



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 16 • April 26, 2012

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

Honoring the earth by cleaning up at the fort



Be the Solution to Pollution members clean up around the hurricane barrier at Fort Phoenix on 4/22, Earth Day. See page 16 *Photo courtesy of Mary Lou Nicholson. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com.*

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

That little, familiar flutter still springs up inside of me as I stare in wonder and awe whenever I see it: that tiny, green, bent sprout, pushing its way through the top of the dirt.

I have watched vegetable seeds sprout and grow for nearly every single year of my life, and every single time I glimpse the green of seed turned into plant, I know I have witnessed magic.

I can still hear my father hollering out excitedly to my mother from the garage or the den, or wherever he had planted his seedlings that year: "Tay, look, they're coming up, they're coming up!"

And then he'd point to each one, which one was squash, which one was cucumber, which one was pumpkin.

I used to wonder why he got so excited. I mean, really, he had the best garden in the whole Lebanese community in these parts (bar none). It was always an unmitigated success. He would fill five-gallon buckets with squash, cucumbers and tomatoes, and just leave them in the driveway. If no one was home, people knew they could just help themselves. It was just the way it was. There was plenty for everybody. How could he doubt that his seeds would sprout?

But now I plant from his seeds...well, to be precise, I plant from seeds I culled from plants that came from his seeds, and from other heirloom plants: Lebanese squash, Lebanese cucumbers. You cannot buy these seeds at Walmart. And they do not yield 100% of the time like the Burpee Hybrids that are no-fail, and also no-next-year.

Some years I plant 30 and get two, other years I do better. But no matter how many, no matter the plant — mass-produced hybrid, or heirloom plants from the Old Country generations ago — the magic stirs my soul the moment that tiny bit of green shows through cracked dirt.

I look at the labels. This one is from my own garden in 2011. This one is from my cousin's seeds from 2010. This one is from a plant my cousin gave me, seeds culled in 2011. I wait and watch anxiously to see if the older seeds will pop up. Maybe yes, maybe no. Only time will tell. Meanwhile, those first few plants start growing towards the window, all leaning in the same direction, soaking up the nutrients from our precious Sol. I notice with wonder.

Then, it's planting them outside, hoping the neighborhood cats don't dig 'em all up doing their "business" in the soft soil. Water and wait. Weed and wait. Water, weed, wait. Look for and welcome the bees. No bees, no fruits.

Then the magic returns in the form of a flower with a fruit at the end of it. And then it grows. And it grows. And it becomes food. The flutter in my stomach returns with it, waiting in anticipation for the right moment to pick it, and eat it, as generations of my forebears have done, and still do in the land of my ancestors.

There is no other feeling like walking into your own back yard to grab something off the vine to eat.

Pure magic.

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS

Well, we had it right in the headline, and we had it right in the rest of the story, but in the very first paragraph, we goofed in our story last week on the Fairhaven Improvement Association's annual dinner. So sorry: The FIA held its 129th dinner, not it's 19th. But you knew that!

Coast Guard rescues two from Nasketucket Bay

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster assisted in searching for two men whose boat capsized on Sunday night during stormy weather in Nasketucket Bay.

Harbormaster David Darmofal said the situation turned out well because the men “used their heads” and stayed with the overturned boat.

One of the men was able to call 911 from a cell phone, and the call was routed to the coast guard.

Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England (SSNE) watchstanders received notification that the 20-foot fishing vessel was taking on water at 7:30 p.m. A Coast Guard Station Woods Hole 41-foot rescue boat crew and an MH-60 Jayhawk rescue helicopter crew from Air Station Cape Cod responded immediately. Local authorities including Fairhaven Harbor Master and Fire Rescue, New Bedford Marine Police, and Towboat U.S. assisted in the search.

The rescue helicopter crew located the mariners one mile from the last reported position and hoisted the two mariners from the water. They were transported to Air Station Cape Cod where emergency medical services were waiting.

“The weather was horrendous and this ended up as a good story because they were plucked off the boat,” said Mr. Darmofal. “The best decision they made was to stay with the boat. They are lucky, lucky people.”

The Coast Guard confirmed in a statement that neither man was wearing a life jacket.

Mr. Darmofal and Shellfish Warden/Assistant Harbormaster Timothy Cox responded in the 23-foot quahog

boat, which is not equipped as a rescue vehicle, but could be quickly launched from Earl’s Marina.

“We were at the limits of our capabilities,” said Mr. Darmofal. “Fortunately where [the Coast Guard] sent us to search, the wind was not so bad.”

He said that he and Mr. Cox are “willing to respond in dangerous seas,” but stressed that people need to use common sense and stay off the water in high winds.

According to Mr. Darmofal, the Fairhaven Fire Department also responded, but waited at the Seaview boat ramp, where the stranded mariners had launched for their ill-fated trip. New Bedford rescue encountered six-foot waves trying to reach the scene.

Lt. Scott Koser, USCG Public Affairs Officer, said he was one of the pilots in the helicopter that found the men.

“Something caught my peripheral vision,” he said, and they decided to turn around and check it out. “Typically, that would be a crab pot or something.”

But not this time.

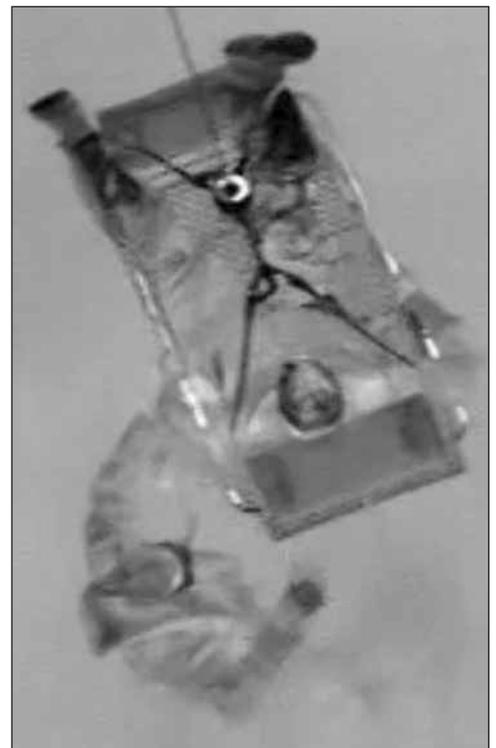
“Sure enough, both guys were sitting on top of the capsized vessel and waving their hands,” said Lt. Koser. “We circled around and they gave us the thumbs up.”

Neither mariner was wearing a life jacket when rescued. The Coast reminded boaters in a statement of how fortunate the two mariners were to be rescued safely. Both men, who were not identified, were reported to be in good condition.

“If you go out on the water, you should take the required safety equipment and life jackets,” said Lt.

John Harland, SSNE watchstander, in a statement.

With the right equipment, those in peril give themselves precious extra minutes for rescuers to arrive on scene, the statement said. ●●●



ABOVE: This sequence of stills pulled from Coast Guard video shows a man sliding off the hull of his overturned boat in the waters of Nasketucket Bay off the Fairhaven shore into the waiting arms of a USCG rescue swimmer. The Coast Guard rescued two men from the boat, hoisted them onto a helicopter and transported them to Air Station Cape Cod during Sunday’s stormy weather at about 10:30 p.m. TOP: A man in the rescue basket just as he reaches the helicopter. MIDDLE: The USCG rescue swimmer lets go of the rescue basket and drops back down into the water so the man can be hoisted up the rest of the way. Photos are screen shots taken from USCG Video. To see the video visit http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=1606928

Selectboard votes to restore rent for tourism office

By Mali Lim

Neighb News Correspondent

Town meeting articles and discussions about protocol were the main focus of Monday's Fairhaven selectboard meeting 4/23, as members voted to reconsider budget recommendations and gave new board member Bob Espindola the opportunity to question town procedures.

Approval of the previous selectboard meeting minutes were postponed at Mr. Espindola's request, as he was not comfortable with them as written. The board agreed to review and make amendments and bring it back up to a vote next week.

Also at Mr. Espindola's request, the board discussed the possibility of applying to the state for a free financial management review, similar to procedures undergone by Dartmouth and the City of New Bedford recently. The Department of Revenue assigns teams to review municipal finances and management procedures, make recommendations for changes and provide follow-up training with municipal staff.

"With the forecast that next year will be difficult financially, it would be a healthy exercise to go through, especially since it's a free service that the state offers," explained Mr. Espindola.

Town Treasurer John Nunes expressed doubts that the state would be likely to review Fairhaven, which is not in the same dire fiscal straits that Dartmouth and New Bedford were in at the time of their financial reviews.

"In my opinion, we're not a town the Department of Revenue is worried about at the time," said Mr. Nunes. "We're not in the same situation as the other towns that were operating from day to day."

Nevertheless, selectboard chair Brian Bowcock felt that "it wouldn't hurt to at least make the request," especially since it would be at no cost to the town. The board directed Mr. Nunes to contact the DOR to find out how to go about getting the process started.

The board also heard of Mr. Espindola's plans to work with the school committee to explore the possibilities of installing solar panels at the new Wood School in the future,

most likely on the gym roof, which was designed to be able to support solar panels. Although the town would still need to determine if it would be a viable option financially and to work out logistics, the board agreed it was a good idea.

"I think this board is in agreement that photovoltaics is a project worth looking into," said Dr. Bowcock.

Finally, Mr. Espindola expressed an interest in having the board put together a policy manual covering how commissions and boards are appointed, how the town departments operate and interact with each other, the town's policy on the rental of public buildings, and the use of town resources to support private or non-profit functions.

"One of the reasons I brought up

People have been "strongly and passionately opinionated" on the topic of moving the tourism office and the overwhelming response appeared to be in favor of keeping the Visitors Center in its current location, Mr. Murphy told the board.

this issue was because when we were discussing moving the tourism department to the Academy Building, it came up that the historical society has been using it for 20 years and not paying rent, although they're not a town entity," said Mr. Espindola. "A question was raised about what the town's liability would be. We need to look at rental policies and the legal issues of having people in our buildings."

"You cannot use taxpayer money to fund any private organization, no matter how worthy that organization is," responded Dr. Bowcock. "Mass. General Law says you can't use public money to fund private organizations, and that's all I'll say on the matter."

Mr. Espindola further noted that a number of former schools are currently being used by other

organizations paying rent, and that the town needed to consider how buildings such as the Academy and the Rogers School would be used in the future.

