possibilities that surround each of us on Cape Cod and the local region.

**An opening will be held from 3-5PM on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012 at Orleans Camera. Please join us to enjoy the work.**

## Tenants Rights Mtg

A meeting to discuss tenants' rights is being sponsored by the Massachusetts Senior Action Council and will be held in the community room at the Village Court complex of the Mattapoisett Housing Authority, February 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Topics will include:

1 Why do we need a tenant's association? 2. What are the tenant's rights? 3. What would a tenant's association do? 4. How is this different from a tenant social club? 5. What if management harasses tenants that attend?

Also, information prepared by HUD regarding tenants' rights will be handed out to all residents living in subsidized housing. Bring a friend and/or join your fellow residents and find out what other HUD tenants already know.

Mass Senior Action Council, the

most successful grassroots senior and people with disabilities organization, has been working with HUD tenants for 30 years, providing education and information allowing residents to feel comfortable while having a positive relationship with building management.

For more info contact: Daria at Mass Senior Action: 508-993-2680.

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.nefmc.org).

## Camp Angel Wings

Southcoast Visiting Nurse Association, known in the community as Southcoast VNA, will be hosting its annual bereavement camp, "Camp Angel Wings," in July. This is an exciting, fun-filled, two-day camp experience for children and teens, ages 6 through 17, who are grieving the death of someone close to them. The camp will be held on July 28 and 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Cathedral Camp for Boys & Girls, 167 Middleboro Road in East Freetown.

Camp Angel Wings provides interactive activities that include music, swimming, arts and crafts, and activities that memorialize loved ones and help to share their loss. All of the activities are designed to reduce the sense of isolation while improving self-esteem for children and teens who share like experiences in grief.

Registrations are now being accepted. For more information, or to register, please call 508-973-3219 or visit <http://www.southcoast.org/vna/camp.html>.

## SNEEF Forum

"Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the ATMC", program by Southern New England Entrepreneurs Forum (SNEEF) at UMass Dartmouth on Thursday, February 9 at 5:30 p.m., Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center, 151 Martine Street, Fall River. Become an annual member for only \$75, and attend free. Event non-member cost \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, includes refreshments. Register at [www.sneef.org](http://www.sneef.org)

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# Recipes of the Week

## Tiramisu

1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese softened  
 3 cups cold milk  
 2 packages (3.4 oz. each) vanilla instant pudding  
 1 8 oz. tub Cool Whip  
 48 Nilla Wafers  
 1/2 cup brewed strong coffee, cooled  
 2 squares semi-sweet chocolate coarsely grated  
 1 cup fresh raspberries or strawberries

Beat cream cheese in a large bowl with electric mixer until creamy. Beat in milk and pudding mixes. Stir in two cups Cool Whip. Line 2 1/2 quart bowl with 24 Nilla Wafers, drizzle with 1/4 cup coffee; top with half each pudding mixture and chocolate. Repeat all layers.

Top with remaining Cool Whip and raspberries.

Cool in refrigerator for 2 hours before serving.

Option: Lady fingers may be used in place of the Nilla Wafers.

By Andrea Moniz

### 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](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net)

# A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

## Special to the Neighb News Fairhaven high girls defeat Dartmouth

After being defeated in first game back in December, the Lady Blues came away with 55-48 win at Leach Gym last Monday. Ashley Brown, Kelsey Perron-Sovik had amazing games with 15 and 16 points apiece. Kara Charette chipped in with 10 points.

In a super JV team game, FHS rolled over Dartmouth. Tina Tichon, Morgan Haaland, Courtney Giruard and Kiyana Alfaiate led the way.

Last Tuesday, the Lady Blues rolled over D-R 71-25. All 9 players scored for Blues, led by Kara and Kiyana with 14 points apiece.

This Monday, the girls lost a heartbreaker 42-41, against New Bedford High.

## FHS Gets Big Victory

The boys in blue got their first win over Diman Voke 40-25. Bill Lessa was top gun with 19 points.

Billy Lessa led with 18 points as boys went down in defeat to D-R 59-51.

Canton defeated the Blues 60-40 Sunday. Jake Carvalho had 10 points for FHS.

## UMassD Basketball

Both men's and women's basketball teams lost to super RIC team Saturday in Providence. Men's team lost a toughy to Keene State 20-68. Lance Green had 29 points for

Corsairs.

Ladies lost also, 75-65. Lady Corsairs play Salem State Thursday at home.

## Kaleigh Charette makes 1000 point club at Worcester State

Former FHS hoopster Kaleigh Charette became the 17th person to join the 1,000 point club at Worcester State College. She had 14 points and 10 revounds in 58-52 win over Keene State.

Kaleigh, a senior, was chosen for weekly honor roll for Mass. Collegiate Conference. She was a member of the 2008 FHS team whcih went 20-5. Other team members were Maggie Rossi, Erin Baldwin, Colleen Pepin, Hanna Hennessy and Tessa McMullen.

## Prose on Pros

AFC Championship, Pats vs. Ravens

The Pats backed into Super Bowl with a 23-20 win over Ravens. Brady did not have his game. Pats lucky to win, although defense was much better.

Brady had no business throwing that bomb in the 4th quarter which was intercepted in end zone. Dropped TD pass by Evans and missed field goal saved Pats.

Will struggle with Giants, but should win.

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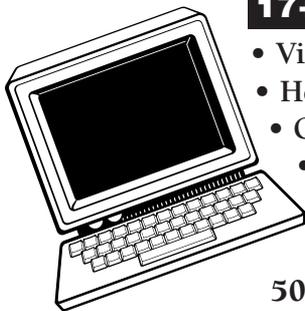
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## Atria celebrates with first resident centenarian



On 1/6/2012 Atria Senior Living celebrated Ardis Vaninwegen's (Mimi) 100th Birthday with family & friends. When asked how it feels to be 100, Mimi replied, "No difference from being 99." Mimi is the first Centenarian to reside at Atria. *Submitted photos. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)*

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# The “Cusson” House in Acushnet – a decade of uncertainty

By Diane Kozak

Neighb News Correspondent

Acushnet Librarian, Jayme Viveiros, says the story of the “Cusson” house’s history with the town began in the year 2000 when the library trustees purchased the property at 60 Main Street from the Cusson family as a future site for a new library. In 1990 Mildred Rogerson gifted the library approximately \$192,000 which was deposited into the town’s funds and held as the “Library Gift Fund.”

From these funds the trustees purchased the Cusson property for \$168,000. After securing Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program grants in 2000 and 2004 to build a new library, town ballot initiatives to secure local matching funds for the projects failed both times.

“The 2000 vote failed by a very small margin. It was as if the voters assumed it would pass so they didn’t come out to vote for it,” said Ms. Viveiros. “The 2004 vote was not close. I believe this was because there were many town expenditures at that time, including a sewer project. I think the residents weren’t ready to commit to another costly venture.”

The Library now has plans to construct a new building that will connect to the Acushnet Community Center on Middle Road. The trustees have received approval for state funding for the project, which will also need to be approved at this year’s town meeting.

At the spring 2006 town meeting, members passed an article which transferred the care, custody, management and control of the Cusson property to the Selectboard for the purposes of disposing of the



The Cusson House, also known as the Captain Severance House, is owned by the town of Acushnet. It was initially purchased to become a new library with money donated by Mildred Rogerson. The library now has plans to build a new library on Middle Road connecting to the Acushnet Community Center. Photo by Diane Kozak. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

property.

The article further states that any proceeds from the sale of the property were to be transferred to the Library Gift Fund. To date the property has not been sold.

According to Selectboard member Leslie Dakin this is due to a limited interest in the property and the crash of the real estate market which began in 2006.

From March through December of 2010, the Veterans Memorial Committee considered using the Cusson site for a memorial structure. When the Park Department gave the committee a piece of land, front and center at Pope Park, the committee abandoned their interest in the Cusson property and erected the memorial at the park.

With the Veterans Memorial Committee’s plans falling through, the library trustees sent a letter to the selectboard dated

December 6, 2010 again requesting that they sell the property. The letter reports that there was a professional appraisal of the property done in March of that year valuing it at approximately \$160,000.

The letter reminds the Selectboard that the property was transferred to them for sale back in 2006. It further states that the trustees believe there were interested parties in the property at that time although it was not sold.

When asked about interested purchasers, Mr. Dakin said, “I have been on the selectboard since 2008 and I have no knowledge of anyone showing interest in purchasing the property. Since I was not on the board in 2006, there may have been an interested purchaser at that time, but I do not know of one.”

In the summer of 2011 Kevin Dakin, Chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee and nephew of Leslie Dakin, requested several documents from the Library Board of

CUSSON: cont’d next page



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Trustees regarding the property.

