



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 24 • July 5, 2012

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

Brilliant skies for Homecoming Fair



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The flag flutters in the breeze at Fairhaven Town Hall as people fill the streets for the Homecoming Fair on Saturday, 6/30. The hot weather did not stop thousands from browsing through craft booths and enjoying food from strawberry shortcake to Japanese noodles. See more on page 16. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Visit us at www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews for more photos of this and other events.*

Also Inside:

- **Selectboard:** page 4
- **Acushnet Saw Mills:** page 12
- **School Committee:** page 19
- **Appeals Board:** page 17

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Okay, have to be quick about this. Getting the paper done early because of the holiday, and so much to say...so much to do.

This is a BIG BIG weekend in Fairhaven. See page 3 and page 6, call the Tourism office at 508-979-4085 and visit their website at <http://fairhaventours.blogspot.com/> (for events, visit <http://fairhavenevents.blogspot.com/>), so you don't miss anything.

The big news is the big parade on Sunday. It's going to be a really special one.

It's a long one, though, so take your chair with you. Set it up in the Kmart parking lot at the end so you get a good seat to hear the famed Philadelphia Mummers play. See page 3 for details or page 3 of our last issue, 6/14, on our website: www.neighbnews.com

We have lots of meeting coverage for you this week. See page 4 for Selectboard, page 19 for School Committee and page 17 for Appeals.

On page 22 you'll find letters from our readers.

And on page 25 a great story by Tim Haggerty on the anaerobic digester and solar panels that will eventually save the town lots of money on electricity.

We also have lots of fun stuff in this issue. Our cover story is the Homecoming Fair, and we have a few more pictures for you on page 16.

Be sure to get out there this weekend and enjoy all the good fun stuff going on.

Summer is in full swing and so are the bicentennial festivities. All the hard work of the last couple of years is coming to the point of it for all those volunteers, so get out there and have a good time.

We have a boat parade, a people parade, and all kinds of other stuff. See page three for that.

Until next week then...

See ya,



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 7, Issue 24
Thursday, July 5, 2012
Copyright 2012 Elizabeth A. David
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Published weekly on Thursdays by
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at
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Support the Food Pantry

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



The Pantry spends more than \$6,000 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 100 families each week.

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

CORRECTIONS

In our last issue (6/14/12) we incorrectly spelled the name of the winner of the logo design for the Fairhaven Community Trail Network in the caption. He is John Cronan of Fairhaven. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

Bicentennial Events this weekend

Fairhaven has a full weekend to celebrate the town's 200th birthday.

Vietnam Moving Wall

On Thursday, the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall will arrive in town and be set up at Cushman Park for viewing through Sunday, July 8 at 5 p.m., when there will be a closing ceremony including the National Anthem and Taps. **Official opening ceremony is on Friday, 7/6 at noon.** The wall, a half-size replica of the memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC, will be open for viewing 24 hours/day. There are 58,277 names listed on the wall, including four Fairhaven residents: Henry Anthony Chevalier, Donald Roger Desmaris, Peter William Roy and David Alan Drown.

History Day

Thursday, 7/5, is Fairhaven History Day. Open houses at all 11 historical town buildings and sites throughout the day. Download the map from <http://fairhavenevents.blogspot.com/> or call for a copy, 508-979-5085.

Author Visit

On Friday, July 6, 7:00 p.m. at Coast

Guard Auxiliary, 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven Mary Morton Cowan presents "The Arctic Explorations of Donald MacMillan." MacMillan purchased the schooner Bowdoin from William H. Hand Jr., a naval architect who lived at 80 Middle St. Book signing and refreshments follow. Free.

Schooner Bowdoin Visit

Saturday, 7/7, from 1-3 p.m. The historic Schooner "Bowdoin" is scheduled to visit at the Steamship Authority Dock, South & Main Streets.

Maritime Day

Saturday, July 7. Fairhaven Waterfront/Harbor. A variety of waterfront events including a **boat parade at 11:30 a.m. and blessing of the fleet at noon** from the Hurricane Barrier at Fort Phoenix.

Noon-2 p.m.: Food, music at New Bedford Ocean Explorium

Bicentennial Parade

The grand bicentennial parade steps off at 1 p.m. from Livesey Park in Fairhaven, travels along Main Street to Center Street by Town Hall, then left onto Green street and right (east)

onto Washington, ending up in the KMart parking lot for a **musical show by the famous Philadelphia Mummers.** This huge parade will take two hours to pass and includes Clydesdales, clowns and lots more (see our 6/14 issue at www.NeighbNews.com for details on page 3).

For more on Fairhaven's other Bicentennial events, call the Office of Tourism at 508-979-4085 or visit <http://fairhavenevents.blogspot.com/> or www.fairhaven200.org

See page 6 for more Fairhaven events.



The Hills-Mills Clowns do much more than march in parades. They are just one of many acts taking part in Fairhaven's Bicentennial parade on Sunday, 7/8, stepping off from Livesey Park at 1 p.m.

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Local Bands:

Friday: The Relics, 8-Mid.
 Saturday: Deja Vu, 8-Mid.
 Sunday: Neal McCarthy, 3-7

Poker Run

Join us for the Second Powerboat Poker Run of the season on Saturday, July 28th!!! Boats drop in Friday night (7/27), and leave at noon Saturday. Come by and check them out!

56 Goulart Mem. Dr. (Causeway Road) at Earl's Marina • Fairhaven
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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Thursday, July 5, 2012

Page 3

Noise complaints and hurricane preparedness for Selectboard

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Karen Isherwood of Teal Circle read a letter to the Fairhaven Selectboard on 6/18 to ask for some relief for her distress due to wind turbine noise, and offered suggestions on ways to mitigate her suffering.

"It's the last time I want to speak in public," said Ms. Isherwood, who recently stood before the Board of Health to describe how she says the wind turbine noise has disrupted her sleep and has caused strain on her already compromised immune system.

She asked for compensation for an increase in her electricity bill, due to constant running of air conditioners and fans she uses to help drown out the noise from the two turbines situated about 900 feet from her residence.

She also asked the board to consider an emergency amendment to the wind turbine contract that would restrict turbine operation to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In addition, she requested an immediate abatement to her property taxes and reimbursement for costs accrued when she sought temporary housing during times she found the noise unbearable.

She recalled a time when she visited Town Administrator Jeffrey Osuch to describe her "dire situation," to which she said he responded with "complete indifference and callousness."

She told the board Mr. Osuch's response was, "Do you realize we have already signed a contract?"

The board looked on and listened, while Mr. Osuch smiled and shook his head "no," side to side.

"Thank you for your letter," Chairperson Brian Bowcock told Ms. Isherwood. "I know this wasn't easy for you."

Dr. Bowcock told her the town was working with the state Department of Environmental Protection, as preparations for a DEP sound study have begun and will take place over the course of the next several weeks.

"I have had the DEP at my house already," Ms. Isherwood told the board. "He agreed that the sound is louder in my house than outside. He will be back."