"Do we have rental agreements? Do we open it up to bids? I think we need to have a policy," he said.

Selectboard member Charles Murphy re-opened the discussion carried over from the previous meeting, on moving the Tourism Department to the Academy Building.

"At the last meeting we took it under advisement, but I don't think there's a need to have a committee meeting after all," he said.

People have been "strongly and passionately opinionated" on the topic of moving the tourism office and the overwhelming response appeared to be in favor of keeping the Visitors Center in its current location, Mr. Murphy told the board.

Noting that it would cost approximately \$2,000 to move the center, and that the town's selectboard made a proclamation in 1992 dedicating the Academy Building as a museum of Fairhaven History, Mr. Murphy made a motion to reconsider restoring the full amount of money needed for rent to keep the Visitors Center where it is, which the board unanimously approved.

Dr. Bowcock, however, cautioned the vote was only postponing the inevitable and that the town would eventually have to reconsider the financial costs of keeping the tourism department in the center of town.

"Mr. Benac generously stated last meeting that he would be willing to forgo his allotment to keep the tourism department in the center of town, and we appreciate his offer as that's an additional source of income, but the next year the challenge will be much more difficult," he said. "There was a tremendous amount of effort put in to try to have a balanced budget and I think the finance committee was looking at it from a financial perspective."

Mr. Espindola said that he had toured town hall with a few people and that he felt that there would be room to house the Tourism Department.

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ment there if a move was truly financially necessary.

"In the long run it makes the most sense, and it's something we can consider for next year," he said.

The board voted to amend several other recommendations for town meeting articles, including how to divide anticipated cherry sheet (state aid) funds. Based on preliminary numbers released by the Governor's Office, the town could possibly get \$140,000 more in state aid than originally expected, assuming the amounts are approved by the legislature, explained Town Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch.

The town finance committee voted to use the money, if it does come through, to increase the stabilization fund line item by \$25,000, to \$50,000; to increase the unemployment fund from \$100,000 to \$175,000, and to restore \$40,000 into the street light account to bring funding back up to \$200,000.

The board split over Dr. Bowcock's recommendation to put the bulk of the money into the stabilization fund instead. The only department indicating that there may be layoffs is the school department, argued Dr. Bowcock, while the fire department has made it clear that they would most likely be asking for a new ladder fire truck in the next year or two.

"Also, having more money in the stabilization fund tends to make our bond rating better," he reasoned.

Mr. Espindola disagreed, saying that while "there's more flexibility by putting it in the stabilization fund, we're facing layoffs this year, and the fire truck won't be an issue for a few years."

Murphy suggested a compromise,

which was accepted by the rest of the board, recommending \$75,000 for the stabilization fund and \$150,000 for unemployment.

The board also voted to:

- Increase line item requests for Veterans Services and Veterans Expenses from \$5,000 to \$11,000 and \$4,000 to \$8,000, respectively, keeping in line with finance committee recommendations;
- Move money from the Harbor-master's supply line into a separate line item specifically for boat gas and gasoline.
- Changed their vote to yield to petitioner on the finance committee's town meeting article stipulating that union agreements need to be submitted with enough lead time prior to town meeting to allow for proper consideration.

The board accepted a request from the Bristol County Sheriff's Office to allow deputy sheriffs to work details in Fairhaven, a practice discontinued some years ago due to insurance and financial liability disagreements among the town, the sheriff's office and a deputy working detail for the town, according to Police Chief Michael Myers. The selectboard supported resuming an arrangement with the sheriff's office, provided that written agreements outlining how disputes would be handled be drawn up, and that the police would resort to hiring full-time deputy sheriffs only if the department were unable to fill the detail using town officers.

The board reconsidered its vote to appoint Mr. Espindola as the town representative to the SRTA (Southeast Regional Transit Authority) Advisory Board, as former selectboard member Michael Silvia

expressed interest in remaining with the SRTA board. SRTA has seen many recent changes, including a new operating company and administrator, explained Mr. Silvia, who said he wanted to "stick around for the sake of continuity."

Mr. Espindola indicated that he and Mr. Silvia had discussed the issue, and that he would be willing to have Mr. Silvia take a leadership role while he served as an alternate while learning the ropes, an arrangement which the board accepted.

In other business board:

- Awarded a bid for tree clearing, stripping loam and putting up temporary fencing at the new school project to P.M. Zilioli;
- Appointed Vincent Marron and Gail Isaksen, to the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee and the Roger/Oxford Study Committee, respectively.
- Held for future consideration a request from Jaime DeSousa for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals as currently there are no openings.
- Approved a request to use the Town Hall Auditorium for a student music recital on October 20, 2012, pending board of health approval for food service.
- Moved the polling location for Precinct 5 to the Recreation Center while the Wood School is under construction;
- Accepted a donation \$141 dollars from the West Island Improvement Association for the EMA to use for cots or other current needs;

A scheduled meeting with Richard Senna regarding a neighbor dispute on Courtlyn Way was postponed to May 7 at his attorney's request. •••



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

200: Aerial Shoot

The Fairhaven Bicentennial Committee's big aerial shoot is **THIS WEEKEND**. Students and residents are invited to participate. Parents are encouraged to attend with younger children. This photo will be taken from a helicopter by a professional photographer. The Bicentennial Photo will be placed in the time capsule to be opened in 50 years. A larger aerial view will be placed in the town hall or library. Approximately 1,200 to 1,500 residents will be needed to portray: FAIRHAVEN 200.

The aerial photo shoot will take place at **Fairhaven High School's stadium field Saturday, April 28, at 11:00 am**. This free event is a memorable activity for all of the Town's children and residents in this historical Bicentennial year. See you on the 28th.

West Island 5K

Road race/walk to benefit the Fairhaven High School Cross Country team. Easy course along the water includes All Kids Mile Fun Run.

Sunday, April 29. Kids run starts at 10 a.m., race starts at 11. Meet at the West Island Improvement Association Community Center, 41 Causeway Road.

Registrations are \$5.00 for the Kids Mile Fun Run, \$15.00 for any K-12 students registering for the 5K Run/Walk, and \$25.00 for all others registering for the 5K Run/Walk. We truly believe our event has something for everyone. You and your family can run or walk.

On race day, parking will be available at Hoppy's Landing and on the side streets, not on the course routes. Register, view course map and other details at westisland5k.org

All our proceeds will go to the FHS Cross Country program.

Life Skills Workshop

Friday, April 27, at 7 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven (Also, 8:30am-12:30pm at UMass Dartmouth's Woodland Commons) Contact: sustainability@umasdsd.edu, 508-910-6958

Carolyn Baker, Ph.D, will present a workshop in two SouthCoast locations April 27 entitled Living

Resiliently in Uncertain Times. Carolyn believes, "We are living in uncertain, turbulent times. Many of us are anxious about how we will navigate through our lives amidst increasingly unstable economic and social structures, or how we'll prepare ourselves and our loved ones for an era unlike anything we have ever experienced as humans."

Her workshops use a combination of mythical storytelling, discussion, mindfulness practices, and practical "inner tools."

Softball Opening Day

The South Coast Girls Softball League.(SCGS) opening day is **Sunday April 29 at Hastings Middle School, beginning at 8:30 am**.

Players will begin arriving at 8:30 am. There will be a short parade procession from front of school to the ball fields in the back. Followed by a quick introduction, anthem, and first pitch. **The first game is scheduled to start at 10am**. Divisions are: Senior, Junior, Freshman, and Instructional League

For more information visit www.scgsoftball.net or Facebook.

Fairhaven Dems

On Saturday, April 28, elected members of the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee will meet at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Millicent Library to establish a new slate of officers as required by law following the recent Presidential primary in Massachusetts. The reorganization will determine the positions of Democratic Town Committee chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer and secretary.

Officers for 2012 will be selected from the elected committee members. Those wishing to serve on the committee may be nominated following the selection of officers.

The meeting is open to all registered Democrats in Fairhaven. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, disability, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation or economic status in the conduct of the meeting is strictly prohibited. Contact the Massachusetts Democratic Party, 56 Roland Street, Suite 203, Boston, MA 02129, for information regarding the

reorganization process.

The Millicent Library is located at 45 Center St. in Fairhaven. Participants should enter by the Walnut Street side entrance to the library. Accessible.

Fairhaven Idol 2012

Organizers of Fairhaven's Bicentennial Celebration announce the town's **first Fairhaven Idol Competition**, which will showcase the singing talent of local residents of all ages.

Aspiring singers will have a chance to **audition on May 15 at the Seaport Inn, starting at 6:00 p.m.** Selected finalists will compete in front of a live audience and a panel of judges comprised of local and regional professionals in the entertainment industry on May 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the ballroom of the Seaport Inn.

Contestants are asked to prepare a vocal selection under 2 ½ minutes to be sung a cappella or with their own accompaniment. Recorded CDs are acceptable as long as they contain no vocals on them.

Contestants will not only be judged on their singing ability, but stage performance and charisma will also be considered in the judging.

A winner will be selected from each of three age categories: Under 12; 13-18; and 19 and over. The highest scorer of the three category winners will earn the title of "Fairhaven Idol 2012."

Each of the first place winners will be offered a performance slot at the Bicentennial Family Fun Day on July 14 as well as other appearances associated with the town's 200th birthday celebration.

Organizers are in the process of soliciting prizes for the overall winner as well as top place standings in all three categories.

For more information, please email fhvnidol@comcast.net.

Annual Yard Sale

The West Island Improvement Association is holding a yard sale at the Community Hall, 41 Causeway Road, West Island, on Saturday, July 7th, 2012, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Tables are for rent at \$15.00 per table. We are also looking for donations for the West Island table.

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STILL IN TOWN

All proceeds from the sale will go directly to the WIIA.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the sorting and pricing of the donations on July 5th and 6th. We will also need help to work at the WIIA table on July 7th.

Come and join us for a fun day, rain or shine. For info, to reserve a table, or to volunteer call Christiane at 508-222-8254.

Pet Adoption Day And Open House

On Sat., May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, Fairhaven Animal Shelter, 200 Bridge St., will be hosting a community adoption event and open house in cooperation with the North

Shore Animal League America's Pet Adoptathon®2012. We will extend our hours to 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for that Saturday and Sunday.

We will be promoting adoptions to help bring attention to orphaned animals and to find them permanent, loving homes. Community members are encouraged to come in and see our beautiful shelter, meet our furry friends, and talk with some of our wonderful volunteers.