The documents were forwarded to him on August 5th and included information pertaining to the history of the property since its purchase by the library. At the September 2011 Selectboard meeting Leslie Dakin expressed an interest in having the town restore the house for its historic value.

At that meeting the board voted to create a feasibility study committee to research rehabilitating the house. The committee, under Leslie Dakin's leadership, was given six months from the time it was established to come up with a report and recommendation.

According to Ms. Viveiros, the Cusson property value fell to \$140,000 in September of 2011; a \$20,000 decrease in 18 months.



This plaque on the house is at odds with most records that spell the name "Severance." Known as the Cusson House, for the name of the last owners, it is owned by the town of Acushnet, and was initially supposed to be a new library. Photo by Diane Kozak.

She said she did not know how the town intends to reimburse the Library Gift Fund for the sale of the Cusson property considering its continued decline in value since 2006, when the town took ownership.

"I don't know what the selectmen intend to do

about valuing this property; whether they sell it or restore it as a historic structure," said Ms. Viveiros. "I just know that the selectmen have a fiduciary responsibility to do what is right by the library and the gift that Ms. Rogerson gave for a new building and I believe they will make a fair decision based on all the facts."

In a recent interview, Mr. Dakin reported that the house has historical significance as whaling captain Thomas Severance once lived in it and there is information known about him and his different ships.

"My nephew, Kevin Dakin, from the CPC has done a lot of research on Captain Severance on the Internet and in the History of Acushnet book," said Leslie Dakin. "He has been able to find information about him."

Mr. Dakin also noted that there was a record of the captain being buried in the Acushnet Cemetery which is located across the street from the house.

"The cemetery records show that Captain Thomas Severance died at the age of 61, had a wife named Betty and that he had a daughter named Lucy who died at 2 months old," he said.

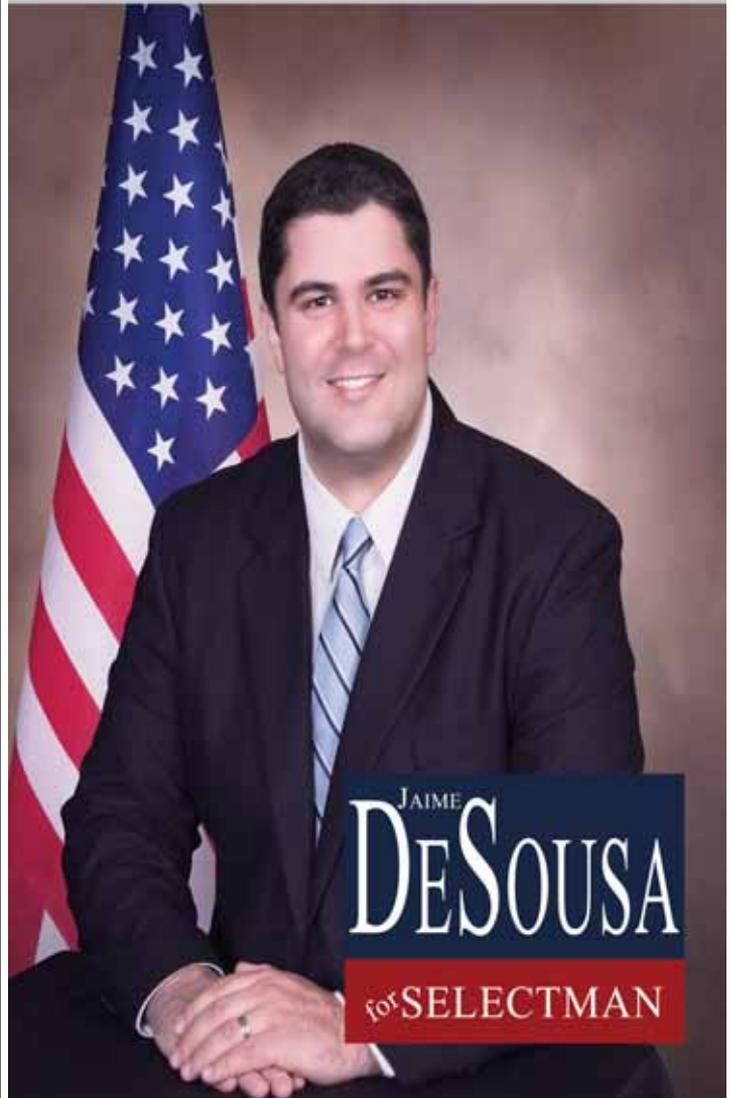
At the January 9th, Selectboard meeting Leslie Dakin reported that Romao Santos Architects of New Bedford found the Cusson house to be structurally sound and historically significant. After listening to a presentation about the condition of the interior and exterior of the structure the selectboard requested that Mr. Dakin continue his efforts to research the possibility of restoring the property. All three members of the board commented on the need to reimburse the library for the property should it be restored by the town as an historic site.

To see the library's building plans visit <http://www.sailsinc.org/acushnet/project.html> ●●●

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

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This is a comprehensive course for 11-14 year olds. Topics include first aid, choke saving techniques, mealtime, bedtime, discipline and more. Pizza will be provided. **Deadline to register is Friday, January 27.** For more information, please call Fairhaven Recreation at 508-993-9269.

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# Wind forum a little breezy, not turbulent

By Beth David  
Editor

Except for a tense moment or two, Fairhaven's much anticipated wind turbine forum contained little drama. The information packed night stretched on for more than two hours on 1/24 at the Hastings Middle School, and included experts to address noise and other annoying factors from industrial sized wind turbines, as well as possible adverse health effects. Fairhaven is in the process of erecting two 397-foot IWTs behind the treatment plant on Arsene Street.

Some Falmouth residents have complained of vertigo, headaches, sleep disturbances, anxiety and depression, collectively known as Wind Turbine Syndrome (WTS), after an IWT was erected.

Alicia Barton McDevitt, Deputy Commissioner of the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, talked about the recently released study by the DEP and the Department of Public Health on IWTs. The study found no evidence to corroborate the existence of WTS, and only said there was "limited evidence" to support annoyance and sleep disturbances due to noise and shadow flicker.

Wind opponents have assailed the report as flawed and have charged that



Curt Devlin blows bubbles to demonstrate that infrasound can still have an impact even though it can't be heard. *Photo by Beth David.*

panelists were pro-wind before they conducted the study.

Ms. McDevitt said the state was looking forward to a "robust public dialogue." (See sidebar.)

Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis of Fairhaven, a vocal opponent of the Fairhaven project and the attorney for Windwise-Fairhaven, said the project "cherry-picked" the information it chose to read and disregarded Falmouth.

"We did solicit comments from the public, including from Falmouth residents," said Ms. McDevitt, adding that the information was "shared with

the panel and used in the report."

Sumul Shah, president/manager of Lumus Construction & Solaya Energy, which will erect and operate the turbines, addressed many of the concerns that Windwise has raised.

First, he ran through the timeline to show that the project had been approved by Town Meeting and had been properly permitted. He said they started clearing trees in November, 2011, because they closed the financing in November.

Much criticism has been aimed at developers for choosing turbines from China. Mr. Shah said the Sinovel turbine was chosen over the Vestas brand that was used in Falmouth because they use significantly different technologies.

In response to questions, he said the Sinovels were not chosen over GE's because of a lack of setbacks. He said that Sinovel is the second largest WT manufacturer in the world, behind Vestas, and that Sinovel technology was created by American Superconductor, a Mass. based company.

"We are confident that these turbines meet all the quality standards we would expect," said Mr. Shah.

He also debunked the Windwise claim that the Fairhaven project will put more houses in the flicker range than anywhere else. He said that Templeton, Mass., and Portsmouth, RI, both have more homes closer to IWTs.

Both of those towns have IWTs on school grounds. Another claim of Windwise is that the students at the new Wood School, 2100 feet away, will suffer adverse effects from the IWTs. The new Wood School will be 50-75 feet farther away than the old school. Mr. Shah said "many" schools are within a half mile of IWTs, and there were "no known impacts" on students or faculty.

Mr. Shah also discussed ice throw, shadow flicker and fires. He said coastal communities have little problem with icing of the blades, but that when there is ice, the turbines detect it and shut down.

He said only 71 fires were reported, according to Windwise.org, over a 14 year period, but there are 130,000 turbines operating, resulting in a .01% chance of fire. Temperature is constantly monitored and the WT will shut down if it gets too hot. If there is a fire, the fire department should create a safe perimeter and let the fire burn out

"(Shadow flicker) is a fairly predictable event," said Mr. Shah. He

## Public Comment Period

A public comment period on the Mass. wind report is now open until Mon., Mar. 19 at 5 p.m. Email to: [WindTurbineDocket.MassDEP@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:WindTurbineDocket.MassDEP@MassMail.State.MA.US); or mail to MassDEP Wind Turbine Docket, One Winter Street, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02108

Verbal and written comments may also be submitted at three public meetings. See website for details. Comments received will be considered prior to the report's use by or adoption by any state agency.