Selectboard member Charles

Murphy told Ms. Isherwood that the developer, Sumul Shah of Fairhaven Wind LLC, shook hands with Mr. Murphy while vowing to respond to each WT noise complaint filed to be sure that all Fairhaven residents "are going to be OK."

"I am going to hold him to that," Mr. Murphy told Ms. Isherwood.

"I've listened to every word and I appreciate your effort to come out tonight," said board member Bob Espindola. "Thank you."

Ms. Isherwood asked the board what would happen to her family if results from the DEP found the developer to be in compliance with noise decibel levels, still forcing her to abandon her home.

"I think we're getting a little ahead of ourselves," said Mr. Bowcock. He said installing monitoring instruments would probably be the next

"Please leave a next of kin list with us," said [Harbormaster David] Darmofal to residents who might decide to ride out the storm with their boats.

step in the process, and he would welcome Ms. Isherwood to reappear before the board in the future.

"Thank you for listening," Ms. Isherwood said.

Also on the agenda, several West Island residents turned out in support of Matt and Dave Hebert, owners of Down the Hatch, who were petitioning the Selectboard for a Sunday Entertainment License, while two other West Islanders attended to complain to the Selectboard about the establishment being too noisy and disrupting their peace.

Sid Martin, a member of the Fairhaven Finance Committee and a resident on the island, told the Selectboard that he and his family are sometimes forced to wear earplugs because the music emanating from the bar is so disruptive.

"It's not music anymore," said Mr. Martin, describing the sound of the music as pulsating vibrations once it

enters his home.

Mr. Martin said he has called the police several times to complain about "excessive noise," and stated, "They're disturbing my peace."

The owners responded to the excessive noise complaint by explaining that they suffered extensive damage from Tropical Storm Irene, which they are still in the process of repairing. They admitted that further sound-proofing was necessary, and said that by the end of the next week they would have the situation under control.

"I think this year is going to be better than any other year for noise complaints," Dave Hebert told the board. He stated that new sound-proofing materials had been delivered, and commented that every year, after hurricane season, "it's like starting over again."

"We really care about if people are upset about the noise," said Dave. "We're not out to disturb the peace...we try our best."

Shirley Hunter of Almond Street told the board that she lives directly across from Down the Hatch, and had no issue with the music.

"There is no objection to it at all," she said. "Where we live...we have no problem at all."

Members of the public responded by clapping their hands and cheering.

One after the other, hands went up for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Heberts.

"I have to pretty much stand at the end of my driveway to hear it," said Karl Pedersen.

One woman said she has a boat in the marina and the music does not bother her or her two small children.

"The music is pleasant, respectful," she said.

Dr. Bowcock read a letter written by Building Commissioner Wayne Fostin which mentioned the use of a flammable tarp, in violation of the building code.

"This business should not be able to operate," wrote Mr. Fostin.

The owners stated that the tarp has since been removed.

There have been six complaints filed so far this year, according to Police Chief Michael Myers.

"If one person is disturbed, then

SELECT: cont'd on page 20

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Bicentennial Events

See page 3 for details.

Historic Vessels

Three historic vessels will visit Fairhaven's Bicentennial celebration July 6 and 7; schooner Bowdoin, schooner Hindu, and motor vessel Tracker. All three were designed in Fairhaven in the early 1900s. Arriving in Fairhaven Friday afternoon, the vessels may participate in a marine parade from Butler Flats Light through the hurricane barrier and blessing of the fleet on Saturday at 11:30 am. They plan **open decks for public tours from 1 to 3 PM on Saturday afternoon.**

Ground Breaking

The official groundbreaking of the new Wood School is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 7/9, at the Wood School site on Sconticut Neck Road.

Buzzards Bay Swim

The Buzzards Bay Swim is a 1.2 mile open-water swim starting at Ft. Taber in New Bedford and ending at Ft. Phoenix in Fairhaven. **Saturday, July 7, at 7:20 a.m.; awards ceremony at 9 a.m. at Fort Phoenix.**

For more info or to register, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/

Yard Sale Cancelled

The West Island Improvement Association yard sale scheduled for 7/7 has been cancelled.

UU Church Tours

Unitarian Memorial Church Summer Tours, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2PM-4PM. Dedicated in October 1904, this English Perpendicular Gothic style "cathedral" was designed by architect Charles Brigham and built by Henry H. Rogers in memory of his mother Mary E. Rogers. Guides are on hand to describe the architectural details. Accessible. Call 508-992-7081 or visit <http://www.uufairhaven.org/>.

Decorate with Flags

On July 8th, Fairhaven will host one of the largest parades this Town has seen in 50 years as Fairhaven

Celebrates its 200th Birthday.

The Committee is asking property owners to decorate with free flags to interested residents who will place them along their properties' frontage. Please notify John Medeiros at his cell: 508-990-0000 or by e-mail at JohnJ.Medeiros@yahoo.com if you are interested in acquiring some of the flags for display at no charge.

To learn more about all of the upcoming Bicentennial events go to www.Fairhaven200.org

Polish Reenactment

The Banner of Jasna Gora, a historical reenacting group portraying history from the 17th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth will be setting up a display on the grounds of the **Polish Manor Inn Bed and Breakfast, 1 Main Street, Fairhaven, on Saturday, July 7.** The group, made up of members from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware, portray military and civilian life to teach about this proud by largely unknown period of European History. The public is invited to explore this aspect of Polish heritage.

The group will also be marching in the Fairhaven Bicentennial Parade on Sunday, July 8.

For information, call the Polish Manor Inn at 774-206-6143.

Magician Show

Magician Debbie O'Carroll will present THE DREAM BIG - READ MAGIC SHOW at **Fairhaven's Town Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, July 10th from 10 to 11 a.m.** This performance is part of the Dream Big - READ Summer Reading Program at the Millicent library.

Magician Debbie O'Carroll is looking for a bedtime book! Will she choose an adventure, a fairy tale, a mystery, a history or a biography?

The Dream Big - Read Magic Show delights youngsters of all ages with stage magic, physical comedy and an innovative script. Full of imagination and creative audience involvement, this program is a summer treat for young readers.

Call the Millicent Library for more information, at 508-992-5342.

Farmers Market

The Fairhaven Farmers Market is held on the **lawn of Fairhaven High School from 1-4pm Every Sunday.**

Sponsored by The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee. For more information: ann.richard@gmail.com or 508-991-8315.

Concerts in Center

The Fairhaven Improvement Association's Summer Concert series will begin on **Thursday, July 12, on the Town Hall steps at 7PM.** The band, "Forever Young," will present a masterful tribute to the music of Neil Young.

- **On July 19, the "Shenanigans"** will make Irish eyes smile.
- Back by popular demand, the happening horns of **"The Infractions"** are scheduled for **July 26.**
- **On August 2, "Captain Malibu,"** who played their debut with the series, will play a mix of rock, reggae, funk, and alternative music.
- The series will close with Fairhaven's Native Son, **Jim Gagne, and "Shipyard Wreck" on August 9.**

The concerts are performed in front of the Town Hall on Center Street. These are events for young and old alike. Bring your chairs or blankets and be prepared to spend a pleasant evening enjoying the music and relaxing in a beautiful historic setting. Concerts are free and take place rain or shine. In the case of rain, the performance is moved into the Town Hall auditorium.