For more information call the shelter at 508-979-4028 or email cattmindy@yahoo.com

Hospice benefit

Southcoast Visiting Nurse Association, known in the community

as Southcoast VNA, will host a series of informational meetings to discuss plans for "Hope Takes Flight: A Butterfly Release" to benefit the agency's hospice program.

The informational meeting will take place at the Fairhaven Senior Center located at 229 Huttleston Avenue. Anyone interested in helping plan for this inaugural event is encouraged to attend the informational sessions.

Informational meetings will take place on the following Wednesdays at 6 p.m.: May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug. 1, August 22, September 5, Sept. 12

For more information contact Amy Eldridge at 508-973-3472 or eldridgea@southcoast.org.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

At Whaling Park

The following FREE events are at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, visitors center, 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and offers information, exhibits, and a free orientation movie every hour on the hour from 10 AM-3 PM. Accessible. Admission is free.

For more information, call 508-996-4095, go to the park website at www.nps.gov

Storyteller

Whales, Tales and Sails with storyteller Andrea Lovett. Free story & activity hour every Friday through June 29. **Next date: 4/27, 10 a.m.** Moms and dads seeking free, engaging activities for their young children should check out this weekly event featuring professional storyteller Andrea Lovett and includes stories, fingerplay, songs, music, crafts and free play. This activity is geared for children ages 0-5.

Junior Ranger Day

Celebrate Junior Ranger Day at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park on Saturday, April 28. Members of the Junior Ranger Service Corps will offer crafts, games and other activities from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Earn a junior ranger badge by completing scavenger hunts in the

park and learn about other Junior Ranger programs at the park and on the web.

Palmer's Island Clean-up

The City of New Bedford Conservation Commission, Ben Rose Field Center, Greenfleet, Old Bedford Village, Buzzards Bay Coalition, Hands Across the River and Youthbuild invite the public to participate in the Palmer's Island Clean-up. Meet at the **Gifford Street Boat Ramp Parking Lot, Sunday, April 29th, 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

If you have them, we ask that you bring your own heavy duty gloves and be sure to wear protective footwear, sunscreen, water bottle, and appropriate clothing.

Instructions on what to do with certain types of refuse will be discussed at the beginning of the clean-up. For more information, please contact the New Bedford Conservation Commission at 508-991-6188.

Jazz Fest

In cooperation with Bridgewater Credit Union as its major corporate sponsor, Your Theatre, Inc. has announced it will produce New Bedford's first jazz festival **scheduled for May 18 at Custom House Square in New Bedford's Historic District and National Park.** Jazzfest will be an

upscale annual music event featuring artists from the regional and national jazz scene.

Headlining the event will be Gerry Gibbs and the Electric Thrasher Orchestra featuring Nicholas Payton and Dave Liebman.

Adjacent to the main stage tent will be smaller ones housing local food and beverage vendors. In addition, after the performances several local nightlife spots will offer live jazz with no cover charge as a continuation of the JazzFest celebration until 1:30 am.

Tickets are available at branches of the Bridgewater Credit Union, the Symphony Shop, 94 State Road, North Dartmouth, Pier 37, Union Street, New Bedford, and Your Theatre's box office, 508-993-0772, or at Custom House Square the evening of the festival. **Preferred seating is \$30.00, general admission standing room tickets are \$20, and student tickets are \$10 Tickets at the door are \$5 extra.** Please call YTI for info on Gold Seating and sponsorships.

Health Van

The Southcoast Health Van and Southcoast Blood Bank will be in New Bedford on:

Thurs., May 3: Presidential Heights, 159 Filmore Street, **Blood Drive & Health Screenings**, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 9: Standard Times, 25 Elm Street, **Blood Drive**, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Spring Concert Music of Remembrance

The Sippican Choral Society will present its annual Spring Concert on **Fri. April 27th and Sat. April 28th**. Under the direction of Brian Roderick and accompanied by pianist Michelle Gordon, organist Dwight Thomas and a nine piece string orchestra, sixty plus voices will perform the Fauré Requiem in memory of long-time chorus member Marc Olson. The 2012 Spring Concert will also include several uplifting and inspirational selections to honor deceased members of the Choral Society as well as the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Be sure to visit our website at www.sippicanchoral.org.

Fri., April 27, 8:00 PM; Saturday, April 28, 8:00 PM, St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 124 Front Street, Marion, MA. Tickets: Adults, \$12; Students, \$6. Available at: The Bookstall in Marion, No Kidding at the Ropewalk in Mattapoisett, and Symphony Music Shop, No. Dartmouth. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Yard Sale Items

Habitat for Cats will hold their Annual Memorial Day Weekend Yard Sale on Saturday May 26 (9:00 to 3:00), and Sunday May 27 (noon to 3:00). Rain or Shine. At Smith Mills Church Hall, 11 Anderson Way, N. Dartmouth. (Directly across from Burger King on Rt. 6 near intersection of Hathaway Rd and Rt. 6)

To arrange to donate your household goods, jewelry, giftware, and other yard sale items, please call HFC at 508-961-2287, or email HH4CATS@comcast.net for more information.

Yard Sale for Animals

Help homeless dogs and cats by coming to Humane Society and Shelter Southcoast's giant yard sale **on Saturday April 28 from 8:30 am to 2 pm**. Bargains galore will be available at the Humane Society, **31 Ventura Drive Dartmouth**. Accessible. Society members have been cleaning out their attics to find household items, books, and other

treasures. Held indoors rain or shine the items are well displayed in several rooms.

Proceeds benefit the Shelter where animals without a roof over their heads find great care and new homes. In addition to adoption services, the Shelter offers boarding, grooming and training. Each animal gets its own run, fed by the families schedule and goes out in a fenced in yard for a bit of exercise. **No early birds** for the yard sale. For more information and a list of pets available visit www.hssc.org or call 508-995-6661.

Volunteer Day

Enjoy a spring day outside while lending a hand at Mass Audubon's sixth-annual Statewide Volunteer Day **Saturday, April 28**. By joining hundreds of others in the 9 am-to-noon spring cleanup, participants can connect with nature and have fun while helping our wildlife sanctuaries get ready for the outdoor season.

Allens Pond is looking for volunteers to assist with trail work, butterfly and rain garden planting, eradicating invasive plant species and preparing sites for native plantings. After a morning of hands-on work, participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch and explore the sanctuary.

Bring friends and family and get your hands dirty for a great cause! To sign up, visit www.massaudubon.org/workforwildlife. Call 781-259-2185 or (508) 636-2437.

Movie "Fairhaven" showing

The movie "Fairhaven" that was shot in Fairhaven, will be shown this weekend at the Independent Film Festival Boston, on **Sun. 4/29, at 12:30pm - Somerville Theatre Screen 1**

In this naturalistic drama, a southern Mass. native returns to his hometown after years away, and the circle of friends he left behind must deal with unfinished business. Stars Chris Messina and Sarah Paulson.

For film festival information visit: <http://www.iffboston.org/2012/>

For more on the Fairhaven movie, visit : http://iffboston.festivalgenius.com/2012/films/fairhaven_tomobrien_iffboston2012 or <http://fairhaventhemovie.com>

http://www.iffboston.org/2012/films/fairhaven_tomobrien_iffboston2012 or <http://fairhaventhemovie.com>

ABWA Meeting Marketing Your Business with Facebook

Join members of the Southcoast Express Network of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at the Country Club of New Bedford, 585 Slocum Road, North Dartmouth. Accessible. Learn how to actively participate in social media marketing.

Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and include time for networking, dinner and a speaker. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. To make a reservation, please contact Susan Moulton, at 508-591-0814 or at suem1011@aol.com.

Golf Tourney

We are looking for participants, prizes donations, sponsors. Contact us today Fundraiser Saturday May 12, 2012 BAM Foundation, Inc.

Golf Tournament and party featuring Bob's Day Off with Special guest CJ Martin. Arrive 12:00pm, Shot Gun start 1:00pm The Back Nine Club 17 Heritage Hill Drive Lakeville, MA. \$75.00 per golfer includes: 18 holes, cart, BAM goodie bag, prizes, Build a BAM Burger Bar and admission to party with band BDO. Rain or shine event. Visit www.thebacknineclub.com for details rules/restrictions.

SIGN UP Deadline May 1, 2012. Please list golfers' names, email and phone and mail to BAM/Golf, PO Box 30185 Acushnet, MA 02743 with check for total amount and payable to: BAM Foundation Inc. Call 774 930 0297 with any questions, to sponsor, donate or get tickets.

Party includes Indoor/Outdoor Dance Party, Giveaways, Fun-raising, Raffles, Cash Bar doors open at 7:00 pm until 12:00 am \$15.00 per person (21 and over event) 100% of proceeds support the BAM Foundation Inc. mission of giving financial assistance to... Southcoast families battling cancer to help cover some of the forgotten expenses or more information Google "BAM Foundation"

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A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

Fairhaven High softball

Last Wednesday the Lady Blues rolled over ORR 13-1. Big hitters were Kiyana Alfaiate, Kelsey Person-Sovik and Kaci Barriteau. Courtney Girouard hurled the win.

On Friday they coasted over Bourne 15-0. Kay Mullen and Kayli Moniz had 3 hits apiece, and Courtney got the shut-out win.

Big Voke game Monday was postponed at last minute. Set to play Aponequet on Tuesday.

FHS Baseball

The men in blue got a big 2-1 victory over ORR. Ryan Magano was winning pitcher with a big last inning save from Ryan Baldwin. Carlos Rivera got the key RBI hit in the 4th to nail the 2-1 win.

FHS Lacrosse

The Blues rolled to their 7th win over NBH 15-4. Kobie "The Scoring Machine" Edward had 8 goals including his 100th. Billy Pires had 6 goals, Nate Rock, Alex Silva and Nick Pilla had super games.

On Monday the Blues suffered their first defeat to Dartmouth 17-4. Kobie had 3 goals.

Girls Shine

The girls lacrosse team defeated Sturgis 16-5. Alex Fonseca had 3 goals, Kaylie Costa had 4 goals. Alecia Rego was super in goal.

FHS Tennis

It was New Bedford Days in Fairhaven last week as FHS boys and girls tennis defeated NB High 5-0.

The Lady Blues got big wins from Kara Charette, Michelle Westgate, Ashley Souza and Katie Leidhold. The

Men in Blue got single wins from Alex McGannon, Adam Lima and Anthony Joseph, in their 5-0 romp.