For additional information about this study, visit MassDEP's Wind Turbine Web Page at: [www.mass.gov/dep/energy/wind/panel.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/energy/wind/panel.htm)

showed a computer simulation of where the flicker would affect structures the most, showing the current Wood School will have flicker mainly before 7 a.m., before school starts.

"These two turbines do make a huge impact on the environment," said Mr. Shah. "All of us should be proud."

He said the same Sinovel IWT is being erected in Scituate and that 1250 people showed their support of the project by signing their names to the blade during the snowstorm on 1/22 (visit <http://www.patriotledger.com/photos/x1251830654/Scituate-turbine-blade-draws-a-crowd-in-Scituate>)

Peter Guldberg who holds degrees from MIT and the University of Michigan, has 35 years experience in acoustics. He explained decibel levels and regulations and guidelines governing how loud a project can be above the usual, or "ambient" sound of a neighborhood. He debunked the notion that "infrasound," or inaudible sound, is harmful.

Gary Gump from the town of Portsmouth, RI, described a similar path as Fairhaven's municipal project. Their IWT is 336 feet high and has given the town net revenues of \$395,000 in 30+ months of operation. He encouraged people to visit the town's IWT as well as the one on the grounds of the Portsmouth Abbey about a half hour away.

Curt Devlin, who spoke on behalf of Windwise, gave a lengthy presentation, twice as long as the other panelists, in which he explained infrasound, and said that non-peer reviewed studies were also valid and that anecdotal evidence should not be dismissed.

**FORUM: cont'd on page 27**

# Wind Turbines at schools

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

Industrial wind turbines are whirling on at least six sites located smack dab in the middle of school grounds here in Massachusetts, even as Fairhaven residents debate over the dangers of putting IWTs too close to schools and homes.

With two IWTs going up 2,100 feet from Fairhaven's new Wood School, some residents worry about Falmouth-like side effects caused by turbine noise, shadow flicker, and infrasound that might threaten the well-being of the students attending the new school, especially students with special needs.

So far, there are no known documented cases of negative impacts on students at Massachusetts schools with IWT sites.

In at least one instance, one IWT did have an impact on students, in Templeton, when their school began installing their very own 383-foot turbine behind the school building.

"We're not getting a whole lot of learning going on around here," teachers told Bill Clabaugh, the day a giant crane was hoisting the nacelle onto the IWT tower back in 2010.

"I beg to differ," said Mr. Clabaugh with a smile. "There's a whole lot of learning going on here."

Mr. Clabaugh is the Director of Buildings and Grounds at the Narragansett Regional Middle and High School, and one of the three people who spearheaded the project.

The awe-stricken students at NRMS/HS were "enamored" by their wind turbine, according to Mr. Clabaugh, and Dr. Roseli Weiss, Superintendent of Schools.

Children attend school regularly and learn about wind turbine mechanics, flicker, and energy production as they sit in their seats only about 700 feet from the IWT, ever since the school developed a science curriculum stemming from the turbine's installation.

According to Mr. Clabaugh, the students were involved in the six-year long project every step of the way.

Instead of complaining about the noise the turbine makes, the students learn about what causes the noise — a noise that is inaudible from inside the building on most days.

"I don't think anyone even hears it anymore during the day," said Dr. Weiss. "Sometimes I hear it when I leave late at night...when it's quiet."

Dr. Weiss described the noise as a "calming whir."

Abutting the school is neighbor Erik Butzke, who says he likes the benefits the WT provides the community, but dislikes the shadow flicker that falls on his house for about an hour during sunny days in winter, when the IWT is aligned just right due to wind direction.

"Black, white, black, white...It is what it is," said Mr. Butzke, who works from home as a computer software specialist. He said he shuts his curtain and "you get used to it pretty quickly."

Mr. Butzke, his wife, and 18-month old daughter live just 450 feet away from the IWT.

He said his daughter sleeps through the IWT sound, which is inaudible above the noise of their fish tank bubbling away in the family room.

Mr. Butzke mentioned one neighbor with a preexisting health issue, who might have moved away because she started getting headaches when the IWT started operating. He admitted, though, that he was not quite certain and did not know the woman's name.

He added, however, that he believed she received a fair price for her house and, in his opinion, it did not look as though the neighborhood property values had been affected by the IWT.

When questioned about the neighbor's alleged headaches claim, Mr. Clabaugh replied, "They didn't come to us and talk to us about it."

He said that there have been no claims of negative health effects from any of the neighbors reported to him.

The weirdest consequence from the turbine, according to Mr. Butzke,

---

The weirdest consequence from the turbine, according to Mr. Butzke, has been the "looky-loos" who drive down his street and stop to view it.

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WTS: cont'd on page 25

# Tilting at windmills

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

There is something different about parents of children with special needs. We have that look in our eyes.

I see myself when I look into the eyes of a mother like me.

I see the same pain, like watching all the other kids playing together on the playground while my son is alone by a bench, hitting himself hard over his ears as a distant ambulance siren goes by.

In their eyes I see the same joy, like the day I heard my very first unsolicited "I love you Mommy" that I waited eight years to hear. Something other parents get to take for granted.

Parents like us know the meaning of a good fight. We are always getting our hands dirty. Just ask one special education administrator from the past, when I was first introduced to a teacher as a "concerned parent," probably code for something a little less wholesome.

Moms like us are fierce. I've thrown dynamite at mountains that stand in the way of my son's journey toward progress.

I've been the knight slaying dragons that threatened his well-being. And more recently, I grabbed my sword once again and set out like a Don Quixote of sorts to conquer some of the wind turbines that threatened to harm him.

I was against consolidating the two elementary schools. Hearing about two wind turbines going up across the street from the new Wood School my son would soon attend was a cruel insult to injury.

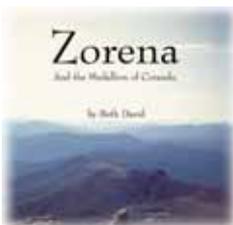
That familiar pounding in my chest told me it was time again for another battle.

The frightening news coming out of Falmouth hit me as if it was fired out of a cannon. If ordinary people were getting sick due wind turbine-induced infrasound, then my uber-sensitive-to-sound autistic son would be pulverized by it.

I started digging for as much dirt about WTs that I could find. The more I uncovered, the nastier and more threatening they seemed. How could the town be inviting these two giants to live amongst us? To me, it felt like the end of the world (at least, the end of my life in Fairhaven).

TILTING: cont'd on page 30

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# FHS Glory Days of 1961

By Bob Hobbs

## Special to the Neighb News

Fairhaven High had a great group of athletes in 1961. Led by junior Mike Fitzgerald, the baseball and basketball teams were outstanding.

The FHS baseball team was Bristol County champ with 20-2 record. Lost to Wellesley High in states, who would go on to win state crown.

Bob Bowman was an outstanding pitcher and hitter who was All Bristol County, as was Bob Lebeau and Fitz. Bowman, Fitzgerald, Tony Rego and Steve Vining were a super pitching staff. Dick Norman was coach.

Basketball shared Bristol County championship with Attleboro. Fitz was top gun, with John Kidd, Norm Tate, Bob Lebeau, Pete Fermino, and

Skip Hall.

Football was okay with Speedy Henry Knudsen and Robin Holmes. Track team was Bristol County champ, undefeated in dual meets, and St. John relay champs led by All State Dashman Jeff Purvis; also outstanding runners Knutsen, Rich Coelho, Dave Toupin, Bob Lopes, Mike Deforge and Holmes. Hal Conforth was coach.



ABOVE: The 1961 Fairhaven High School Baseball team. First Row, R. Renaud, R. Lebeau, E. Macedo, N. Take, A. Rego, R. Bowman, R. Lawton, M. Fitzgerald, W. Perry. Second row: A. Ashley, S. Bouley, R. Perry, S. Vining, D. Frates, E. Hartigan, Coach Norman. BELOW: The 1961 Fairhaven High School Basketball team. Standing: R. Calef, P. Fermino, B. Lebeau, N. Tate, S. Toland, S. Hall, J. Kidd, C. Fermino, H. Knutsen, D. Goodwin. Kneeling: M. Fitzgerald, Coach Entin. *Photos from the FHS Yearbook.*



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## Child Search

The Fairhaven Public Schools seeks to identify all children in need of special education services. The Fairhaven Public Schools provides all children with an opportunity to participate in the public school programs and, in accordance with federal and state regulations, provides special education programs designed to meet the needs of children who are attending not only public schools, but also private schools at private expense and whose parents reside in Fairhaven.