Artisans Market

A new outdoor marketplace called "The Dogwatch Artisans Market" will be taking place in Fairhaven on the Unitarian lawn, 102 Green St., Fairhaven.

We are organizing a group of local artists to display and sell their handmade designs on Thursday evenings from 4-7pm to coincide with Fairhaven's "Concerts in the Center."

For additional information, please take a peek at our facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/DogwatchArtisanMarket> or website <http://dogwatchartisanmarket.wordpress.com/>

Save the Date!

Family Fun Day at Cushman Park, Saturday, 7/14.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Free Walking Tours

New Bedford has a long and fascinating history, filled with stories of whalers going to sea for years at a time, wives left to run businesses, escaped slaves seeking freedom, and a connection to the sea that spans centuries. The public is invited to explore this history through free guided tours, offered seven days a week in July and August, at 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM. Most tours leave from New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park's visitor center, with Working Waterfront tours starting out from the Wharfinger Building at Fisherman's Wharf. Daily tours start on Monday, July 9. The park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford.

The visitor center is accessible to all. Admission is free. For additional information and schedules, go to the park website at www.nps.gov/nebe, call 508-996-4095, and visit the park's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NBWNHP>

Free Shuttle

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Southeastern Regional Transit Authority, and the City of New Bedford will be launching a new national park shuttle system, the NB LINE.

The NB LINE is aimed at connecting the New Bedford community, providing easy access to New Bedford attractions, promoting the history of New Bedford, and creating a cohesive visitor experience for the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to the whaling city. The shuttle system will have three routes starting from the National Park Visitor Center. The Downtown Route, running every 20 minutes, connects the waterfront to museums, parking garages, local businesses, and other visitor destinations in the downtown area. Buttonwood and Fort Taber Routes, running every 70 minutes, connect other primary visitor destinations of the city such as Buttonwood Park Zoo, Fort Taber Park, antique shops, and beaches to the historic downtown. The shuttle will run seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from July 5 through Labor Day, and September 4 through Columbus Day on weekends only. A

one day pass only costs \$1.00 for adults and is free for children and students with ID.

Information on shuttle routes and times will go live on the web on launch day, July 5th, and will be found at www.nps.gov/nebe/planyourvisit/nb-line.

Fort Taber Events

The following events will take place at Ft. Taber/Ft. Rodman, 1000C South Rodney French Boulevard, New Bedford.

July 14 & 15: Roman living history

July 22: Revolutionary War.

All events start at 9:00 am.

For more info visit www.forttaber.org/index.shtml or call 508-994-3938

Play In The Park

New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches has launched New Bedford's Play in the Park and Summer Food Program. The eight week program is free and will run from Monday, July 2nd through Friday, August 24th at 20 parks and playgrounds throughout New Bedford. Play in the Park sites are open Monday through Friday from 10am-2pm and in addition to snacks and lunch being served a variety of fun activities and special events will take place. For the complete summer program guide, visit: http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/publicfacilities/parkrecreation/2012/parks_brochure.pdf

Summerfest

The 2012 Greater New Bedford Summerfest Folk Festival will feature the best in contemporary, traditional and Celtic folk music from **Friday July 6 through Sunday July 8, in the Whaling National Historical Park in New Bedford.** The Summerfest is an affordable destination for families seeking a fun-filled weekend.

Featured among the nearly fifty musical acts are Peter Yarrow, Patty Larkin, Catie Curtis, Melissa Ferrick, Garnet Rogers, Peter Mulvey, Pete and Maura Kennedy, Dala, Annalivia, Zoë Lewis, Jeremy Kittel and Nathaniel Smith, Cassie and Maggie Macdonald, The Boxcar Lilies and Seth Glier. Situated in the city's beautiful National Park, the New Bedford Summerfest has gained a reputation as one of the finest folk

festivals in the country. The festival also features a high quality crafts show with over ninety juried, handmade crafts for sale at affordable prices.

Food will also be available including the justifiably world famous New Bedford scallops. Since Summerfest is a family festival, a children's activities area will also be featured.

The festival opens on Friday evening, July 6th with a special evening concert featuring Peter Yarrow, Annalivia and Women in Docs. On Saturday, July 7th and Sunday, July 8th, between 11:00 AM and 9:00 PM, the New Bedford Summerfest expands to seven stages in the National Park that range from the twelve hundred seat "Custom House Stage" to the intimacy of a sixty seat "Meet the Performer" area and a "Southcoast Musician Stage" featuring the best of local New Bedford musical talent.

An array of well-known and emerging artists will be featured on all seven stages over the weekend.

The festival opens on Friday, July 6 at 6:30PM with a special Summerfest fundraising concert featuring Peter Yarrow, Annalivia and Women in Docs. Tickets are \$15. Weekend festival hours are Saturday and Sunday, July 7 and 8 from 11:00AM to 9:00PM at \$20/day (available on site only); Weekend Pass (Saturday and Sunday only) at \$25 advance/ \$30 gate.

Concert tickets and weekend passes can be purchased at <http://www.newbedfordsummerfest.com/tickets.html> Become a Facebook fan of the New Bedford Summerfest at <http://www.facebook.com/SummerfestNewBedford>

Zoo Free to Military

Buttonwood Park Zoo announced the launch of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from July 4 through Labor Day. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Flea Market

The Smith Neck Friends Meeting annual Flea Market **Saturday July 7 held outside from 8 am to 1 pm.** Friends and neighbors clean out their garages and closets and all the extra items that are well liked but not longer used and give them to the Meeting. We have books, furniture, antiques and household items. The Ways and Means Committee is looking for vendors and others to come and sell their treasures. Rent a table for \$15.00. The Meeting provides an 8-foot table, chairs, all the advertising and a friendly group of vendors who always do very well by participating in the Flea Market. The Friendly Circle provides lunch and baked goods for sale. The event is handicapp accessible Please call 508-994-5108. Rain date Sat. July 14.

Senior Stretch

A new 10-week session of "Senior Stretch" starts Tuesday, July 10. The stretch and exercise class meets every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9:30 to 10:30 am., at the First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, Front Street, Marion. The cost for the 10-week session is \$45 for a total of 30 classes offered three days a week. The first class is free, and you may join a session at anytime. Those who start on the 4 or 5th week of a session, pay \$32; those who start the 6 - 10th week pay \$25. Each class includes low-impact aerobics, weights and stretching appropriate for all fitness levels.

The funding is provided by the Friends of the Marion Visiting Nurses.

The instructor is Karen Corcoran who is certified as a "Specialist in Senior Fitness" and is CPR and AED certified. Karen designs a new program for each 10-week session combining cardiovascular, strength training, flexibility and balance exercises. Contact Karen Corcoran at 508-295-1567 with any questions.

At the Library

Summer reading programs

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

Drop in story times for toddlers (Tuesdays at 10:30) and older children (Fridays at 11 am) are fun

and relaxed. No registration is necessary. Weekly drop in crafts are available to all. Be sure to visit and check in with your reading times to be eligible for end-of-summer prizes for the whole family.