Prose on Pros

Yankee-Sox game was classic 15-9 Yank win last Saturday. Bobby V., Sox manager, cannot pitch, Red Sox Nation!!!

Playoff time for Bruins-Celtics. Both will struggle, but should do okay. Everybody in NHL except Maple Leafs made playoffs.

Playoff games galore in NBA. I like Bulls to win it all in June sometime.

Charlotte Bobcats will move to New Jersey next year and be called Jersey Nikes, Spike Jones will coach, John Capalari will be GM, Michael Jordan will still own team. New promotion will be first 50 fans will receive Air Jordan sneakers. Anyone wearing Nike sneakers will get half-price on the next home game ticket.

Recipes of the Week

Vegan Banana Bread

(But most banana bread is almost vegan anyway)

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup margarine, at room temp (can also use butter or apple sauce but watch your moisture level)
- 3 very ripe bananas, mashed well
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 cup vanilla soy milk (can also use almond, coconut, or regular milk!)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice (I add

pumpkin pie spice as well, about a teaspoon for extra spice)

1/2 teaspoon salt

Oiled/buttered/Pam-ed Bread pan
Optional: chocolate chips and/or pecans or even walnuts. If you use nuts, toast them in the oven or toaster oven for about 2-3 minutes to reduce their moisture content.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Sift your dry ingredient together. If you don't have a sifter its okay. Just make sure it's dry where you're baking so your ingredients don't clump.

Mash bananas and wet ingredients together. It will look terrible

and messy but don't fret!

Add in dry ingredients slowly, about a 1/4 cup at a time. If you add chocolate chips or nuts do that last. Your batter will have the consistency of Elmer's Glue.

Throw it all in your bread pan and bake for about 45 minutes.

I always set my timer for about ten minutes less and check it. Every oven is different.

By Ashley Barckett

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

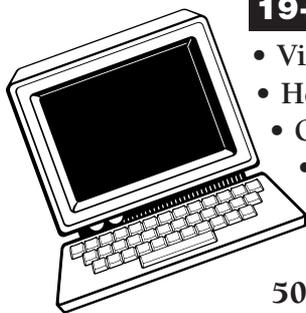
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from Louise Dupre

Acushnet Selectboard chooses for police station feasibility study

By Diane Kozak

Neighb News Correspondent

The selectboard voted at their 4/23 meeting to award Kaestle Boos Associates of Foxborough a contract to perform a feasibility study for building a new police station in the town. The study, which was approved by the town residents at the October 2011 town meeting, will not exceed \$35,000.

The process of researching the construction of a new police station began late last year with the creation of an eight person Public Safety Building Committee. The committee has been meeting regularly to discuss the needs of the police department and interviewing architectural firms. Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA) was selected from a total of seven firms that were considered.

At the selectboard meeting, representatives from the firm discussed their experience in working on public safety buildings, as well as ideas they have about the proposed Acushnet project. In the past five years the firm has completed 10 public safety projects including police stations in Abington, Provincetown, Nantucket, Brewster and Holliston.

Michael McKeon, principal in charge from KBA, explained the process that they will use during the design phase of the project which focuses on police department needs, safety, and functionality.

The firm will also work with town officials on public relations issues and processing grants for project funding. Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar questioned company

representatives about change orders that add to the estimated cost of the project. Mr. McKeon replied that his firm vigorously reviews change orders and provides detailed reports on those that are approved.

Selectboard member Leslie Dakin asked questions pertaining to the square foot cost of the other police stations the firm has built and why there was such a disparity in costs from one project to the other. Mr. McKeon explained the reasons for such variances include such things as

The more creative we can be in the ultimate financing to reduce the burden on the taxpayer is the goal. The project should not go forward unless we all have a comfort level with what the price tag is. [David Wojnar]

the extra expenses associated with building on the island of Nantucket.

Among other matters discussed was the possible location of the new police station. To keep project costs down, it may be located on town owned land near the EMS building on Middle Road.

"The more creative we can be in the ultimate financing to reduce the burden on the taxpayer is the goal" said Selectboard chairperson David Wojnar. "The project should not go forward unless we all have a comfort level with what the price tag is."

In another matter, the selectboard voted to allow two articles, which were voted favorably on by the Community Preservation Committee, to be included on the June town meeting warrant. The articles pertain to the abandoned church at 39 Perry Hill Road. The first article requests that \$40,000 be deposited in an escrow account to be used as possible purchase monies for the property.

Although the town has been unable to locate its owner and is taking the property by eminent domain, these funds will be set aside for a period of six years so they will be available should someone come forward and claim rights to the property.

The second article requests \$25,000 for immediate roofing repairs which are needed to prevent further damage to the structure.

In response to state energy bill legislation currently under consideration the selectboard voted to send letters to Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and State Representative Robert M. Koczera urging them to prevent this legislation from becoming law.

The legislation would change existing property tax laws that govern the taxation of solar, wind and other renewable electricity generation property and equipment. Currently municipalities can tax properties used for renewable energy purposes.

Allowing taxation on such properties acts as a financial incentive for municipalities to encourage renewable energy projects

ACUSHNET: cont'd next page



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ACUSHNET: cont'd from previous page

to be developed within their city or town. Without the ability to derive new tax dollars from them, the selectboard members fear that solar and wind farms may not be as welcome in any city or town, including Acushnet.

Mr. Wojnar noted that if the legislation passes the work done by town officials in recent years to create bylaws that make it easy for solar farms to be built in Acushnet may no longer be relevant.

"This legislation, which I believe has already passed the senate and gone to the house, would restrict and limit the town's ability to levy personal property taxes on solar farms," said Mr. Wojnar. "This is really the driving force, from the town's perspective and from my standpoint on the Alternate Energy Committee and the Board, for endorsing some of these solar farms."

Section 15 of the proposed legislation S.2200 would provide an automatic personal property tax exemption for solar and wind renewable projects and replace them with a fixed "Payment-in-lieu-of-

taxes" (PILOT) equal to five percent of "gross electricity sales."

Officials who have worked with PILOT payments report that they make it very difficult for municipalities and renewable energy companies to reach agreements, therefore discouraging the construction of such properties.

The board also voted on the annual appointments to town boards:

- Roger Cabral requested not to be reappointed to the Finance Committee.
- Marc Cenerizio was appointed as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of appeals.
- Geraldine Frates, a founding member of the CPC, is retiring from the committee this year.
- Henry Young was appointed as SPREDD commissioner for the town.
- The selectboard appointed James Baptiste as a full-time paramedic.
- The selectboard appointed Matthew Morrisseau as part-time EMT.

The board reconvened in executive session to discuss Whites Woods legal issues. •••

Single car accident injures one

Fairhaven Fire & Police responded to a single car accident in the area of 449 Bridge Street at 10:12 pm. on Tuesday, April 24th.

A vehicle driven by Ian Wood, age 19, of Fairhaven failed to negotiate the curve in the road and veered off the road and struck a tree.

Fairhaven Paramedics treated the driver, who was alone in the car, at the scene. Then he was transported to the Shaw Road Little League field where he was flown by "Med-flight" Helicopter to Rhode Island Hospital in serious but stable condition for treatment of his injuries, according to Wayne Oliveira- Public Information Officer for the Fairhaven Fire Dept.

Fairhaven Police remained on scene to investigate the accident.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

Doug Larso

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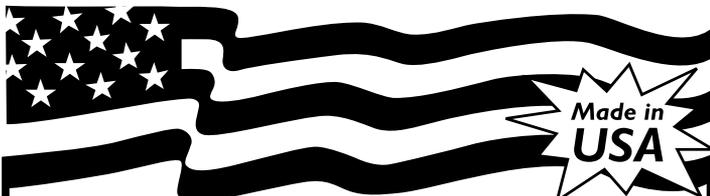
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May 31st Staff: Challenger Soccer. Thursdays. Times: 2 & 3 year olds 2-3PM; 4 & 5 year olds 3-4PM; 6&7 year olds 4-5 PM. Cost \$70 Members/\$80 Non-Members

Baseball

Aquafina & Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit & Run

National skills competition gives boys & girls ages 7-14 the opportunity to showcase their pitching, hitting and running abilities. Pitch Hit and Run is intended to encourage youth participation and emphasize the FUN element of baseball competition. Boys and Girls compete separately and are placed into 4 age groups. This is a free event and winners may advance to the next level with the hopes of qualifying for the National Finals to be held in July.

Date: April 29, Shaw Rd Complex

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER at Fairhaven Rec. You Do Not Need A Membership

Babysitting Class

This is a comprehensive 3 hour course for 11-14-year-olds. Topics will include first aid, choke saving techniques, mealtime, bedtime, diapering, discipline, contracts and ethics. Pizza will be provided.

Date: May 7th, 5:30-8:30PM. Cost: \$40 members/\$45 non-members

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May Mall Trips

- **5/2:** So Shore Plaza
- **5/9** Hyannis Mall, Xmas Tree Shop and Trader Joe's
- **5/16** Emerald Sq. Mall
- **5/23** Providence Place and Whole Foods
- **5/30** Independence Mall, Kingston and Pembroke Xmas Tree Shop.

Entertainment

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The Fabulous Overtones every **Thursday at the Senior Center** with Carl Bissonnette, Chuck Brillon, Ron LaBreque, Jerry Theodore & Paul Belliveau.

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Senior Singles Supper Club

The first and third Tues. of the month from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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Dietitian

Make an appointment with Barbara Canuel, Dietitian. First Tuesday of each month. 9:30-11:30 a.m. You can make a half hour appointment to discuss one-on-one your specific dietary concerns. Call Senior Center for appt.

Tap n Time

A seated dance program, designed for all levels of function, and is open to all seniors. A good and fun way to

exercise! On Fridays. Please call the Senior Center for schedule.

Fit Quest Fairhaven

Every Thursday. Confidential weigh-in 9:30-10:00 a.m. Supportive tips on losing weight and keeping it off 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Computer Classes

Learn your way around a keyboard and mouse for just \$3.00 a week. Classes are Mon., 1-2:30, Thurs. & Fri., 10-11:30, for six weeks. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

Yoga for YOU

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Be the Solution to Pollution cleans up the Fort

By Beth David
Editor

The group, Be the Solution to Pollution, hosted a clean-up at Fort Phoenix in honor of Earth Day, Sunday, 4/22. A group of 12 hardy souls took a chance on beating the rain to pick up trash, bag it, and remove it from the beach.