Fairhaven Public Schools will arrange for the screening and evaluation of children aged 3 through 21 who are unable to progress effectively in regular education because of a disability. Disabilities are defined as an impairment in one or more of the following areas: Autism, Developmental Delay, Intellectual Impairment, Sensory Impairment (Hearing or Vision), Neurological Impairment, Emotional Impairment, Communication Impairment, Physical Impairment, Health Impairment or Specific Learning Disability.

For further information regarding screenings and evaluations or eligibility for programs, and/or services, please call the Special Education Department at 508-979-4000, Extension 117. Referrals are accepted throughout the year.

Fairhaven Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of age, handicap, sexual orientation, race, religion, creed, gender, or national origin.

## 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.
Friday	27	1040	2259	0339*	1554*
Saturday	28	1122	2342	0420	1631*
Sunday	29	----	1204	0503	1711
Monday	30	0024	1248	0553	1759
Tuesday	31	0109	1335	0700	1856
February 2012		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Wednesday	1	0159	1430	0828	2002
Thursday	2	0257	1531	0941	2106
Friday	3	0401	1631	1034	2203
Saturday	4	0458	1724	1120	2254*

\*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft

\*\*Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

## Fairhaven Meetings

### Bicentennial Committee

Sat., 1/21, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

### Board of Appeals

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

### Conservation Commission

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

### Fairhaven Housing Auth.

Mon., 1/30, Oxford Terr., 4 p.m.

### Finance Committee

Thurs., 1/26, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Thurs., 2/2, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

### Planning Board

Tues., 2/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Wed., 2/8, FHS Library, 6:30

### Selectboard

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

### Special Town Meeting

Wed., 2/15, Hastings MS, 7 p.m.

## Acushnet Meetings

### Board of Appeals

Mon., 2/6, Comm. Ctr, 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Health

Tues., 2/28, Parting Ways Sch, 6:30 p.

### Board of Public Works

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

### School Committee

Tues. 2/7, Ford Middle Sch., 5 p.m.

### Selectboard

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

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# Letters from our readers

## Officials stay to letter of law, not spirit

The question was mainly rhetorical. We all knew the answer. Why would Executive Secretary to the Selectmen, Jeff Osuch, chairman of his board Brain Bowcock and developer Gordon Deane notify the neighbors about their new Chinese turbine project when an older version of the plan had met intense resistance? I think it was the first question Bob Unger posed at our recent meeting with the S-T editorial board meeting. Why would they stir the hornets' nest? For them it made sense to keep things quiet, skate right up to the edge of the law; attempt to stay to the letter but never over into its spirit and purpose. A true democracy is just so messy and inefficient.

There are a lot of reasons why the neighbors, abutters and the parents of children attending Wood School should have been fully informed about this project. Honesty, respect and decency should move those in positions of authority to understand decisions involving projects like this need to be arrived at in full light or they won't work. If there is nothing to hide why keep people in the dark. It's not the right thing to do or smart.

Now after the rabble has been roused the developer wants to hold a "forum" to tell us how great this project is. And the developer Gordon Deane has said if he can't convince you, he'll sue you.

Nowhere in this state if not the nation are 400-foot wind turbines as close to people and impacting as many homes as these will. If sited they will violate even the wind industry's own minimal setback regulation. The EU requires a setback distance of 1.2 miles. I wonder if Gordon Deane has given any thought about putting his turbines behind his backyard.

I'm sure his neighbors won't mind but then again he probably wouldn't tell them. You would think that anyone threatening to sue over this project would dot every "i" and cross every "t" but one major oversight is not going through the Health Board to get an assigned location for his noisome trade.

Mass. General Laws, CHAPTER 111, Section 143 mandates the Board of Health to act; to hold public hearings

in regards to siting criteria and then to provide a proper location for activities that can be classified as noisome. Or maybe Mr. Deane and his investors might want to get a valid building permit.

And as we've all read lately there are no health issues. The state experts say so. But, "The panel did not do original research, nor did it investigate reports of health problems among residents living near any particular turbine installation. Instead it reviewed existing studies."

Boston Globe Staff January 17, And. from Steve Urbon's report in the Standard Times January 17, "What limited concern the survey team expressed centered on the effects of sleep deprivation. In a conference call with reporters, the team made it clear that while there is known risk associated with denial of sleep, it's not clear that wind turbines are a cause" a known risk, not clear that wind turbines are a cause? And these guys are experts? Isn't this report about turbine effects? I'm sure they won't lose any sleep.

The state is desperate to site these things. They will say what they have to. Or hire people to say it for them. The Developer Gordon Deane of Palmer Capital stands to make a ton of money. What else would he say? The town wants the revenue. Jeff Osuch knows there are no problems. He's a believer and Brian Bowcock believes Jeff Osuch. The others in town hall fall in line.

As we concluded the meeting we spoke of maintaining the integrity of a process imbedded in law. Without it we end up with money, power and ego pulling the strings. If a process of information gathering, consultation with the community and truthful discourse had been followed; this town wouldn't be looking forward to the siting of two massive turbines in a place that violates even minimum setbacks. This project was never judged on its merits because the process was subverted to achieve a preconceived outcome.\*

The call by the Standard Times for an investigation by the Attorney General's office is appreciated. It showed that an independent review committee in this case the Standard Times Editorial Board after viewing the evidence we presented and listening to our position, saw if not an

illegal project a deeply flawed one. Sunday's editorial cast a little light on dimly lit project. We'll keep shining a bright light and fighting the good fight.

*Henry Ferreira, Fairhaven*

*\*Editor's note: The wind turbine project was passed at the 5/15/07 town meeting by a vote of 141-98 after lengthy discussion. See the 5/17/07 issue on our website on the archives page for 2007: [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com).*

## Move Turbines or Go Solar: Case Closed

With the melting of the polar ice caps comes a conclusion the global warming on planet earth is occurring. This melting is caused by carbon emission from the 4-cycle engine that powers our automobiles. The need for clean, green energy is needed and the process and implementation is needed now.

The Wind Turbine controversy in Fairhaven is out of control on BOTH sides. If the turbines go up in the current location the Town of Fairhaven has cleared, the lawsuits and controversy will continue for years.

There is a simple solution, real simple...Move the Turbines to a location where setbacks will not be an issue. Find a location that is a mile or two from any residence or school. If this happens then the controversy is diffused, simply.

I really believe the Wind Wise members are not against the Turbines or clean energy but they are concerned about how the proximity of the turbines may impact the health and well being of their family. A basic human emotion is to protect your family.

Another solution would be to turn the current area cleared for the Wind Turbines into a solar farm....no flicker, no sound, no subterranean vibrations, no obstruction of the beautiful view of Nasketucket Bay.

The Fairhaven Town officials have dug in. The WindWise members have done the same. End this growing controversy and move the turbines or Go Solar!...

*Steve Bender, Mattapoisett*

## Stop wind project now

Having had a utility sized wind turbine forced upon our private lives by wind energy professionals, sound

**LETTERS: cont'd on next page**

# BBC withdraws application for CPC funds

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

Vowing to return next year, the Buzzard's Bay Coalition withdrew its application for FY2013 Fairhaven Community Preservation Act funds for its Nasketucket Bay Conservation Project. The funding would assist in the purchase of about 400 acres of open space to be designated as conservation preservation land.

BBC Director of Land Protection, Allen Decker, announced the application withdrawal at the Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee meeting on 1/12.

Mr. Decker told the CPC that the BBC decided to pull its application because the project is not slated to close until 2013, making it premature to apply for CPA funding for this year.

"We're willing to have the application pulled, but understand that we'll be back next year for the same amount, for the same project," said Mr. Decker.

The BBC will reapply in 2013 for \$150,000 which will ultimately lead to the purchase of hundreds of acres in Mattapoisett and Fairhaven vulnerable to development.

CPC member and Fairhaven Conservation Commission Chairperson Andrew Jones stated that his intention was to wholeheartedly

support the \$6,000,000 Nasketucket Bay project, which includes the purchase of 197 acres of forest land and coastal wetlands, 201 acres of conservation restrictions on active farmlands, and two trail easements connecting existing conservation and recreation lands with the Phoenix and Mattapoisett Bike Paths.

"This is an awesome opportunity to preserve large tracts of land with the neighboring community of Mattapoisett," said Mr. Jones.

In a follow-up interview, Mr. Jones said that the notoriety of the Little Bay wind turbine project has moved some residents to criticize the Conservation Commission.

"People have asked me, 'Why didn't you do anything to preserve it [Little Bay]?' adding, 'You can't preserve something already in process.'"

"As a member of the ConCom, it's my duty to represent ConCom, as well as purchasing open space," said Mr. Jones, and avowed that he is "relying on them [BBC] coming back next year."