AWESOME ALTERED BOOK WORKSHOP will be held on Saturday, July 7th from 1 to 2 pm. We've got the supplies—bring your imagination and make a clock, secret safe and other cool things from old books. Intended for young adults and adults. Sign up near the circulation desk.

CAKE POPS! Who doesn't love these cute confections? Teens are welcome to make some with the library staff on Wednesday, July 11th from 6 to 7:30 pm. Sign up!

THE GRAVESTONE GIRLS! These well-known researchers and cemetery experts are researching a Mattapoisett cemetery and will be here to unlock to mystery of old stones, headstone symbols and art, and tell us how to maintain historical headstones. Open to teens and adults who want to learn more about the spooky history and art of local cemeteries.

SAILOR's STARS will be held on Thursday, July 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 am for children ages preschool through grade 3. Learn how Mattapoisett sailors of long ago found their way around the world by following the stars. This story time is sponsored by the Mattapoisett Historical Society and is led by museum curator Elizabeth Hutchison.

GHOST STORIES in Old Hammondtown Cemetery.....on Saturday, July 14th from 8 to 9 pm. Join Barb Gaspar and others on site as we share a unique story telling experience about Mattapoisett lore and more. For extra fun come to our **LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP** early that day (Saturday from 1 to 2 pm) to make your own lantern to light your way! For teens and adults.

BIKE SAFETY with Capt. Day on Tuesday, July 17th at 4 pm. Families are welcome to hear from a professional about bike safety, helmets, equipment and rules of the road. Bring your bike and your safety equipment. Everyone is welcome.

OUTDOOR THEATRE with Ellen Flynn begins on July 11th at 3 pm for all ages. Creative, relaxed and imaginative. Come and help produce

an original play based on the book "How to Save Your Tail" by Mary Hanson. Make props and scenery. Rehearsals are every Wednesday and Friday in July at 3 PM.

So much more! Stop in for a calendar of events.

FRIENDS' USED BOOK SALE--THIS YEAR AT THE LIBRARY!

Here's the sale you've all been waiting for! The book sale begins Wednesday, July 18th from 6 to 8 pm for members of the Friends (you can join that evening) and continuing Thursday through Saturday during library hours. Hundreds of like-new novels and non-fiction (especially cookbooks) and lots of books for children. The library is located at 7 Barstow Street. Donations are now being accepted at the library.

FISHING POLES The library now circulates fresh and saltwater fishing poles with an adult library card and a \$5 deposit. Visit the library for more information about this new service and how to get a fishing license.

Plays for Kids

Introduce your children to the magic of live theatre at Theatre By The Sea! The 2012 Children's Festival features performances, on select Fridays in July and August at 10:00 am and 12 noon. Bring a picnic lunch to consume on the property, while enjoying the lush seaside gardens. Refreshments will also be available for purchase at the garden gazebo provided by Bistro by the Sea.

July 6: OSTC presents How I Became a Pirate. Melinda Long's best-selling book comes to life in an unforgettable musical adventure filled with wacky pirates and silly songs including "A Good One To Boot," "Green Teeth," "I'm Really Just a Sensitive Guy."

July 13 - PBS Kids' SteveSongs: Back by popular demand! Join PBS' Mr. Steve for a high-energy, interactive musical journey.

Single tickets are \$10.00 each with packages of three shows or more for \$8.00 per ticket. Theatre By The Sea is located at 364 Cards Pond Road, Matunuck, RI. Call the box office Mon.-Sat., 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, or buy tickets online 24-hours-a-day at www.theatrebythesea.com and via telephone during normal box office hours by calling 401-782-TKTS (8587).

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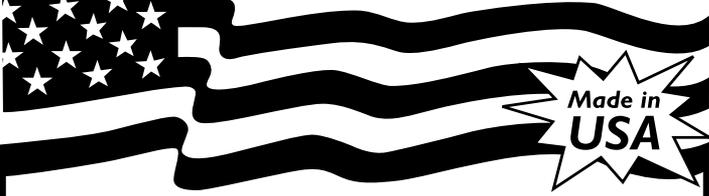
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Recipes of the Week

Fourth of July Flag Cake

2 boxes Betty Crocker® SuperMoist® white cake mix

Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box

4 containers Betty Crocker® Rich & Creamy vanilla frosting

Blue & red paste food color

Heat oven to 375°F (350°F for dark or nonstick pans). Place paper baking cup in each of 24 regular-size muffin cups. With 1 box of cake mix, make batter as directed on box, using water, oil and eggs. Divide batter evenly among muffin cups (about 2/3 full).

Bake 20–25 mins or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans 10 mins; remove from pans to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 30 mins. While 24 cupcakes are baking, make batter with remaining cake mix, water, oil and eggs. Repeat baking and cooling to make 24 more cupcakes.

While cupcakes are cooling, tint 1 container frosting with blue food color; tint 1 1/2 containers frosting with red food color. Set both aside. Spoon remaining white frosting into decorating bag with large tip.

On covered board or cutting board, arrange cooled cupcakes into rectangle. Mark off 12 cupcakes to be frosted blue. Pipe thick lines of white frosting onto remaining cupcakes; spread with spatula until smooth. Spoon blue frosting into separate decorating bag; pipe onto the 12 cupcakes and smooth. Carefully move blue section of cupcakes to join other portion of cupcakes.

Into decorating bag with large star tip, spoon red frosting. Pipe stars in rows to make red stripes. Using smaller star tip, pipe white frosting stars onto blue frosting section.

Makes 48 cupcakes. www.BettyCrocker.com

Cushman Park spruced up for the big day



Here are some shots of the guys from Stevens Home Improvement replacing the roof on the concert band shell at Cushman Park. Among the action photos, you get to see working foreman, Lou Rosa, standing tall in the middle of a job well done!! Kevin Vasconcellos, owner and master electrician of Vas Electric, carefully updates the wiring service within the band shell. We can't thank these two businesses enough for volunteering their time, talent, and treasure. The concert band shell will be ready to go for Bicentennial Family Fun Day Festival and for years to come! The **Family Fun Day will be held next weekend, Saturday, 7/14, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Cushman Park in Fairhaven.** Submitted photos. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com

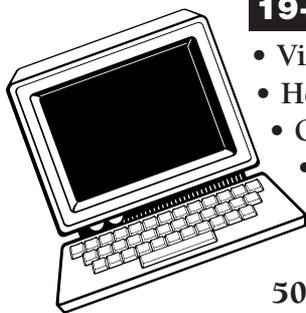
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Officials celebrate at Acushnet Saw Mills property