Just as the rain started to arrive, Mary Lou Nicholson and Eric James sorted the trash to remove recyclables.

"If this was worth five cents do you think it would be here?" asked Mr. James as he held up a plastic water bottle. "If this was five cents it wouldn't be here. Pitiful."

He and Ms. Nicholson agreed that most of the recyclables were plastic of some sort.

The group regularly schedules clean-ups, and Ms. Nicholson said she was excited to see some children join this one with their parents.

"I love the young kids' enthusiasm," said Ms. Nicholson.

She said they learned about how dangerous plastics in the ocean can be to the food chain. Plastics have been found in fish caught to eat.

"It comes back to you, one way or the other," she said.

She said the group would be back soon because they got grippers donated and would be able to reach some things they could not reach on Sunday.

"We can't fix everything," said Ms. Nicholson. "But we don't have to add to it, and we fix what we can."

According to the website, Be the

Solution to Pollution is committed to making drastic changes by creating needed public awareness. They have been conducting cleanups throughout Southeastern MA and Northern RI and facilitating free educational workshops at local libraries to raise more awareness about the problems created by pollution and presenting some simple solutions.

The group believes the reason littering has gotten so out of hand is that there is a major lack of anti-littering public service announcements.

For more information on the group, visit www.bethesolutiontopollution.com or www.facebook.com/pollution solution or email freymarylou@yahoo.com ●●●



LEFT: Eric James holds up a plastic water bottle exclaiming "if this was worth five cents, it wouldn't be here. He was part of the group, Be the Solution to Pollution, cleaning up Fort Phoenix on Sunday, 4/22, Earth Day. RIGHT: Mr. James and Mary Lou Nicholson sort through bags to pull out recyclables. Ms. Nicholson has found some fishing line she says can be re-used. Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.neighbnews.com.



LEFT: Bags of trash, a tire and a barrel were all taken off the beach and the hurricane barrier at Fort Phoenix on Sunday, 4/22, Earth Day, by Be the Solution to Pollution volunteers: RIGHT: Solution to Pollution volunteer Andrea grabs a barrel off the hurricane barrier, soon to be filled with trash from the shore. Photos courtesy of Mary Lou Nicholson. See them in color at www.neighbnews.com.

Board of Health discusses forms for wind turbine complaints

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Members of Windwise submitted their draft of a health effects complaint form to the Fairhaven Board of Health during the 4/24 meeting, which the board intends to review along with a complaint procedure proposed by the wind turbine developer. The board will ultimately devise a final copy which they say may evolve over time.

Sumul Shah of Fairhaven Wind, LLC presented a website and telephone number that citizens could use to report adverse impacts or comments. He explained that the information received would result in an investigation before determining the appropriate response.

The form available on the website, and a telephone voice messaging system, is available to encourage people to provide comments and concerns on impacts experienced, said Mr. Shah, but added that the intent is not to receive comments on "theoretical issues," or comments from out-of-towners.

Mr. Shah said he would use the complaints about noise, for example, to correlate with recorded wind speed and direction, and added that all data collected from the public shall be considered "proprietary."

The intent of keeping the information collected "in-house," according to Mr. Shah, will eliminate any fears of privacy protection that may inhibit citizens from submitting complaints.

Mr. Shah stated that summaries and analyses of types of complaints and subsequent responses made on behalf of the developer would be issued quarterly to the public.

BOH Chairperson Peter DeTerra rejected the notion, insisting that any information received by the developer should be forwarded to the board "simultaneously."

Several Windwise members vocally expressed their disapproval of the board's decision to position Mr. Shah at a seat at the table alongside the elected board members, suggesting that Mr. Shah should not be involved in the complaint process discussion

at all.

One member of Windwise criticized the wind turbine developer for a complaint process she called "a farce." Much of the opposition to Mr. Shah's protocol was directed at the notion that the developer would act as liaison between residents with complaints and the BOH.

Windwise presented their draft of a two-page complaint form, which includes a checklist of possible health side-effects and several preexisting conditions that Windwise suggests might worsen as a result of exposure to the two Arsene Street wind turbines.

Before adjourning, the three board members further discussed the Windwise complaint form, with

could imply an imminent "chain of events."

Including a shorter list of common preexisting conditions such as vertigo and tinnitus, according to BOH Secretary Pat Fowle, might be preferable to the broader list of illnesses Windwise says could be exacerbated by wind turbine exposure.

"But to go as far as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicide ...?" questioned Ms. Fowle.

Ms. Fowle also indicated that BOH members might not be entirely qualified to analyze medical complaints, and questioned whether complaints such as these should be forwarded to the Department of Public Health.

Earlier during a period of public comment, resident Karen Isherwood told the board that she was already experiencing adverse health effects from the turbines, saying that during the test periods that took place on 4/20 and 4/21, she could hear the turbine noise from her property.

Ms. Isherwood said she sat in her back yard listening to "vroom, vroom, vroom..."

Mr. DeTerra explained that he was at the wind turbine site and implied that a large bulldozer may have been responsible for much of the noise.

"I was there," Mr. DeTerra told Ms. Isherwood.

"In my backyard?" responded Ms. Isherwood. "Do not condescend me! Come by my house and maybe live in my body."

Ms. Isherwood expressed that she had medical issues that Mr. DeTerra did not have.

"Vroom, vroom, vroom may not disturb you, but it disturbs me," said Ms. Isherwood, and equated the looping noise to the annoyance of a song stuck in one's head.

"And I will have a doctor's note for you real soon," she declared.

Curt Devlin asserted that five-percent of the population within two kilometers of the turbines "will suffer serious, adverse health events."

Henry Ferreira followed up Mr. Devlin's comment by adding that,

BOH: cont'd on page 19

Windwise presented their draft of a two-page complaint form, which includes a checklist of possible health side-effects and several preexisting conditions that Windwise suggests might worsen as a result of exposure to the two Arsene Street wind turbines.

Jeannine Lopes expressing her discomfort with the insertion of suggested health-effect symptoms and preexisting health conditions.

"People should be telling us what they experience. [Windwise] shouldn't be giving examples," said Ms. Lopes. She added that the form should not make suggestions as to what people will be experiencing, but rather seek to avoid "egging them on."

Board member Barbara Acksen volunteered to play "devil's advocate," advocating that many people are not articulate enough to define their symptoms and may need a description for reference.

"You're clearly telling people what they should experience," argued Ms. Lopes, with Mr. DeTerra adding that a list of preexisting health conditions

Acksen: “fact finding mission” not violation of open meeting law

By Beth David

Editor

After less than a month in office, Barbara Acksen, newly elected Fairhaven Board of Health member who ran on a platform of open and inclusive government, toured town hall with another board member, which constitutes a quorum of the three-member board. Both Ms. Acksen and Peter DeTerra, the BOH chair, maintain that it was not a violation of the open meeting law.

They both say they did not discuss board business, however, the purpose of the tour was to find room for the Office of Tourism, amid controversy over that office moving to the town-owned Academy Building. Discussion included moving the BOH office to make room for the tourism office, according to Ms. Acksen.

The Fairhaven Historical Society, a private non-profit which Ms. Acksen is the president of, controls the Academy and opposes sharing the space with the office of tourism, a town department.

The Finance Committee voted to cut tourism’s rent, essentially forcing the office to move. The controversy has come up for many years.

Christopher Richard, director of the Office of Tourism, has made it clear he believes the Academy is a better place for his office, but he will go where the Selectboard tells him to go.

Members of the Fairhaven Historical Society, including Ms. Acksen, appeared at a Selectboard meeting to argue against the move.

Fairhaven Finance Committee chairperson John Roderiques has made it clear that he does not support forcing a town department to pay rent while a private, non-profit uses a town building for free.

The controversy has swirled and swirled. At the Selectboard meeting on 4/9, members decided again to defer a decision and called for a subcommittee to be formed. It was the first meeting of the selectboard after the election, and the first meeting for newly elected member Bob Espindola, who ran a campaign closely allied with Ms. Acksen and Donna McKenna. All three are wind turbine opponents, ran on a platform of open and honest government, and all three had the same group of volunteers working on their campaigns. After the election, Ms.

Acksen called it a “slate.”

Mr. Espindola also toured the town hall looking for a spot for tourism. According to Mr. DeTerra, he was in the BOH office looking at budget numbers when Mr. Espindola and Ms. Acksen entered the room.

He said they asked him if he knew of any space available in town hall. Mr. DeTerra said the BOH lab would be available after June 30, because the BOH voted “about six months ago” to turn over water testing to the public works department.

He said it was not a violation of the open meeting law because they did not discuss any board business.

“How can it be?” asked Mr. DeTerra. “I wasn’t giving away anything, I was just telling them what’s available. We don’t own the space in town hall. All town hall

I certainly would not have intended to have a meeting. It was just a walk-around. I understand we are allowed to do that. [Barbara Acksen]

facilities are controlled by the selectmen.”

He said he had no idea they would be in the building at that time and that he goes to the Board of Health office every day at around noon.

Ms. Acksen tells a slightly different story, but still maintains that it was not a violation of the open meeting law, which requires all meetings to be posted 48 hours before. Meetings are supposed to be open to the public except for executive sessions which are allowed in certain circumstances, such as contract negotiations and personnel matters.

“There was a question about using the Board of Health room,” admitted Ms. Acksen, but she added, it was in the context of looking at other rooms in the building.

“And so we looked at other rooms, but it wasn’t a meeting,” said Ms. Acksen. “It was a fact-finding mission, if you will, to get data.

When asked if she could understand the criticism and why people would consider it a violation, she said, “Again, I consider it an on-site visit. We were not going to deliberate.”

She said the whole purpose was to consider the logistics of moving the Office of Tourism somewhere in town hall.

“We were very clear we weren’t going to decide about anything,” said Ms. Acksen. “I certainly would not have intended to have a meeting. It was just a walk-around. I understand we are allowed to do that.

Mr. Espindola, who has not publicly stated his opinion on where he thinks the Office of Tourism should be or if he thinks the Historical Society should be allowed to stay at the Academy for free, said he was simply trying to be better informed before he voted on the issue.

He said he spoke with Mr. Richard, with Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeff Osuch, and with Frank Fostin, the town hall custodian, among others. He said he wanted to learn how much space Mr. Richard needed, what visitors would require, etc.

He would not comment on the allegations of an open meeting law violation against the BOH. He did say that the possibility of moving the BOH office to make room for tourism was “one option,” and “that would require the Board of Health to move.”