The withdrawal of the BBC application has eliminated competition among the other projects applying for a piece of the CPA funding, totaling \$343,600. All the applicants will receive the funds they applied for,

pending approval at Town Meeting on May 5.

Projects applying for CPA grant funding are:

- Town Hall Exterior Repairs: \$70,000
- Fairhaven High School Renovations: \$173,000
- Fairhaven Historical Commission: Academy North Façade Painting: \$5,000
- Fairhaven Historical Commission: Fire Museum Exterior Repairs: \$5,000
- Millicent Library: Exterior Envelope Restoration Project: \$87,000

There were no requests under Community Housing, so \$40,000 will be reserved for future expenditures. An additional \$40,000 will be reserved for future Open Space projects, and \$12,600 is allotted to administrative costs.

The CPC also voted to require recipients of CPC funding to provide the CPC with updates on the development and completion of all projects. They may submit updates in writing or in person.

The meeting was televised and will be broadcast on Fairhaven government access, channel 18.

Argument is meant  
to reveal the truth,  
not to create it.

Edward de Bono

## LETTERS: cont'd from page 22

engineers and well intentioned town administrators and town boards, I need to comment on the Town of Fairhaven Wind Project.

I have followed most large scale wind energy proposals across the state of Massachusetts over the past years and have to say this Fairhaven plan has to be the most outrageous display of reckless and irresponsible wind turbine siting that I have seen. This project should be viewed as a total embarrassment to the field of energy use, energy conservation and the goals of self sustainability.

To the developers and engineers of this project, shame on you.

To the Selectmen, Board of Health,

Planning Board....-TO ALL CITIZENS of Fairhaven: You must stop this project.

Common sense alone could be the only reason, but many other reasons, specifically zero safety zone, negative health effects, proximity to the bike path, residences, as well as the new school, should be looked at very closely.

Do not be like Falmouth. It took us 19 months to shut the turbine down. Doesn't that tell you something is wrong? From one person of many who have lived it, you must understand, these turbines are way too big to be this close to the population.

Neil Andersen, Falmouth, MA

Bigotry and intolerance, silenced by argument,  
endeavors to silence by persecution, in old days  
by fire and sword, in modern days by the tongue.

Charles Simmons

## Legal Notices/ Public Hearings

### Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 13, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. In the Fairhaven Town Hall, Purpose is for Request for Determination of the following matters as required By Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Request for Determination Applicant Michael Ristuccia Location Bass Creek Road Plot 43C Lots 403-414 Purpose verify wetland line within a VE flood zone.
- Notice of Intent Applicant Katherine Marie Tumiski, Trustee, c/o Jan Crosby Location 22 Balsam Street Plot 43C Lot 30 Purpose construct rip-rap seawall on a rocky coastal beach and within a VE flood zone.

Respectfully submitted  
Andrew Jones Chairman  
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

# Police chief left in cold when FinCom loses quorum

By Joyce Rowley

## Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven Police Chief Michael J. Myers went away empty handed January 19th as the Finance Committee lacked a quorum to vote. Chief Myers had requested a \$7,200 emergency reserve fund transfer to pay for the replacement of a 16-year-old Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit that blew out the previous week.

FinCom Chairperson John Roderiques had abstained and left the room, stating a conflict of interest due to his knowledge and employment by one of the three bidders on the unit. With four members absent and one seat vacant, that left the necessary seven members to discuss the item and vote.

However, FinCom member Kim Hyland, on reading the request that was handed out at the meeting, realized he, too, had a conflict of interest with one of the bidders and left the room.

Acting Recording Secretary Sidney Martin asked acting co-chairperson Antonio "Dan" DeNardis whether there was a quorum. But before the FinCom took any further action, Mr. Roderiques returned and resumed the chair, noting the lack of quorum could not be cured.

If the quorum were caused by too many recusals, he said, the Rule of Necessity could be invoked as New England weather was usually deemed an emergency. That would allow a vote to go forward with the seated members. But since the lack of a quorum was caused in part by absences, the vote would have to wait until next week's meeting.

Chief Myers had solicited three bids for the project ranging from \$13,200 to \$7,200. The three bids, with the names that were included on the submissions, were: Designed Temperatures, Inc., of Fairhaven, at \$7,200 (Jeffrey Messier); Advance Air & Heat Company of Freetown, at \$9,300 (no name submitted); DG Service LLC of Mattapoisett, at \$13,200 (David S. Knox).

Before Mr. Hyland left, he said that a second roof unit had been replaced two years ago by the current low bidder and there had been no problem since.

The unit that recently broke, heated the dispatch center, adminis-

tration, lobby and booking, as well as the old building upstairs. Although the overall Police Department purchases and services category was at \$39,700, the line item for maintenance and service was at \$1,235. Mr. DeNardis had asked whether the remaining third unit should be reviewed for replacement by article at Town Meeting when Mr. Hyland recused himself and the proceeding stopped.

In another matter, a \$2,500 reserve fund transfer request from the Town auditors was approved by an 8-0 vote, four members absent. Members Ted Silva, Jennifer Bishop, Scott Fernandes, and Kathleen Carter were absent. The Town Accountant is leaving on February 3rd, and the accounts will not have been finalized by then so the auditors will complete the work.

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But since the lack of a quorum was caused in part by absences, the vote would have to wait until next week's meeting.

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Two other requests were postponed. Tree Warden Antone Medeiros, Jr. requested a \$3,000 increase in his pay since he was always on call. He also requested a car allotment for use of his vehicle. Mr. Roderiques recommended asking him to come before the board to review the request.

Cat L. Mindlin, Animal Control Officer, requested a new \$22,000 van for her department. Although the current ACO van is working, it needs substantial repairs.

Member Theresa Szala suggested that the Council on Aging van could be transferred to the ACO, since COA is getting a new van from Southeast Regional Transportation Authority. Mr. Roderiques pointed out that the COA van was a passenger vehicle and would need to be retrofitted for the ACO purposes.

Ms. Szala asked if there were any less expensive vans available.

Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch said that the vans in Ms. Mindlin's proposal were from the State pre-bid list which was created so that towns could avoid the cost of advertising for vehicles. Mr. Osuch said that she could purchase a used vehicle. Mr. DeNardis suggested using a van from the motor vehicle pool if one were available.

Mr. Roderiques said that they would ask Ms. Mindlin to come in but that it did not appear there was an emergency that could be considered for a reserve fund transfer.

Mr. Osuch presented the FinCom with the notice for the Special Town Meeting to be held at 7 p.m. on February 15th at the Hastings Middle School. Residents petitioned to call the STM to reverse the decision on the wind turbines being erected on Arsene Street, along with two other articles.

If the Selectboard wanted to add articles, it would have to have a substantial reason to do so, Mr. Roderiques said. He said he had heard that the union settled a past year contract which must be submitted to TM within 30 days of signing, and so would be the exception.

Prior to discussing the three articles presented for STM, Mr. Roderiques asked if there were any members who felt like they needed to contact the Ethics Commission. None of the members spoke to that question.

Mr. Roderiques then said that there was time for three FinCom meetings before the STM. While the petitioners of any article have a right to request a hearing before the Finance Committee, he said that it did not constitute a public hearing. He also wanted to provide adequate time for an adjournment to a larger venue if necessary.

FinCom needed to make a determination as to whether any of the three articles fell within the purview of the committee by reason of financial ramifications, Mr. Roderiques said.

Mr. DeNardis recused himself and left the room because his wife and law partner, Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis, has been active in the wind turbine controversy. He said he did not want the appearance of a conflict although, he said, his partner does not

**FINCOM: cont'd on page 27**

## WTS: cont'd from page 17

are the “looky-loos” who drive down his street and stop to view it.

“We thought about opening up a lemonade stand with pinwheels and selling them for a dollar,” he laughed.

Statewide, none of the schools with IWTs have admitted to any complaints of “Wind Turbine Syndrome,” (WTS) a phrase coined by Dr. Nina Pierpoint, who concludes that wind farms have harmful effects on people, similar to the effects experienced by residents living near the IWT in Falmouth.

Special Education Director of the Narragansett Regional School District, Ann Morgan, stated that none of the over 100 students attending the school complex who have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), including one student who uses a hearing impairment device, have complained or showed signs of distress related to the IWT.

The NR Middle School and High School have one self-contained classroom where the students who are most affected by developmental delays learn in a segregated environment.



Children diagnosed with developmental disabilities like Autism Spectrum Disorder often have a correlating secondary diagnosis known as Sensory Integration Dysfunction.

Children with SID have difficulties processing and responding to information from the senses. Everything is noisier and brighter to children with audio and visual hypersensitivities which can cause distraction or even distress.

Carla Charter is the head of the Narragansett Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC).