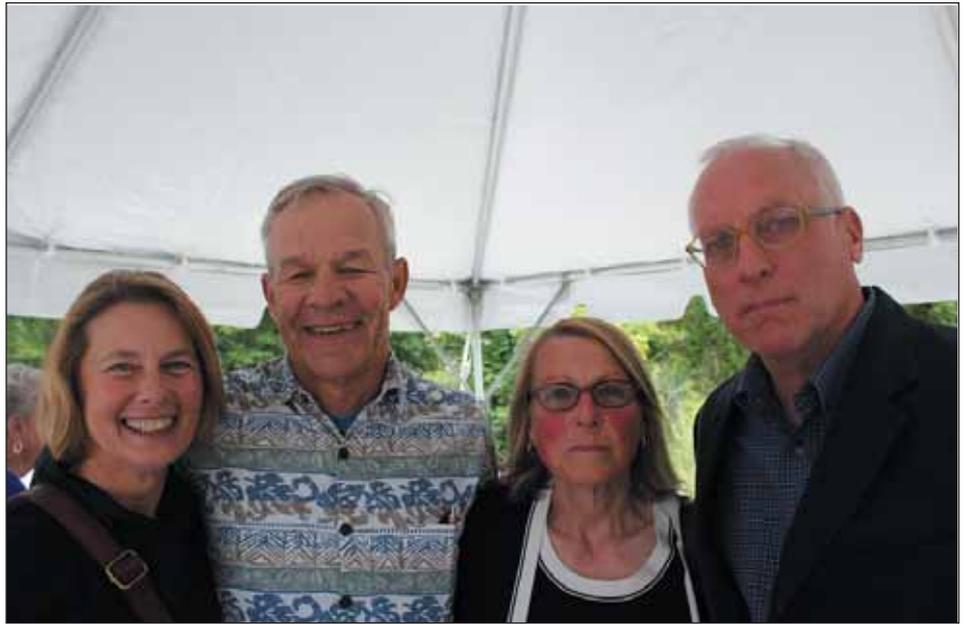
By Diane Kozak

Neighb News Correspondent

The Buzzards Bay Coalition and the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council (NBHTC) held a ceremony on June 18th at the former Acushnet Saw Mills site to award \$6.6 million in funds for natural resource restoration projects in the area.

The NBHTC was formed in the late 1990's to oversee the distribution of \$20 million in natural resource damage penalty funds paid by local companies that released polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the New Bedford Harbor. The hazardous chemicals polluted the harbor and waterways throughout the greater New Bedford area including the Acushnet River. The awarded funds were earmarked to be used for projects which restore, replace, or acquire and protect injured natural resources in and around the harbor.

"The real shame here is that we only got \$20 million for a settlement for this. It's a drop in the bucket," said state Representative Antonio Cabral. "They got away really cheap. The



ABOVE: The Hawes family (L-R), Nancy Duarte, Peter Hawes, Cynthia Ritter and Jason Ritter, sold the Acushnet Saw Mills property to the Buzzards Bay Coalition in 2007 so it would be preserved as open space and for passive recreation. BELOW: Miriam McCoy of Acushnet reminisces about skating on the pond at the Acushnet Saw Mills when she was a teenager during a ceremony celebrating a \$1.2 million grant to restore the riverbank and create passive recreation at the property. Photos by Diane Kozak. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com



harm that's been done in this community...it has been over decades."

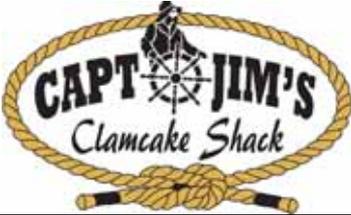
The projects to receive monies funded in the fourth, and final, round of funding awards include: \$2.9 million for the Acushnet River upland riparian walkway in New Bedford, \$190,000 for restoration of

Palmer's Island in New Bedford, \$1.2 million for the saw mill property where the ceremony was held, \$600,000 for the 46.6 acre LaPalme Farm in Acushnet, \$1.3 million to jump start the restoration of the Round Hill Marsh in Dartmouth and \$485,440 to continue work on three Buzzards Bay Islands.

The ceremony was attended by a large group including representatives from the agencies involved with the restoration projects, town, city and state politicians and area residents.

In addition to Rep. Cabral, guests included State Senator Mark Montigny, State Rep. Robert Koczera,

SAWMILL: cont'd next page



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SAWMILL: cont'd from previous page

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell and Acushnet Selectboard Chairperson David Wojnar.

The officials who spoke at the event offered their gratitude for the vast improvements the restoration projects have made in the area. Many of them also spoke about the history of the NBHTC and the two decades it took to distribute the funds using an installment payout approach with four separate rounds of funding over the time period.

The delayed approach allowed for the original \$20 million to be invested in U.S. Treasuries which earned \$10 million in interest over the twenty years. This meant that \$30 million in total projects were funded. Although the additional monies were put to good use, not all the politicians present felt the delay in distributing monies was the appropriate way to handle the damages award.

Also noted by various speakers were the disagreements between City of New Bedford officials with some of the originally approved projects which were to be funded in the fourth and final round of funding. The differences in opinion centered on

New Bedford officials' belief that all funds should be spent on areas close to the Harbor. Officials took issue with some of the projects which were first approved for funding in the final installment of awards because they felt the projects were too far away from the harbor.

With an agreement between New Bedford officials and the NBHTC reached, the remaining funds were awarded and announced.

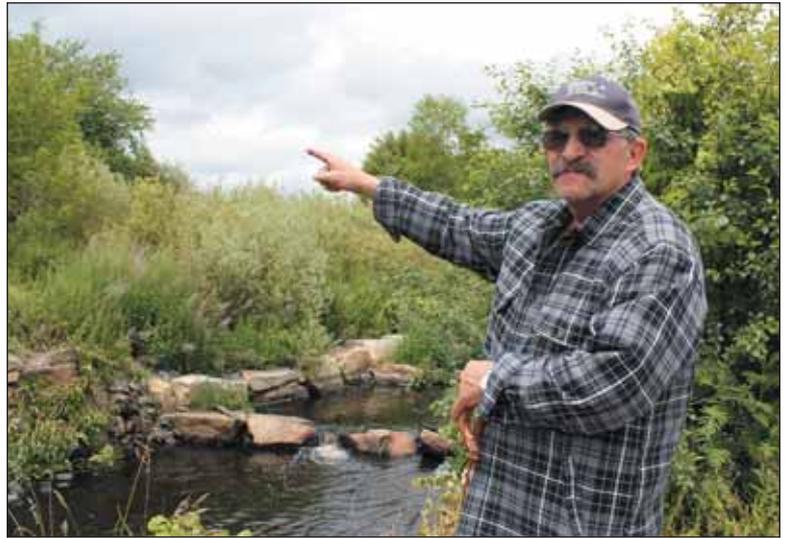
"The right decision, in fact, was made in the outcome stage of the final round. That didn't happen without some serious work," Senator Montigny said. "The decisions that were made initially for the

final round were highly inappropriate for the most impacted areas."

Also in attendance were members of the Hawes family who owned the Acushnet Saw Mill property for generations before they sold it for a reduced price to the Buzzards Bay Coalition in March of 2007.

"We believe in the preservation of the land and are committed to it. Our ancestors would have been very excited about what went on here today," Peter Hawes said.

...