“I looked at every room in town hall, quite honestly,” he said. “Not considering every room, but just to be familiar. It was a fact-finding mission to see what was available. It had nothing really to do with the Board of Health.”

He would not, however, say what his conclusions were. He said he was prepared to give a report at the Selectboard meeting, but “It never got to that point.”

Before he had a chance, he said, the selectboard voted to restore the funding to the tourism office so it can stay where it is (see page 4 for story).

As for the situation with the Academy, Mr. Espindola said the problem is a lack of a clear policy.

He said he volunteered to create a policy manual that would include a policy about the use of town buildings.

“We should be looking at everything uniformly and setting policy,” said Mr. Espindola. ●●●

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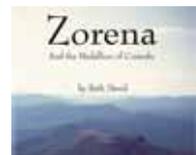
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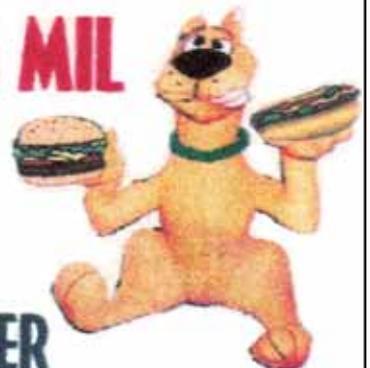
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Fairhaven teen takes bronze in Junior Olympics shoot-out

From press release materials

Fairhaven's Mackenzie Martin, 15, a freshman at Fairhaven High School, won the bronze at the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships (NJOSC) in Colorado last week.

Catherine Green (Coventry, R.I.) finished her Junior Olympic career on a high note — two gold medals and a complete women's rifle sweep. She won the Women's 50m Rifle Three Position event with 1252.7 total points.

Joining Green on the National Junior Team (NJT) is 19-year-old Kelsey Emme (Piedmont, S.D.). Competing in her fifth NJOSC, Emme

shot 1148 match points and 96.6 points in the final to finish with 1244.6 total points.

Emme and bronze medalist Mackenzie Martin (Fairhaven, Mass.) were neck-and-neck through the final.

Martin, a freshman at Fairhaven High School, gained



LEFT: Fairhaven's Mackenzie Martin competes in the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championships in Colorado last week. ABOVE: Mackenzie (right), took the bronze, Catherine Green took the gold, and Kelsey Emme took silver. Photos courtesy of USA Shooting. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com

ground with the highest final of 98.5 points. She was in a three-way tie at 1145 points with Denise Martin (Chewelah, Wash.) and Sunny

Russell (Stratford, Texas), but shot her way to a bronze medal with 1243.5 total points.

For complete results and rankings visit <http://www.usa-shooting.org/7-events/njosc>

Mackenzie and her team were also recently honored at the Mass. state house.

FIA Beautification vouchers available for Fairhaven residents

Press Release

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

Send a check for \$20.00 to the Fairhaven Improvement Association, P.O. Box 404, Fairhaven, MA 02719, with a self-addressed stamped envelope. You will receive a voucher that entitles you to purchase double the amount — \$40.00 — of shrubbery at Kenny's Farm Stand on Huttleston Avenue.

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

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For more information contact Monika Whalley 508 992 5697 or monikawhalley@hotmail.com

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Legal notices/Public Hearings

Conservation Commission Public Hearing

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on May 07, 2012, 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 Estate of Edith Silva c/o Maureen Grace Executrix Location 301 Mill Road Plot 39 Lot 19 & 20 Purpose upgrade septic system within the 100' buffer zone tom BVW and within the NRB.
- Request for Determination Applicant Victor Palermo Location Scoticut Neck Road Plot 29 Lots 13 & 13A Purpose remove brush weeds and dead trees and clear brush along side lines within the 100' buffer zone to BVW and within a VE flood zone.
- Request for Determination Applicant Luis M. Martins and Mary Martins,

Trustees of the Martins Family Living Trust Location New Boston Road Plot 40 Lot 28D Purpose perform percolation test within 100' of BVW and within the NRB.

- Notice of Intent Applicant Michael Edwards Location 113 Cottonwood Street Plot 43A Lot 194 Purpose demo existing house and construct new dwelling within the 100' buffer zone to BVW.
- Notice of Intent Applicant Nathan Sorelle Location 284 Mill Road Plot 39 Lot 29 Purpose construct family room & master bedroom addition within the NRB only.
- Request for Determination Applicant Robert Letorneau Location 35 Nakata Plot 43 Lot 115 Purpose construct 2nd floor deck over existing deck with 4' deep footings within 100' of coastal bank and a VE flood zone.

Respectfully submitted
Andrew Jones Chairman
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

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Tues., 5/1, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Mon., 4/30, Town Hall, Noon

Board of Public Works

Mon., 5/7, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 5/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/26, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Thurs., 5/3, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 5/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Rogers/Oxford Study Com.

Thurs., 5/17, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 5/9, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Mon., 4/30, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting

Sat. 5/5, Hastings MS, 9 a.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Health

Tues., 5/8, Parting Ways Sch., 6:30 p

Board of Public Works

Mon., 5/7, BPW Bldg, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Tues., 5/1, Ford MS, 5 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 4/30, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Mon. 5/7, Acush Comm Ctr, 6:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
April					
2012					
Friday	27	0009	1255	0558	1759
Saturday	28	0059	1345	0648	1856
Sunday	29	0153	1439	0752	2009
Monday	30	0251	1537	0904	2129
May					
2012					
Tuesday	1	0355	1636	1003	2237
Wednesday	2	0459	1735	1053	2335*
Thursday	3	0600	1830	1140*	----

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

Letters from our readers

Cournoyer Scholarships announced

The Cecilia Cournoyer Scholarship Fund has been created to honor individuals who have a strong desire and ambition to continue their personal growth through the vehicle of higher education. It was Mrs. Cournoyer's belief that with education, all is possible.

This year, two scholarships have been awarded in the amount of \$150 each. The winners of this year's scholarship are Meghan Dorian and Emma Vezina of Fairhaven High School, graduating class of 2012. We wish them great success in their journey through higher education.

*David Cournoyer, Fairhaven
Chairman*

Destination ImagiNation looking for sponsors, donations

I am sending this on behalf of the Fairhaven High School Destination ImagiNation team. Destination ImagiNation is an exhilarating after-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending Challenges and present their solutions to problems in their community at regional, state, and global levels.

Being a coastal town, well-known for its history in whaling and current reputation for beautiful beaches, we felt that the beaches of Fairhaven needed the most attention in regards to pollution and littering. We've also put a focus on the bike path and other local parks and playgrounds.

So far, we've done three Clean Ups, one on a 676-yard span of the bike path, one at the Fort Phoenix beach, and one at the small Main Street beach used for education purposes at the high school. Our Fort Phoenix Clean Up was the most successful, in which we collected a total of 22 bags of trash and had the help from 17 community members.

After presenting our solutions and working on an Instant Challenge, in which we had to work together in a matter of five minutes to solve a problem, we placed second at the state level and were given the opportunity to travel to Knoxville, Tennessee for the Global Finals.

We are raising funds to help offset the \$8,000 that our team requires to travel to the Global Finals in the end

of May.

We've been looking for sponsorships and donations of any kind. Overall, we couldn't be more proud of our accomplishments and would be honored to represent Massachusetts and our little town of Fairhaven in the Global Finals.

Please consider helping us take this next step. Thank you in advance!

Please contact Hanna Christ, hchrist95@gmail.com, or 508-858-6512 to help. Other members of the team are: Adam Lima, Jacquelyn House, Kyle Bueno, Allison Roderiques, Rachel Tarallo,

School budget choices cause denial of rights

The School Committee's Budget Public Hearing was held on Wednesday April 11th and I was the only person from the public that stood to be heard. I watched the presentation from the Superintendent and I listened to all that he and the committee had to say. When it was time I asked the Superintendent if the extracurricular activities and/or the full-day kindergarten that have been, and are continuing to be, part of the school budget were mandated by the state and/or federal government. The answer was NO. Now my question to the school administration and the committee is how can they present and support a budget that provides for non-mandated activities and services when mandated services are being cut or underfunded?

At our high school many of our special education students are not being given the equal opportunity to participate and be successful in Honors and AP classes because there is no in-class ed-support. Yet the school department is looking at cutting six paraprofessional positions.

In order to have succeeded in the Honors and AP classes that he was more than qualified for intellectually, my son would have needed to put in after school and in the evening the equivalent of an additional school day, each and every day in order to keep up with his peers. Doing so would have prevented him from having time to participate in the extracurricular and community volunteer activities coveted by those seeking acceptance to the colleges of their choice.

This is not a fair or equitable

situation. My son does not have an intellectual disability, but he does have a disorder that makes non-verbal communication difficult. In order to keep pace in the classroom he would need a person to facilitate communication, much in the way that a deaf student would need a sign language interpreter. Certainly we would not deny a deaf student the in-class ed-support he would need in order to have the equal opportunity to participate in Honors and AP classes, yet we deny the students on the autism spectrum such mandated services on a daily basis. This is but one example on a long list of discriminatory practices that are lawsuits waiting to happen.

I stated at the meeting and I'm doing so again, so that there can be no misunderstanding: I am NOT advocating for a war between supporters of extracurriculars or regular education vs special education. I am in fact advocating for support of all of those things, but in a way that is equitable.

When we have created a budget that provides all of our students with what they are entitled to by law, then we can add non-mandated items to the budget.

We do have the mechanisms in place for user fees. Perhaps it's time we start using them. We as a community have taken for granted the non-mandated full day kindergarten that the budget provides for (actually half-day is not mandated either), and I fully understand and appreciate the need for the academic boost that kindergarten provides, so maybe it's time that we go back to having the half-day provided with the option to pay for a full day, along the same fee schedule that applies to our pre-school.

As for the extracurriculars, like it or not, we may have come to the time when the budget can fund only 25%-50% of the costs with user fees and fundraising providing the rest.

I hope that this letter starts a conversation among our elected and appointed officials prior to the Town Meeting so that a fair and equitable school budget will be presented to and supported by the voting members.

Diane Hahn, Fairhaven

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Waterway User Fee AGAIN!

The Waterway User Fee invoice for 2012 indicates that fees are payable within thirty days from the date of the invoice. Once again, boat owners subject to the fee are being misled. My invoice, for example, is dated April 18, 2012 and marked due by May 18, 2012. Paragraph three (below) shows the legal requirements for paying the fee each year.