During a phone interview, Ms. Charter said she had never heard of WTS, and was unaware of the news of the IWT-related health effects being reported by Falmouth residents.



ABOVE: These two industrial wind turbines at Mt. Wachusett Community College in Gardner are across the street from a bike path and about 700 feet away from a hospital. BELOW: William Swift, Director of Maintenance and Mechanical Systems at MWCC explains the numbers on a monitor that displays current wind speed and output for the two wind turbines on campus. The monitor is solar powered and mounted in the hallway of the Haley Building which has both classrooms and administrative offices. Photos by Beth David. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

“I have three ‘spectrum’ kids,” she said. “Two of the three attend the middle school and high school. One has special issues and some noise issues, but I haven’t seen any changes.”

As head of the SpEdPAC, Ms. Charter communicates regularly with parents of special needs children within the Narragansett Regional school district.

“I haven’t heard anything,” she said.

The principal at the NRHS, Shawn Rickan, also confirmed that no cases of IWT-related side effects have been communicated to him.

“There have been no incidents here in Hull,” said Maureen Robishaw from the Hull Superintendent’s office, regarding the 239-foot tall IWT that operates on the grounds of Hull High School.

“There are absolutely no reports from any of the students about ill-effects from the turbines,” said Edward Reynolds, Headmaster of Holy Name Catholic High School, home to a 262-foot IWT located next to where students learn.

The McGlynn School Complex in Medford has an IWT that stands about 164-feet high.

Kathleen Aluia is the chairperson for Medford’s citywide SpEdPAC. She stated that if any cases of IWT-related issues were affecting special needs students she would have heard about them.

“When I talk about SID, it’s usually the noise in the cafeteria and in the

hallways,” said Ms. Aluia.

She said she had never heard about IWT-related infrasound, but expressed concern about the possibility of it, commenting, “It’s worth paying attention to.”

In an email sent by Bob Littlefield, the Principal at Portsmouth High School in Rhode Island, Mr. Littlefield said that since their 336-foot IWT was installed adjacent to their tennis courts back in 2009, no one has complained.

“We have had ZERO problems in our school since the installation of the turbine and ZERO complaints from our neighbors,” wrote Mr. Littlefield. “The only time students mention it is during maintenance time when the blades do not spin and they want to know if the ‘windmill’ is broken. You cannot hear the turbine unless you are standing directly under it.”

Heywood Hospital sits approximately 700 feet from the two 397-foot Vestas IWTs situated on the campus of Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Massachusetts.

The hospital includes a four-bed sleep disorder study center and a geriatric psychiatric center.

Mike Grimmer, Heywood Hospital’s CEO, said that he has heard “absolutely nothing,” and “not a single one” of the patients at Heywood have suffered any adverse effects from the two IWTs.

“They are more of an attraction.

**WTS: cont'd on page 28**

# ML's Eye on the Weather



A weekly weather report from ML Baron of the West Island Weather Station: [westislandweather.com](http://westislandweather.com)

By M.L. Baron  
[westislandweather.com](http://westislandweather.com)

## Upgraded Weather Radar to Yield Better Accuracy in Forecasting

TAUNTON: The National Weather Service recently upgraded their Doppler radar systems across the country, including the Taunton, Massachusetts office located in Myles Standish Industrial Park. This facility oversees most of the Northeast for weather coverage.

The new "Dual Polarization Radar" was put on line January 15. The WSR-88D as it is officially referred to, is an ultra sensitive weather radar that can detect and identify return signatures in detail never seen

before.

The original Doppler radar only sent out a vertical pulse and received a return with limited dimension of precipitation types. Now, with the added horizontal pulse, the enhanced gear has the capability to decipher and dissect precipitation types from hail, sleet, snow size and shape from another angle. Rainfall estimates should be more precise as well.

In layman's terms, this new innovation is the difference between listening to audio in stereo rather than mono. This added option can target not only precipitation but can differentiate return signals from clusters of birds and insects to debris in the sky from a tornado event. Added features include better flash flood detection and aircraft icing conditions.

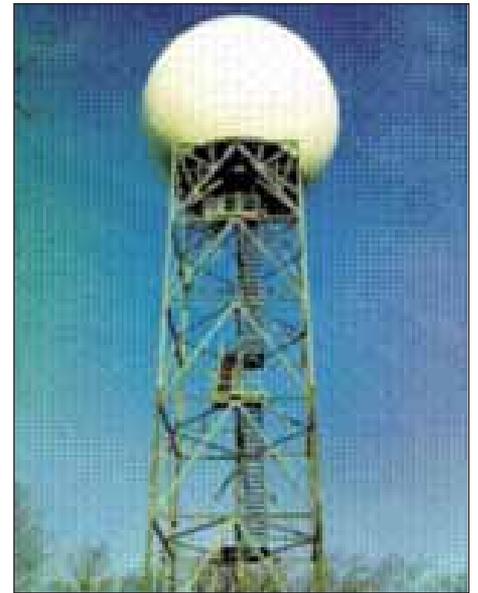
Unfortunately the Dual-Pol radar will not improve tornado lead time according to The National Weather Service.

NOAA is providing Meteorologists and non meteorologists download courses online for the use of the new radar at this link: <http://wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/dualpol/Outreach/index.html>

### Forecast

**Fri. Jan 27.** Mostly cloudy with a 50% chance of rain. Highs in the mid 40s. **Night:** Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

**Sat. Jan 28.** Mostly sunny. Highs in



WSR-88D Dual Polarization Radar brings a new dimension in forecasting. NOAA photo

the lower 40s. **Night:** Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs in the mid 30s.

**Sun. Jan 29.** Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs in the mid 30s. **Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows around 20.

**Mon. Jan 30.** Sunny. Highs in the mid 30s. **Night:** Clear Lows around 24.

**Tues. Jan. 31.** Party Cloudy With Isolated Showers Possible. High: 41. **Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 37

The islands ocean temperature is 37.6 degrees. First day of Spring in 53 days.

## First snowstorm of the season dumps more than expected



The first snow storm of the year brought West Island the highest measurement for SouthCoast at 12.5". The first flakes came down at 6:30 a.m. Saturday and gradually intensified later in the morning, ending around 6 p.m. According to The West Island Weather Station the barometer bottomed out at 30.01 and the wind had a few gusts out of the northeast at 23 MPH. LEFT: Houses at the edge of the marsh on Goulart Memorial Drive as the snow fell on Saturday at around 4 p.m. RIGHT: The same marsh from a different angle as the ice melted on Monday, 1/23. Photos by Beth David.

**FORUM: cont'd from page 16**

He used two demonstrations to prove his point. In one, he blew bubbles and challenged people to say if they could hear his breath. Of course, they could not, but the bubbles were there nonetheless. In another, he showed a picture of Marilyn Monroe and said that if he tore a picture into little pieces and said it was a picture of Marilyn Monroe, people would laugh. But if he put the pieces together it would make the picture.

He said the preponderance of evidence points to the existence of WTS, that it was like the strands of a rope: each one alone is weak, but together they are strong.

He pointed to problems arising in other countries around wind farms.

"You've got to remember, the rest of the world is ahead of us on this," he said, adding that people have left their homes to get away from IWTs, and "Nobody goes to those lengths fraudulently."

He also said symptoms from infrasound are "gateways" to serious diseases such as diabetes, depression and heart attacks. Mr. Devlin also made the claim that infrasound has been weaponized. He said it is powerful and does not fade over distance.

"We are about to engage in an ominous social experiment," said Mr. Devlin, and then explained the Nuremberg Code, which was created after Nazi Germany experimented on humans. He pointed to the key points about consent of the subject and being able to opt out of the study, saying the people near the turbines did not have either option.

He was followed by Robert McCunney, MD, MPH, who told the crowd about a 2009 study he was part of that was "uncannily" similar to the state's latest study in both process and conclusions.

He encouraged people to visit the

PubMed website ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)) and review the peer reviewed literature. He challenged many of the assertions of the Windwise research on the grounds that only one report was peer reviewed.

Dr. McCunney spoke about infrasound, low frequency sound, and the "swish" sound of the blades. He dismissed the idea that infrasound is harmful.

He said people don't like to hear that annoyance with IWTs is "strongly related" to their attitudes about them.

"Annoyance is not a health outcome," he said. "Infrasound is all around us. Infrasound is not some sinister concept. Contrary to the previous speaker (Curt

**Infrasound is all around  
us. Infrasound is not  
some sinister concept  
[Dr. Robert McCunney]**

Devlin), infrasound has been measured."

He said Astronauts were "heavily exposed" to infrasound for the Apollo project "without adverse affects."

Mr. Devlin responded that the measurements were done on the A weighted scale not the G-weighted scale. He also pointed out that Albert Einstein's papers were not peer reviewed.