Richard Letourneau visits the river while attending an event at the Acushnet Saw Mills property to celebrate \$6.6 million in Harbor Trustee money to restore PCB contaminated property. \$1.2 million will go to the Saw Mills. Mr. Letourneau used to fish, raft and swim on the river when he was growing up in the neighborhood. Photo by Diane Kozak. See *iy* in color at www.NeighbNews.com

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Kool Kids Summer Registration

Kool Kids is for children entering 1st grade to age 12. Children will have fun participating in a variety of sports, games and art activities. Each session will also include special themed events. Children are grouped by the grade they will enter in the fall. Last year's program was full every week. Sign up early so we can take more participants. Monday thru Friday 8AM-3PM, Drop off 7:45AM. Pick up 3PM

*Extended day will be available. AM only (7AM) - \$25, PM only(4PM) - \$25, Both \$40.

Weekly Schedule: Session 1: June 18-22. Session 2: June 25-29 (\$140). Session 3: July 2-6 (no July 4) Session 4: July 9-13. Session 5: July 16-20 Session 6: July 23-27. Session 7: July 30-August 3 Session 8: August 6-10. Session 9: August 13-17 Session 10: August 20-24

Alyssa Niemiec Tennis Academy

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July Mall Trips

- 7/11 Hyannis Mall & Xmas Tree Shop
- 7/18 Emerald Square Mall
- 7/25 Providence Place Mall and Whole Foods

Entertainment Fabulous Overtones

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

Special Activities

Shingles Clinic

Thurs. 7/19 2:00 p.m. Must be 60 yrs. old and have Medicare or Mass Health. You must also fill out a form available at the Sr. Center by 7/12. Wal-Greens will then call you to determine your cost. Please consult your doctor before receiving this vaccine.

American Sign Language-

Conversational signing course beginning July 10. Every Tues. & Thurs. 10-11 a.m. Fee: \$10.00 for supplies. Open to anyone interested in learning a fun new language. Instructor Meghan Silvia

Senior Work-Off Program

Earn a \$500.00 tax credit for 62.5 hours work. Work in a town department. For more information call the Senior Center and ask for Phyllis.

Dental Screening

Thurs. 7/26 9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Carly White, dental hygienist. Screening, cleaning and flouride treatments will be available and covered by MassHealth. All others \$75.00 Must fill out a form and sign

up for appt. at the Sr. Center.

Senior Singles Supper Club

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

Cost is \$3.00 for a light supper. Please call the senior center BY NOON the Friday before to reserve a seat. This is a nice way for widowed or single seniors to enjoy supper in the company of others.

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.

Yoga for YOU

Finally yoga for me! This modified yoga format offers you the ability to participate without having to get down on the floor. Mon. 10:15-11:15.

Ongoing Programs

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Homecoming crowd beats the heat



The heat on Saturday, 6/30, didn't stop thousands from enjoying crafts booths, food and entertainment in Fairhaven town center. A breeze off the ocean kept things tolerable. According to paramedics, only one person was overcome by the heat and only needed some fluids. TOP LEFT: Children enjoy a ride on an antique fire engine. TOP RIGHT: Antone "Hawk" Medeiros in one of his signature costumes luring people to the Livesey Club booth for Lobster Rolls and fruit cups. ABOVE LEFT: The Shurtleff clan, L-R, Sara Shurtleff, Jan Shurtleff, Sandra Stapleton, Crystal Shurtleff. In carriages, Landon and Sophia. Both Sophia and Jan had their first Del's Lemonate at the Homecoming Fair. And Jan turned 83 on Saturday, too. ABOVE RIGHT: Dancers kick up their heels in front of town hall. Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Visit us at www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews for more photos of this and other events.

Fairhaven Road Race just keeps on growing



According to the “cool running” website, 1854 people finished the 38th annual Father’s Day Road Race in Fairhaven on Sunday, 6/16, nearly 100 more than last year’s record-breaking 1764. This year, 1343 ran in the 5K and 511 in the 10K. Visit http://www.coolrunning.com/results/12/ma/Jun17_Fairha_set1.shtml for results. ABOVE: Runners take off at the start of the race on Adams Street near Hastings Middle School. Photo by Heidi Winnett. See it in color at www.Neighbnews.co.. Visit us at www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews for more photos of this and other events.

Appeals board votes on Windwise complaint

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Windwise member Donna McKenna lost her appeal to revoke the wind turbine building permit after an explosive public hearing during the Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on 6/14.

Several members of Windwise reacted to the vote by standing and shouting out comments such as “This board is wrong,” and “She had a right,” furious after ZBA Chairperson Peter DeTerra abruptly ended Windwise Attorney Ann DeNardis’s argument and called a vote that happened so fast, residents in attendance were not even sure if a vote had taken place.

Mr. DeTerra concurred with Board Member Rene Fleurent, Jr. when Mr. Fleurent interrupted Ms. DeNardis during her presentation to call for a motion.

“I haven’t finished my argument, and I have several different points to bring up,” said Ms. DeNardis.

Mr. Fleurent made a motion to approve, speaking over a roomful of protesting Windwise members, while

Ms. DeNardis objected to the move.

“Anytime a board member makes a motion, the hearing is closed to the public...board members only, so...” Mr. DeTerra said.

“I object. I’m being denied my due process of law,” Ms. DeNardis stated.

“This isn’t a law, this is a public hearing. It’s slightly different,” said Mr. Fleurent.

Order in the room deteriorated fast with shouting coming from all corners.

“Please! We have a motion on the floor,” called out Mr. DeTerra.

“Let her speak!” shouted Karen Isherwood of Teal Circle.

“I waited four months for this hearing and I’m not even allowed to have a hearing?” said Ms. DeNardis.

“Why won’t you let her speak?” shouted Windwise member Ken Pottel.

Meanwhile, amidst the commotion, the board voted 4-0 against the appeal, with Vice-Chairperson Joseph Borelli recusing himself prior to the hearing, and Board Member Peg Cook sitting silently and motionlessly.

“What are you voting on?” asked

someone from the floor.

“Do you care about this town at all?” said Mr. Pottel. “Let her finish her presentation! This is wrong!”

“Ok, we’ll vote one more time,” said Mr. DeTerra.

“We voted already!” said Mr. Fleurent, just before Mr. DeTerra took a recount of the vote.

“I can’t vote,” Ms. Cook told Mr. DeTerra when he asked her how she voted.

“What do you mean you can’t vote?” said Mr. DeTerra. “As long as you’re up to speed you can vote.”

“I haven’t been,” said Ms. Cook.

In a follow-up interview, Ms. Cook said she was absent for Ms. McKenna’s first ZBA hearing, and claimed that she could not legally vote on the matter.

Mr. DeTerra then stated that the board had four “no” votes so the vote was legally upheld.

“I’m sorry. Thank you,” Mr. DeTerra told a roomful of irate Windwise members.

“Shut her off! Shut her off! Keep her quiet so you don’t have to listen to

APPEALS: cont’d on next page

Appeals: cont'd from previous page

her," shouted Mr. Pottel.

During the hearing, which had been continued several times since 3/7, Ms. DeNardis's presentation was interrupted a number of times, with Mr. DeTerra ordering Ms. DeNardis to "move to the next one (point)."