A new section asking (actually demanding) that boat owners inform the town collector if they will "not be using Fairhaven waterways for 2012" has been added. It further states that "Failure to provide this information will be subject to demands and fees added to any unpaid bill." This new demand is outside the scope or intent of by-law Chapter 145, section 145-16 **Waterway User Fee** and, in my opinion, providing the requested information is totally optional. Unless a boat owner fails to meet the requirements as outlined in the by-law, they are not subject to demands or fines. I also suspect the originator of this clause is the office of the Harbormaster, not the town collector.

Chapter 145, sec 145-16 states in part that "All boats using the waters of Fairhaven ... for more than 14 days per (calendar) year are subject to the Waterways Users Fee in Fairhaven, MA" "This ... Fee is a yearly fee and is due by June 30th of each calendar year, or immediately after the 14 day benchmark is met if after June 30th of the current calendar year." **The earliest the fee is due for anyone is June 30 each calendar year and then only if the vessel has been in "town waters" for 14 days or more. If you haven't met the 14-day benchmark by June 30, the fee is due later, immediately after the 14-day benchmark for your vessel is reached.**

Trailered boats, boats less than 16 feet, boats belonging to or used by the Town, other boats used for law enforcement and boats in Fairhaven waters for service by a Fairhaven marine service company are exempt. There are no requirements to report a non-event such as not putting a vessel in the water in a given year.

The operative point is: **BOATS MUST BE IN THE WATER FOR FOURTEEN DAYS OR MORE** to be subject to the fee. A boat owner not in a slip, on a mooring or anchoring in

Fairhaven waters has no liability for the fee, demands or penalties. **Nor are they required by any town statute to report that they are not putting their boat in Fairhaven waters in any given year.** The boater's responsibility is to pay the user fee in accordance with the town's by-law.

Resident boat owners pay a user fee of \$1.00 per foot and non-residents \$4.00 per foot of boat length each year raising between \$65,000 and \$69,000 each year for the Waterway Fund. Based on 2009 data, 954 boat owners paid excise taxes to the town. Of the 954, approximately two-thirds paid the Waterway User Fee. Half of the excise tax and all of the user fees are deposited in the town's Waterway Fund, a fund intended to provide for maintenance of Fairhaven waters and other services to those paying the fee.

Marsby E. Wartors

Son "ripped off" by lack of Phys. Ed. in Fairhaven

How important is physical education in our school system? Apparently, not very. Let's ask the Fairhaven School system.

So the Fairhaven School System did not score well on the MCAS last year. This means money, so the solution....let's add an extra math and English class for our children to attend throughout the day and remove them from Physical Education regardless of whether your child is failing these classes (which mine is not). This is called an "intervention" and from what the guidance counselors told me, every child must take the intervention class for five weeks, which takes the place of the PE period for my child. This is a serious problem for our children and a great concern for myself when it comes to my son. See, my son excels in PE. He has always been fit and healthy and extremely active. He goes to the gym, lifts weights, rides his bmx at least half the day every day, has played football for five years and has been known to run the block just to beat his own time.

When our concern was brought to the principal we were told it was our responsibility to keep our child active. Well, we have done that but we are not experts on the ins and outs of keeping a body active the proper way

as an educator is, that is part of the school's responsibility and Fairhaven is not holding up their part of my child's education. And yes PE is part of a child's education.

Children are not crazy about school in the first place and gym has always been something to look forward to for a 13-year-old boy, so let's take away the only thing he enjoys in his six-hour day and throw him in this class we have made up because our teachers have failed to do their jobs well enough for our children to score high on the MCAS. My son may not test well, but he has never failed a class up to the 7th grade.

Luckily my child only plays video games 1-2 hours a week, and TV the same, like I said, very active. But for the children who are not so active, what is Fairhaven teaching them about getting up and moving around? How will those kids pass the President's Fitness Challenge?

Don't get me wrong, I understand the importance of doing well on MCAS, our schools will not get funded...I get it...why can't these schools and teachers incorporate MCAS preparedness in the classes that are already in session throughout the day?

My son plans on playing football this upcoming season, and the next season and again in high school and who knows what the future holds after that. Whatever comes will NOT be credited to his 7th grade experience in the Fairhaven School System that has failed him as far as the importance of staying healthy and active.

We have brought my concerns to the guidance counselor, the vice principal and the principal and expressed our requests to not have our child removed from gym and also told them we didn't want him removed from Health Class. Let's take him out of community service, but our requests were not taken seriously and now at the end of this school year my son has attended approximately 6 hours of PE.

This is unacceptable!

My husband and I will continue to support my child in his physical education that he requires at home and hope the Fairhaven School System scores better this year on MCAS.

Jill Silvia, Fairhaven

BPW reluctantly promotes Fleurent

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on Monday, 4/23, the Fairhaven Board of Public Works made Karl Fleurent permanent working foreperson for the water system maintenance department, a position he held in a temporary capacity.

Three people interviewed for the job in open session, with all three having the support of the board members who spoke during their interviews.

The only negative comments about a candidate's job performance came during Mr. Fleurent's interview in the form of a vague, unexplained reference to an old incident. In the end, the board cited union restrictions, saying they had no choice but to promote Mr. Fleurent to the position.

It came down to experience and licenses in hand, according to board members.

It was board member Geoffrey Haworth who brought up the incident from three years ago, but did not elaborate. He said it was "no secret" the board was not happy with what happened.

Mr. Fleurent said he would just "try to do a more efficient job for the department."

Board member Dan Freitas took issue with the raising of the old incident. Mr. Fleurent was the last to be interviewed, and Mr. Freitas said that he and others had not mentioned blemishes on the records of the other two candidates.

"Since that incident, we've put him in the position as foreman and offered him a raise. That [incident] was some three years ago," said Mr. Freitas, adding that no one is perfect and no department is perfect.

Both he and Mr. Haworth, however, questioned Mr. Fleurent on his "management style," the way he motivates those under him and handles problems.

"I'll have to be a little more aggressive, I guess," said Mr. Fleurent.

Robert "Hoppy" Hobson agreed.

"Being permanent is a lot more responsibility," said Mr. Hobson. "You have to show a little more strength and assertiveness. You have to make sure people are where they're supposed to be."

In response to board member Kathleen Sturtevant's question about

his "rapport" with the workers, Mr. Fleurent answered, "I could do a better job with that."

BPW chair Steven Riley said when it's "hot" is "when the cream rises to the top...especially in the BPW."

He said the working foreperson needs "to get the most out of the crew that particular day and every day."

Water superintendent Edward Fortin said that Mr. Fleurent had made progress since he had last been before the board, and that it would be "on his shoulders" to prove himself.

Mr. Fleurent will be on probation for six months. He has held the position as a temporary job since January, 2011.

"But he does have good knowledge," of the system, said Mr. Fortin, adding that Mr. Fleurent could handle 99% of any breaks the town might experience.

You have to show a little
more strength and
assertiveness. You have
to make sure people are
where they're supposed to be
[Robert "Hoppy" Hobson]

He did acknowledge though that "productivity and aggressiveness have been issues."

DPW superintendent Vincent "Vinnie" Furtado agreed that Mr. Furtado could do the repair work, but said there was more to being a supervisor than that. He said the problem is that the "foreman position" is in the union and called it "ridiculous" that a management job would be union.

"You can't be a boss and in the union," he said, and told the board it was something he felt they should change in the future.

"What the department needs is to be more efficient, point blank," said Superintendent Furtado. "No matter who the choice is."

"I'll do the best I can," said Mr. Fleurent.

The board also interviewed Jorge

Silva, a foreperson in the highway department, for the job.

Mr. Silva told the board he had helped with multiple water main breaks and had years of related experience. He said he would be willing to apply for the necessary licenses and was confident he would pass the tests.

Board members expressed some concern that it would take a long time for Mr. Silva to get his licenses.

Superintendent Furtado said he had "no issue with Jorge at all," in the position, although he was concerned that the move would make the highway department short-handed.

Jeffrey Furtado, who currently works in the sewer department, also interviewed for the position.

He told the board that he had an inactive license that he believed he could re-activate easily and a Grade III license in Rhode Island that would probably be transferred by reciprocity.

He said he had letters of commendation from residents and colleagues.

"I think it's a good opportunity for me," said Mr. Furtado, adding it was a lateral move, but he felt the opportunity for advancement was better in the water department than in the sewer department. "I'm pretty much at where I'm going to stay unless somebody leaves."

Board members asked him how he would handle problems, especially motivating people.

"As a foreman, you're always going to have issues. Always," said Mr. Furtado. "Those things, you just have to work out."

He said the main goal is to get the job done.

"He has the knowledge of piping and repairs," said Water Superintendent Edward Fortin. "He's well qualified for the job."

"I concur," said Superintendent Furtado, who is not related to the applicant.

After the interviews, the board noted that several water department workers were present and asked if anyone wanted to speak on behalf of a candidate.

Mr. Hobson took issue with the invitation saying that it wasn't offered after the other two interviews, so it

BPW: cont'd next page

BPW: cont'd from previous page

showed favoritism towards Mr. Fleurent, who was the last to be interviewed.

He said they should get the sewer department and highway department workers in the room to speak for the other candidates.

"It ain't right," said Mr. Hobson. "I don't think it's right to have the employees who are going to work under him" speak on his behalf.

A man who did not identify himself took issue with Mr. Hobson's assumptions.

"I'm only here as an observer," said the man. "It's not fair to judge why we're here."

"If you're gonna say that this man is better than that man, I don't want to hear it," countered Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Riley, however, reminded Mr. Hobson that the meeting was open to the public and they had a right to speak.

Although the vote had not been taken yet, Jeffrey Costa took the opportunity to say that it was not fair that a foreman was being hired who had less experience than he had.

"How can someone lead when he's got less qualifications than everyone below him," he asked. "It's a knock to me."

He said based on qualifications and certifications, he was more qualified, but "I ain't knocking anybody," adding he did not want to disrespect anyone.

Board members had good words for all three candidates, with Mr. Haworth making a reference to the "bad incident" involving Mr. Fleurent again.

"I'm not knocking you," said Mr. Haworth, "part of being a good foreman is making decisions. You have to look at everything."

He said looking at the union rules, "our hands our tied. I disagree with it," adding he did not feel the board should be "forced" to pick someone they did not want, but, "The way I read it, we have no choice but to put Karl in the position."