Karen Isherwood interrupted Dr. McCunney as the time was getting late, insisting on being heard. Moderator Jonathan Raab allowed her to speak, although questions were supposed to be at the end of the panel.

An emotional, visibly shaking Ms. Isherwood, said she wanted to know if any of the panelists lived near IWTs and could speak about what it was like to live close to one. Only Mr. McCunney said he

lived in Hull, within 1 1/4 miles of one.

"I will be able to speak myself to it very soon," said Ms. Isherwood.

Henry Ferreira immediately broke the rules of asking a question and not orating. He read a letter that was part of Windwise's handouts about a woman who was sick at work near a WT, but okay when she got home. Mr. Raab tried to stop Mr. Ferreira, who adamantly declared that he would finish reading the letter.

Questions from residents included why developers decided in September to move a turbine; what is the possibility of building more in Fairhaven, such as on West Island and Wilbur's Point; and questions about the dangers of infrasound. Residents also insisted on knowing who would compensate victims if they became sick. They tried to get Mr. Shah to state that he would shut the turbines down if people complained of health effects.

Mr. Shah explained that the change in September was due to giving the project a "fresh look." He also said that municipal projects are tied to the town's usage. Since the two IWTs going up will satisfy all the town's electrical needs, additional IWTs would not be funded.

Dr. McCunney answered questions about infrasound stating, in part, "if you believe noise from the natural background is not harming you, then the wind turbine will not harm you." Voices from the crowd yelled "yes it is."

Mr. Shah said that all health complaints would be taken seriously and handled on a case by case basis.

After the meeting, he met up in the parking lot with some Windwise members, who said, essentially, "who do we call?"

Mr. Shah gave his card to John Methia and said, "call me."

The forum was televised on Fairhaven government access channel 18 and will run periodically. ●●●

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## **FINCOM: cont'd from page 24**

represent any of the petitioners.

The FinCom then reviewed each of the three articles presented for financial impacts and determined that only Article 3, regarding the suspension of the contract, stopping construction of the two wind turbine, and returning the property to its prior condition, met the criteria for their review. Mr. Roderiques noted that there may need to be a budget transfer to pay for the STM.

Board members asked for a copy of

the article that was approved at town meeting in 2007 and a copy of the contract to see the ramifications of suspending it.

Mr. Roderiques asked Mr. Osuch to provide those document and to provide the cost to the Town if work were stopped.

Mr. Osuch suggested that the FinCom could look at the Town of Falmouth's website as the costs to halt the Fairhaven project would be similar.

Mr. Roderiques asked for specific information on the cost of the Fairhaven project, including costs incurred if the town were to lose a lawsuit initiated by the wind turbine developer. Mr. Hyland suggested that the estimate include the lost revenue from electric generated by the wind turbines.

The FinCom will begin the general 2013 budget review on 1/26, and will hold a hearing on the STM Article 3 on February 2nd. ●●●

# Seaport looking to add boat slips, expand pier system

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Seaport Marina is looking to reconfigure its floating docks and expand its finger pier system, making a total of 52 boat slips, all within the existing marina zone.

Bill Madden of Gaf Engineering represented Skipper Realty, LLC at the 1/23 Fairhaven ConCom meeting, presenting plans and addressing concerns from abutters.

"Where do you plan on parking all these cars of people to use the slips?" asked abutter Jerry Bettencourt, owner of Jerry's Auto Service.

"Secondly," continued Mr. Bettencourt, "(Seaport Marina) is behind about \$50,000 plus for payment on the Bridge Street stone pier."

Mr. Bettencourt commented that if he was behind on his taxes he believed the town would not issue him any permits to build.

"What makes them so special?" asked Mr. Bettencourt.

ConCom Chairperson Andrew Jones responded by saying that ConCom was only concerned with wetlands-related matters. Issues such as parking are out of ConCom's jurisdiction.

"So who has jurisdiction so that I can go and squawk to?" asked Mr. Bettencourt.

Mr. Jones recommended that, when the time comes, Mr. Bettencourt could take relevant concerns to the Fairhaven Planning Board and to the Harbormaster.

Abutting neighbor and owner of Artistic Auto Body, Rui Dasilva, spoke out against the Seaport Marina improvement plan, and told ConCom that there were "too many issues," and suggested that "these plans will

probably be different" by the time the work begins.

Mr. Madden said that work was slated to start by 3/15.

ConCom had two main concerns about the project. One was the shallow depths of the water on the southeastern most corner of the marina zone, closest to the shore.

The second main concern was regarding the tight squeeze that vessels entering and exiting the marina zone would have to contend with.

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So who has jurisdiction  
so that I can go and  
squawk to?

[Jerry Bettencourt]

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Mr. Jones suggested that any abutters with concerns about the project should contact the MassDEP Waterways Protection Program, overseers of Chapter 91 of the Waterways Protection Act.

"These are things you want to write to Chapter 91...I implore you...Write comments and get yourself on the record," said Mr. Jones.

The commission approved a Notice of Intent with 11 special conditions, including the restriction of construction of the southeastern corner until dredging has been completed.

The commission also heard from

Rich Rheaume on behalf of Jose DeMedeiros of 25 Bayview Road.

Mr. DeMedeiros originally applied for a Notice of Intent for a number of projects, including a cinderblock wall within a velocity zone, a slate patio, and grading of the yard.

The commission previously performed a site visit where evidence of prior unpermitted work was found.

According to the commission, Mr. DeMedeiros "Bobcatted" a dune on his abutting neighbor's property and was ordered to restore it.

Commission member Cora Peirce described the act as having "desecrated" his neighbor's property.

The commission voted to continue until 2/13 so that the owner of the abutting property, Mark Shapira, could be notified of the commission's intent to issue Mr. Shapira an Enforcement Order, unless he grants Mr. DeMedeiros permission to restore the dune that was plowed.

Mr. Rheaume told the commission that there was an attempt to contact Mr. Shapira for permission, but he did not respond.

The commission granted Bryant Ribeiro, of 475 Bridge Street, a Neg 3 pertaining to his Request for Determination, for bringing his property up to regulation from prior work completed without ConCom approval.

Rich Sharon presented the commission with Mr. Ribeiro's plan for improvements to his property, such as adding topsoil to the yard, a final asphalt topcoat to the existing impervious surface, and a stone wall along the driveway.

The Notice of Intent for Heiam Alsawalhi of Bella Vista Island was continued until 2/13.

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WTS: cont'd from page 25

They are kind of majestic, or something," Mr. Grimmer said.

The hospital's administrative office building is located across the street from the hospital "right at the base of those wind turbines," stated Mr. Grimmer. "We haven't had any complaints or side effects."

Shannon Libby, a student at WMCC, is also a Gardner resident who lives just past the hospital, within a quarter mile of the IWTs. She says she likes the IWTs and can see them from her house.

"They don't have any effect on

me...they're just something to look at," said Ms. Libby.

"If there is negativity, it's from misinformation people have found," said William Swift, Director of Buildings and Grounds at WMCC.

He stated that he never heard of Wind Turbine Syndrome, and was unaware of the allegations of WTS coming out of Falmouth.

These schools are within a two-hour drive of Fairhaven, and have wind turbines on the grounds (total height to tip of blade in parentheses): Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, MA, [www.mwcc.edu/](http://www.mwcc.edu/) (two turbines, 397 feet); Narragansett Regional High

School/Middle School complex, Templeton, MA, [www.nrsd.org](http://www.nrsd.org) (383 feet); Portsmouth, RI, High School [www.portsmouthschoolsri.net](http://www.portsmouthschoolsri.net) (336 feet); Holy Name Catholic Junior/Senior High School, Worcester, [www.holyname.net](http://www.holyname.net) (262 feet); Mass. Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay, [www.maritime.edu](http://www.maritime.edu) (241 feet); Portsmouth Abbey & (high) School, a boarding and day school, <http://www.portsmouthabbey.org/page/2181> (240 feet); Hull High School, [www.town.hull.ma.us/Public\\_Documents/HullIMA\\_HighSchClass/homepage](http://www.town.hull.ma.us/Public_Documents/HullIMA_HighSchClass/homepage) (239 feet); McGlynn Middle School, Medford, MA, [www.medfordpublicschools.org/schools/mcglynn-middle-school/](http://www.medfordpublicschools.org/schools/mcglynn-middle-school/), (164 feet high). ●●●

# Acushnet HA candidate withdraws, “controversy” not explained

By Diane Kozak

## Neighb News Correspondent

Heather Sylvia, Director of the Council on aging, announced that she was rescinding her application for appointment as the new Acushnet Housing Authority Director at the January 23rd selectboard meeting.

Ms. Sylvia said that although she originally believed her appointment in the position would bridge a gap for the care of the elderly in the town, she did not expect her appointment to start so much controversy.