Ms. DeNardis added a fresh argument to her presentation, to which Mr. DeTerra told her she was unqualified to make, and that board members were incapable of understanding.

She presented the board with original copies of the plans featuring the locations of the wind turbines and cited the wind turbine noise standard bylaw that requires a 600-foot setback from the nearest property line.

Ms. DeNardis pointed out that the bylaw does not specify whether the 600-foot setback originates from the base of the turbine, or from the tip of the turbine blade that extends out closer to the nearest property line.

"A wind turbine is not the base of the turbine. It's not just a pole like a telephone pole. What makes a wind turbine...is those blades," said Ms. DeNardis, holding up a ruler, placing it over the site plans, and pointing out that one inch is equal to 100 feet, the scale of the plans.

"These board members don't understand about the engineer aspect of it," Mr. DeTerra told Ms. DeNardis.

"I think this board can understand, sir," she replied.

"You're not an engineer," Mr. DeTerra told Ms. DeNardis, saying that only an engineer is qualified to present information on scale to the board members.

"I'm not an engineer," stated Ms. DeNardis, "but we have one inch equals 100 feet. That's common sense. Anyone can read one inch is 100 feet.

"These people (board members) don't understand the scale here," stated Mr. DeTerra.

"Does anyone here not understand what I am saying here? One inch equals 100 feet," said Ms. DeNardis to the board. Board members did not respond.

"They don't understand," Mr. DeTerra insisted. "Move to the next one, please."

"Well, I'm going to finish my point first, sir," said Ms. DeNardis.

"Ok, finish your point, but..." Mr. DeTerra said.

"My point is," continued Ms. DeNardis. "...If we go from the tip of the blade to the property border of George Bragdon, it's five and a half inches. That would be five hundred..."

Mr. DeTerra interrupted again, to which Ms. DeNardis responded, "Could I please finish my statement?"

"This is your opinion. You're not an engineer," Mr. DeTerra told Ms. DeNardis. "Please don't use the ruler."

"I'm entitled to make an argument," she said.

"You can make an opinion. All of this is opinion only," he told her.

"Are you going to let me finish?"

"No," replied Mr. DeTerra. "Because you're doing it wrong."

Ms. DeNardis argued that since the bylaw did not specify either the tower or the blade, the board should take the more restrictive interpretation of the bylaw instead of the "most generous" in order to "protect the community."

You're not an engineer. These people do not know scale. Move to the next one. I'm telling you."

"They do not understand this ruler?" said Ms. DeNardis holding up the ruler in front of her.

"No one said they cannot understand a ruler," said Mr. DeTerra.

"I think everyone here has had at least a second grade education and knows how to use a ruler," she told him. "I think you're insulting other members of this board, and your bias is evident, Mr. DeTerra."

Ms. DeNardis continued her argument and insisted that the board was obligated to follow the zoning bylaws requiring a 600-foot setback. With her ruler, she pointed out that the tip of the blade makes it only 550 feet from Mr. Bragdon's property.

Mr. Fleurent spoke out, saying that he personally interpreted the bylaw as using the tower as the reference point, not the tip of the blade.

"The turbine, one must admit,

would not be the same animal if it did not have the blade," stated Ms. DeNardis. "So the true measuring of the turbine should be from the tip of the blade...the closest entity to the property line. To omit the tip of the blade...it would be a telephone pole...an obelisk standing in the middle of the field."

Ms. DeNardis argued that since the bylaw did not specify either the tower or the blade, the board should take the more restrictive interpretation of the bylaw instead of the "most generous" in order to "protect the community."

"Mr. Fostin failed to do that," said Ms. DeNardis. "It's 550 feet away."

Building Commissioner Wayne Fostin did not attend the hearing.

"Thank you, that's your opinion," Mr. DeTerra stated.

An argument ensued over the WT bylaw requiring a ten-acre parcel and its application to the issue of the three municipal properties being one contiguous lot for zoning purposes. The vote immediately followed, which brought the hearing to a close.

Ms. Cook then leaned toward Mr. DeTerra, saying, "Peter, can I be excused from this one (the next hearing)? I'm not going to vote," and then quickly left the meeting.

Upon opening the next hearing, while Windwise members continued voicing their objections over the vote, Mr. Fleurent turned to Mr. DeTerra and asked, "If I could, can I please ask for a short moment of recess so I can re-gather myself?"

A five-minute recess was followed by a relatively swift unanimous vote to approve two variances for a preexisting shed for Scott Hyman of 54 Bayview Avenue.

Several Windwise members who were present at the hearing in support of Donna McKenna, who is a plaintiff of the wind turbine lawsuit against the Town of Fairhaven and member of the School Committee, lingered outside Town Hall after the meeting. Ms. DeNardis commented that Ms. McKenna was denied her right to a legitimate appeal by board members who were "appointed to protect the community."

"A complete denial of our rights," Ms. DeNardis stated. ●●●

School Committee approves changes to FHS handbook

By Laura Fedak Pedulli

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven School Committee formally wrapped up the 2011-2012 school year at its meeting on 6/20, entertaining several presentations and approving changes in the high school student handbook that allow more flexibility for student mobile device usage and water consumption in the classroom.

Under the approved changes requested by Fairhaven High School (FHS) Principal Tara Quirk Kohler, the ban on mobile device usage is lifted in two scenarios: during free lunch and when authorized by an instructor to enhance a classroom lesson.

She said some teachers already have “unofficially” let students use such technology when appropriate. “We’ve had positive feedback. Teachers feel confident about its use in the classroom.”

Also, next year students will be permitted to use their mobile devices during their lunch period.

“We kind of realized that if it’s not interrupting education, it’s okay. Ninety percent of kids are doing it for the right purposes,” the principal said.

Next year’s handbook also will allow students to consume water in class.

Assistant Principal Mary Jane Muello explained that FHS class officers approached the administration with the recommendation with research in hand on the health benefits of hydration.

“We do have great kids, sometimes we have to take the opportunity to listen to them... They are young adults and we need to acknowledge some recommendations they feel are warranted,” Ms. Muello said. The majority of staff said “it’s about time,” when asked if they minded the change, she said.

On the discussion of restricting students, the principal said: “At some point you feel like you are banning everything a kid needs to live.”

The committee agreed with the change.

Superintendent Robert Baldwin said giving students more freedom with responsibility is an important part of FHS culture.

“We are developing a culture that if you really want to be adults, you

show you are responsible,” he said.

In other matters, Principal Kohler said a core group of teachers conducted an evaluative study that asked FHS staff to rate themselves as part of the school’s two-year and five-year strategic plans. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEACS) requires such plans as part of its accreditation process.

“Teachers did a nice job being fair, open minded, when documenting what we do well and what we need to work on,” she said.

Ms. Kohler reported the goals of the targeted plans, which include better “21st century technology,” stronger in-school intervention programs, continuation of vertically aligning curriculum, and the development of more systematic ways to examine student work.

The study also looked at FHS’s strengths/needs. Ms. Kohler said one

We are developing a culture that if you really want to be adults, you show you are responsible [Dr. Baldwin]

strength is student-teacher rapport outside of their regular classroom experiences. She said 40 faculty members put technology as the school’s highest need.