Mr. Freitas again took issue with

the raising of the "incident," saying there are lots of incidents that could have been raised with the other candidates.

"Maybe you're wrong, maybe you're right," said Mr. Freitas, but reminded the board that they signed the contract with union and had to abide by it. "He's the senior most qualified individual. If he's not doing the job in six months, we can look at it again."

"I think the best man for the job is the one who should get the job," said Mr. Hobson, making it clear he did not think Mr. Fleurent could "bring this department back up" to where it should be.

Ms. Sturtevant told the board and Mr. Fleurent that she felt the foreperson's job is to teach and guide those under him. If he is not successful, she said, they can try again in six months, after the probationary period.

"I think everybody's going to have to work together to make this a more efficient place," said Ms. Sturtevant.

In the end, two motions were made, one for Mr. Fleurent; and one for Mr. Furtado, that was made by Mr. Hobson and seconded by Mr. Haworth. Mr. Fleurent got the job by a 3-2 vote, Mr. Hobson and Mr. Haworth voting against.

- In other business, the board
- Agreed to support an effort by Fairhaven Youth Football to build a storage building at Livesey Park provided it is not used as a clubhouse. The board will invite the organization to a meeting to discuss the details.
 - Signed a variety of change orders and invoices, but refused to sign the Brown & Caldwell invoices, opting to have them appear before the board to explain "suspect accounting," in the words of Mr. Freitas.
 - Agreed to allow the use of equipment and personnel for the Recreation Center's "Big Truck Day" on May 12. •••

M.O. L.I.F.E. Ball honors Brienzo

On March 30, 2012, M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc. sponsored its 16th Annual Semi-Formal Ball, which was held at Whites of Westport, MA. We had our annual award winners, who are recognized because they have gone above and beyond for others, and truly enhance the lives of others with or without disabilities.

Person of the Year Donna Gaylor, Lifetime Achievement Award Karen Fostin (Katie Brienzo's Mom), Personal Achievement Award (Posthumously) Katie Brienzo, and we also had two Young Hero awards for Arissa and Deianeira Underhill.

The 16th Annual Ball was a Tribute to Katie Brienzo given by the President of M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc., Charlie Murphy, who captured how she put so much of the LIFE in MO LIFE. The event was a huge success with more than 500 people in attendance.

Several State and local politicians were present: Congressman Bill Keating, Fall River Mayor Will Flanagan, New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell, New Bedford City Council President Steve Martins, New Bedford City Councilor Joseph Lopes, Fall River State Representative Kevin Aguiar, State Representative Bill Straus, Jamie DeSousa Fairhaven Planning Board, Geoffrey Haworth Fairhaven BPW Chairman, Candidate for Governors Council Walter Moniz, Fairhaven Selectman Mike Silvia, Fairhaven Selectman Brian Bowcock, Senator Mark Montigny, District Attorney Sam Sutter, and Former Mayor Scott Lang.

Also in attendance were families and community supporters of M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc. We would like to thank all of our many volunteers, families and staff, and the coordinators of the event Carrie Murphy, Dorothy Cox and Denise Cromwell and Whites of Westport for their help and continued support.

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Increasing nitrogen pollution threatens Buzzards Bay

Press Release

Last month the Buzzards Bay Coalition released its quadrennial State of the Bay Report, a comprehensive review of the health of Buzzards Bay. It found that expanding nitrogen pollution is erasing gains made in reducing bacteria and toxic pollution to keep the overall score at a 45 — less than half of the ecological capacity of the Bay.

The 2011 State of the Bay Score is a summation of nine different indicators of the health of the Bay and watershed and it did not change since the last report in 2007. While that fact may suggest stability, the nine indicators used to evaluate the State of Buzzards Bay show that it is in fact changing dramatically, in both positive and negative ways.

The greatest gains in the health of Buzzards Bay in recent years have been in the slow cleanup of “Old Pollution” sources — like bacteria

and toxics — and the impact of that ongoing success story is evident in the State of the Bay report. But these improvements, while enough to prevent the overall State of the Bay score from falling this year, were not enough to overcome the expanding sources of “New Pollution” — nitrogen and its impacts.

Nitrogen pollution comes from poorly planned development and is the byproduct of new homes, septic systems, roads, and lawns. It is worsening water quality and degrading habitat in all corners of Buzzards Bay the report demonstrates.

“The significant declines in the Nitrogen, Eelgrass, and Bay Scallop scores in this report illustrate the slow suffocation of Buzzards Bay from nitrogen pollution,” said Mark Rasmussen, President of the Buzzards Bay Coalition. “The good news is that hard work by dedicated town

officials, state and federal agencies, and citizens, to reduce bacteria and toxic pollution is paying off.”

“We should all celebrate the successes we’ve had in reopening beaches and shellfish beds even as we rededicate ourselves to the greater challenge ahead — managing wastewater and watershed development to reduce nitrogen pollution.”

The State of Buzzards Bay report is a comprehensive review of the health of Buzzards Bay, developed in collaboration with scientists and land use experts and using the best available current and historical information. The State of Buzzards Bay report provides an important tool to assess the effectiveness of Bay cleanup and protection efforts and to guide our work in coming years.

To learn more and download a copy of the full report go to www.savebuzzardsbay.org/StateOfBuzzardsBay ●●●

BOH: cont’d from page 17

relative to distance of wind turbines from surrounding homes, the Fairhaven wind turbines are “closer than any site there is in Massachusetts.”

There is, however, at least one site in Mass. that has closer turbines. Although it was not mentioned at the meeting, the town of Templeton has a 1.65 megawatt, 383-foot high wind turbine on school grounds that is situated 450 feet from homes.

Despite objection from Mr. DeTerra, Louise Barteau stood to ask Mr. Shah whether he was going to post a bond to guarantee property values for surrounding homes, a question she said she has asked Mr. Shah repeatedly without receiving an answer.

Mr. Shah pointed out that he had invited all concerned parties to meet with him one-on-one to discuss concerns. He said he met with several different people privately, but Ms. Barteau did not respond to his invitation.

“You seem to only want to discuss these things in a public forum where you can make a big speech,” Mr. Shah said to Ms. Barteau.

“This is nonsense,” replied Ms. Barteau, commenting that Mr. Shah’s remark was unfair.

Mr. Shah agreed to answer Ms.

Barteau’s question, saying that during contract negotiations with the Selectboard, the Town never asked him to post a bond as part of the contract.

“If the Board of Selectmen sees fit, we certainly can negotiate and discuss...a change to the current contract,” stated Mr. Shah.

“Thank you for answering — finally,” replied Ms. Barteau.

Ann Espindola addressed the board, saying, “Not everybody sleeps at night.” Ms. Espindola stated she has been working the night shift for 27 years. “It’s hard enough to sleep during the day.”

Carolyn Young asked, “How many complaints is it going to take for these (WTs) to be shut down?” Ms. Young added that she lives with her children 1,300 feet from one of the turbines. “How sick are they going to have to get? What is it going to take?”

As Windwise members were leaving, before the meeting was adjourned, newly elected School Board member Donna McKenna told another woman, “My daughter is already horrified...This is going to have a major effect on kids.”

In other business, the board voted to draft a letter to the Selectboard asking for a \$900 replacement to the budget for pest and mosquito control.

Ms. Fowle indicated that the Selectboard would entertain the BOH’s request.

Also, Mr. DeTerra suggested honoring former BOH member Dolores Caton with the presentation of a plaque for her many years of service on the board.

Turbine update

Fairhaven Wind, LLC is still waiting for NStar to deliver necessary equipment before witness testing can begin, tentatively for the middle of next week. The next step will be running the wind turbines at 50% output for several days. The WT’s must then run continuously and flawlessly for a total of 240 hours before they can run permanently.

Meanwhile, developer Sumul Shah said he is working with the Fairhaven Fire Department for training on emergency response, and the creation of a plan of action to turbine-related emergencies.

Mr. Shah also said they are planning to store life-saving equipment inside the turbines.

For access to Fairhaven Wind, LLC’s comment/complaint website, go to www.fairhavenwind.info/comments.html

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* Annual Percentage Rate - APR, Term 2 years. Cost per \$1,000 = \$42.54. Above APR reflects a .50% rate reduction for automatic payment from a SMCU Checking Account for remainder of loan. Requires a down payment of 5% of the purchase price or NADA value, whichever is less. Available to qualifying members based upon established underwriting guidelines and creditworthiness. Other rates and terms available. Refinancing existing SMCU loans excluded. This offer may be withdrawn or modified at any time. Some restrictions may apply. APR effective 1/1/2012.

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508-990-8724

1926 Purchase St.
New Bedford
508-999-4724

Everyday Specials

Kahlua 750ml All Flavors.....	\$19 ⁹⁹
Seagram's 7 1.75.....	\$18 ⁹⁹
Canadian Club 1.75.....	\$19 ⁹⁹
Beck's Loose Bottles.....	\$19 ⁹⁹ + dep
Bud & Bud Light 30 pack.....	\$19 ⁹⁹ + dep
Coors Light 30 pack.....	\$19 ⁹⁹ + dep
Heineken 24 Loose Bottles.....	\$20 ⁹⁹ + dep
Rubinoff Vodka All Flavors 1.75.....	\$10 ⁹⁹
Captain Morgan Rum 1.75.....	\$29 ⁹⁹
Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75.....	\$24 ⁹⁹
Christian Bros. Brandy 1.75.....	\$16 ⁹⁹
Gordon's Gin 1.75.....	\$16 ⁹⁹

Open Mon.-Thurs., 9-10; Fri. & Sat., 9-11; Sun., 12-6



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SUNDAY SPECIALS

Cheaper than eating at home!

Sit back, relax and WE'LL do the cooking & cleaning

Sirloin Steak w/Shrimp (dine-in only).. \$5⁰⁰

Surf & Turf Prime Rib Dinner with
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PRIME RIB
\$1/oz
While they last!

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Mon., 11-8

Tues., CLOSED

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Every Wed., Fish & Chips
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Every Sat. & Sun., Prime Rib

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specials EVERY DAY!**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Every Friday: Couto &
Mulligan reunited, 5-8 p.m.
4/28: LIKK, 9 p.m.

Every Sun.: Bar Bingo, 7:00
Karaoke: Fri., 9 p.m. (and
Wednesdays starting 5/9)

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS: Live Entertainment.
(Starts May 6)

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