“After reconsidering I think it is in the best interest of everyone if I give 100% of my efforts to the Council on Aging,” she explained.

The selectboard had no questions for Ms. Sylvia regarding her change in decision.

In a follow-up interview Ms. Sylvia stated, “I decided not to take the position at the Housing Authority because there was not agreement between all the selectmen and the town administrator that I should accept it.”

Ms. Sylvia would not comment on the nature of the controversy.

In another matter, Selectboard chairperson Kevin Gaspar announced that thank you letters were received from the postmaster of New Bedford, Ron Pauline, and Representative William Keating regarding the success of the recent meeting which was held to express the residents’ opposition to the closing of the town’s post office. To strengthen the town’s case for keeping the post office open, selectboard member Leslie Dakin asked residents to go to the selectboard’s office to sign the petition opposing the branch closing.

The board voted to have Mr. Dakin serve as their negotiator with the town hall and library employee union, the AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees). In regard to the town hall employees, the union offer is to extend the contract for three years with a 5% pay increase per year. No information regarding the offer for library employees was submitted.

David Wojnar, the board member negotiating with the fire department employee union, requested that a negotiation strategy for all town employee contract negotiations be coordinated by the board. The board voted to put the issue on the February 6 executive session agenda.

The board decided not to consider a petition for arbitration concerning a recently denied grievance from a firefighter until the attorney who prepared it is informed that he is mistaken when he states that the selectboard was not in unanimous agreement in denying the grievance.

The issue of over budget firefighter overtime expense was reviewed at the meeting.

“I have a draft plan as to how to navigate through these waters,” Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher told the board in regard to the recurring problem.

He explained that he is working some shifts to avoid overtime pay and stated that a shifting of funds within the budget line items will

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I decided not to take the position...because there was not agreement between all the selectmen and the town administrator...

[Heather Sylvia]

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offset the higher overtime costs. Mr. Gallagher stated that he has another idea about controlling these costs, however, because it may impact the union contracts he would like to discuss it with the board in an executive session. The board voted to discuss the matter at the February 6th meeting.

The board reviewed a letter from Charlie Gelinis and a petition signed by all but two of the residents of the Brookside Mobile Home Park on Main Street which requests that the town implement rent control for their homes. The letter states that the monthly per lot rent has increased from \$185.00 to \$365.00 in the past three years and that the owner has implemented additional service fees.

“We are trying to stop the park owner from driving us out into the streets by raising our rents beyond our income levels,” Mr. Gelinis said in the letter.

Mr. Gaspar stated that he had only briefly looked into the matter but that it did seem as if there is a discrepancy

between what is being paid to the town in real estate taxes on the property and what the residents are being charged. He explained that since he does not know what it costs to run the park he cannot say if there is a valid problem or not.

Because no action can be taken on the matter until the town meeting in May, the board voted to put the matter on hold.

Kevin Dakin, Chairperson of the Community Preservation Committee, requested that the board allow the committee to get free estimates for work needed on the Acushnet Community Center. Four areas require maintenance, including the front and side windows, the front entrance, some brickwork and the copper piping in the basement.

He compared it to quotes received for the work as part of the new library project totaling \$17,500, leading the committee to believe the Center work can be done cheaper. The board decided not to authorize getting quotes on the work cited until it can be determined how much, if any, of the work can be done by the town’s maintenance employee.

The request generated discussion regarding the process for getting approval of funds for town building repairs. Mr. Wojnar said that the selectboard needs to be kept informed about all building repair work and believes that the town administrator, Alan Coutinho, should be involved in the process.

“We need to develop a policy and send out a gentle reminder to all departments and boards that no work or estimates be done on a piece of property without a vote of the Board of Selectmen,” Mr. Wojnar said.

Kevin Dakin assured the board they the center would get approval for estimates.

In other matters:

- The board voted to have the town’s memorial cannon, which had been refurbished, returned to the front of town hall at a formal rededication ceremony in the spring. Meanwhile, the cannon will be stored in a DPW building.
- Mr. Gaspar announced that personalized bricks for the walkway around the 9/11 memorial are now being sold. To purchase a brick, contact the fire department or visit [www.acushnetfire.com](http://www.acushnetfire.com).

## TILTING: cont'd from page 17

Then I learned that some schools in Massachusetts have been living peacefully alongside WTs for years now. They weren't just near WTs, they actually had WTs — on school grounds!

Hello, existential crisis.

How can this be possible? These things are disasters waiting to happen! No way could schools and wind turbines ever mix. I have always known my enemy before I fought it and now you're telling me that these ugly, dangerous, oppressive, terrible things are harmless?

I needed to "believe it to see it." Or was it "see it to believe it?" It's the same thing, right? Either way, I grabbed my sword, hopped on my horse, and set out to slay me some wind turbines.

Parents like us don't trust easily. Doctors, teachers, caregivers, vaccines, miracle-cures...we look at them all with a skeptic's eye. But there are people whom I feel I can always trust in any given situation: Parents like me.

I picked up the phone and called one. This mom like me has two autistic sons who attend school with one of these monsters.

I was preparing myself for her horror story, ready for her to tell me how to fight this beast and what I could do to kill it.

Her response infuriated me.

"They're fine?!"

No! Wrong answer! Of all the disappointing...hey, wait a minute. Time-out.

Shouldn't I be glad that her sons are OK? Why did I react angrily to her kids doing fine in the shadow flicker of a wind turbine? Was it, perhaps, time for a little self-examination?

I didn't want wind turbines to harm children. But I really wanted to prove that they do.

But most importantly, my goal was to protect my son from wind turbines, and now I wasn't even sure if that was possible. I can protect my child from the color red all I want to, but that wouldn't make him any safer.

It was a drastic change in philosophy.

If I kept on digging only for dirt on turbines, I would only find the dirt on turbines. I had a real fear that needed alleviating and the stuff I was hearing from Windwise terrified me. I started to wonder if I had missed something.

I needed soothing. I wanted reassurance that my son would be okay. But I wasn't going to find either of those by taking somebody else's word for it.

And then I uttered that awful cliché that everyone everywhere despises having to say out loud: "If you want something done, you have to do it yourself."

Within days I found myself in Templeton, face to face with a ferocious wind turbine.

We were driving up and around the bend, just about arriving at the school, when I saw it for the first time. (Insert huge gasping sound here.) It swung at me with its three powerful arms, taunting me, daring me to come closer.

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Before the decision to  
go chasing down the  
turbines on my own,  
I could only see what  
I believed. After,  
I began to believe  
what I was seeing.

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Getting out of the car about 900 feet from it, I was expecting its voice to sound something like that black smoke monster from the television series *Lost*.

But I heard nothing. It said nothing. Its three blades were slicing through the sky and it did it silently.

I sat in the superintendent's office and tried to feel dizzy, nauseated, or sick. I felt fine.

It wasn't until I approached the giant at about 700 feet that I first heard it whisper to me. Edging even closer at about 500 feet, it sounded sort of like an airplane flying at a very high altitude. A sound many people have just stopped noticing.

By now I wasn't thinking about facts, infrasound, or fear. I was swept away in a sensory experience I bet my son would understand. Beneath it, stood tiny little me. Fixated, I took it all in.

I felt like Jodie Foster in the film "Contact." Speechless, and moved.

The monster just ignored me. It didn't attack me. It didn't sink its teeth in me. I let down my sword.

I had just survived my first encounter with a wind turbine.

By the time we reached the two turbines in Gardner, the adrenaline was out of my system. These two turbines, although slightly bigger than the first one I met, just seemed smaller and less threatening this time. Was I already getting used to it?

Man, what an anti-climax.

On the ride home I realized something. Before the decision to go chasing down the turbines on my own, I could only see what I believed. After, I began to believe what I was seeing.

The fundamental difference between the two was philosophical.

I don't deny that Falmouth really happened and that it truly was the hell they described. As much as I believe it, though, I'm just not seeing it in any of these schools. It simply was not happening. I started having hope that, maybe, it would not happen in Fairhaven.

Perhaps this might not make any of you reading this feel any better about the turbines coming to town. I didn't take anyone's word for it, so I wouldn't expect you just to take mine. Maybe Fairhaven parents like me will just have to pull out their own swords and jump on the backs of their own horses and hear it for themselves.

From a distance, you'll have to listen really, really hard. You need to stand right in front of it, though, to really want to hear it.

Either way, the answer this time, my friends, is literally blowing in the wind.

*\*In addition to writing for the Neigh News, Jean also volunteers as a Special Education Surrogate Parent, acting as the "concerned parent" for special needs students in DCF custody. Her son is an elementary school student in Fairhaven.*

A mother always has  
to think twice, once for  
herself and once for  
her child.

Sophia Loren

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