“It’s a heavy priority,” she said.

Committee member Brian Monroe suggested a district-wide approach for technology that could include a computer leasing program.

“It would be nice to see a technology plan for the whole district, so we can introduce it at the earliest levels,” he said.

An NEACS committee is visiting FHS on 9/30 to assess FHS’s fidelity to the strategic plans. This visit will include interviews with teachers, walk-throughs, and shadowing of students, Ms. Kohler said.

“I really believe this is a fair assessment of what we do,” she said.

Dr. Baldwin said he is confident FHS is measuring up.

“Bring on NEACS,” he said. “I’m

excited for people to see what we’re doing.”

Also that night, the committee approved curriculum changes presented by Rogers Elementary Principal Wendy Williams, head of the Civil Rights Task Force, that will teach acceptance, tolerance and self esteem building as well as Internet safety and cyber-bullying prevention. The district will adopt Botvin LifeSkills Training for Grades 6-8 and Botvin Lifeskills Training and MARC Cyberskills Curriculum for Grades 9-12.

The Elementary Schools will use MARC Cyberskills Curriculum to supplement its Peacebuilders curriculum, but not until the following year due to the building project.

In another matter, Ms. Williams said the math curriculum for K-6 is being updated to more vertically align benchmarks for each class and will be rolled out next year.

Lastly, the committee approved a lunch price increase, from \$2.10 to \$2.20 in the elementary schools and from \$2.35 to \$2.45 in the middle school/high school. The committee was scheduled to approve the district lunch contract for Chartwells Educational Dining Services, however, after an unscheduled Executive Session on the matter the board tabled that decision.

Dr. Baldwin also announced that the official groundbreaking of the new, combined elementary school is scheduled for 10 am on 7/9 at the Wood School site on Scoticut Neck Road.

Concerning the new school, Mr. Monroe urged the administration to inform parents of next year’s bus routes for students relocated to the Oxford School building during construction next year.

“The number-one concern brought up is transportation,” said Mr. Monroe. “We need to ease fears and get news to people as early as we possibly can.”

Business Administrator Paul Kitchen said he would disseminate the information soon, but cautioned parents not to expect “door to door” service next year or in the future.

“We will be within the guidelines, but door-to-door service will not be the norm,” he said. ●●●

Legal Notices/Public Hearings

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on July 09, 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 Albert L. Roza Location 162 Weeden Road Plot 32A Lot 9 Purpose perform perk test within 50' of BVW.
- Notice of Intent Applicant Raymond Morrison Location 45 Nakata Ave. Plot 43 Lot 110 Purpose cap existing boat ramp and wall within a coastal beach, VE flood zone. After the fact filing.

- Notice of Intent Applicant Peter Teves Location 25 Shaws Cove Plot 33 Lot 38 Purpose construct small concrete pad, grading, and maintaining front yard. Within a barrier beach and VE flood zone.

Respectfully submitted
Andrew Jones Chairman
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

we have to act," he said.

The owners were told to mitigate the noise and the board voted to revisit the matter in 30 days.

The Selectboard also held the annual Hurricane Preparedness meeting to a considerably thinned-out crowd. The main message: If you're told to evacuate West Island, there is a reason.

Fire Chief Timothy Francis said the department revised the emergency plan after attending various state hurricane preparedness meetings.

Mr. Francis urged residents to turn off all gas tanks, secure propane tanks, and kill the main electrical power switch to their homes in the event of a storm. He added that the fire department will assist any residents who need help evacuating the island. But once the storm begins and the causeway is washed out, it would be make rescue a challenge.

Public Works Superintendent Vincent Furtado urged residents of West Island and Sciticut Neck to get their Hurricane Permits earlier, rather than wait for an approaching storm.

Hurricane Permits are color-coded according to neighborhood, and are used to identify residents who wish to return to their properties after a severe storm. Residents who do not

have permits will not be allowed past the checkpoint on Sciticut Neck Road.

"Don't wait until the TV says there is a storm coming tomorrow," said Mr. Osuch.

He added that pets are a major concern and residents should plan ahead what they would do with their pets, because they are not allowed in the emergency shelters. He added that since the Wood School will be demolished this summer, the emergency shelter will now be located at Hastings Middle School.

Chief Myers told residents that the police department would also assist residents during evacuation and will be present at boat ramps, but he stressed that during the height of the storm, officers will not be out assisting residents.

Council on Aging Director Anne Silvia said she has a shut-in list of residents, and she is working with the Red Cross to stock more emergency supplies. She urged all senior citizens to contact her so their needs can be assessed.

Harbormaster David Darmofal said his most important warning for residents is to get their boats out of the water.

"Please leave a next of kin list with us," said Mr.

Darmofal to residents who might decide to ride out the storm with their boats. He said boat ramps would stay open until it is unsafe.

"Please do it early. Two to three days ahead of time," said Mr. Darmofal.

"When the stuff

hits the fan," said Shellfish Warden Timothy Cox, "You gotta be ready to go."

Sewer/Wastewater Superintendent Linda Schick reminded people that wastewater service will be shut down during storms, so be prepared to have your water turned off if you live in low-lying areas.

Tree warden Tony Medeiros said he has ordered another new chipper, and said, "We're ready to go, as ready as we'll ever be."

Mr. Medeiros warned people to check with authorities before touching live wires while moving trees and limbs. He said he and his crew will be working once storms pass, but added that in cases of real emergency, such as trees or limbs blocking the road and police and fire need to pass, he would be ready to "roll with them."

"The Town is prepared," said Dr. Bowcock.

The board reminded residents not to run a gasoline-fueled generator inside a garage or house due to the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. An emergency pamphlet is available at Town Hall.

Also at the meeting, the Selectboard hired five new police officers, after interviewing nine candidates. One candidate did not attend the interview.

Christopher Bettencourt, Marcy Haaland, Andrew Quinn, Alexander Kisla, and Wayne Mello were nominated by Dr. Bowcock, to which all three boardmembers voted unanimously to appoint.

All five of the new officers were either born in Fairhaven or now reside in town. The Selectboard voiced their concern about funding the candidates to attend the Police Academy, only to leave Fairhaven for other communities. Each candidate expressed their desire to remain in Fairhaven throughout their careers.



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	July 2012	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	5	0949	2214	0328*	1519*
Friday	6	1040	2304	0409*	1609*
Saturday	7	1131	2354	0447*	1657
Sunday	8	----	1221	0523	1745
Monday	9	0043	1310	0600	1837
Tuesday	10	0131	1359	0642	1941
Wednesday	11	0219	1449	0729	2107
Thursday	12	0310	1541	0824	2215
Friday	13	0404	1637	0922	2304
Saturday	14	0501	1733	1017	2348
Sunday	15	0556	1822	1108	----

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

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

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 8/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Tues., 7/10, Arsene St., 6:45 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 7/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 7/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues. 7/10 At BPW Mtg, Arsene St.

Mon., 7/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Public Works

Mon., 7/9, BPW Bldg., 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wed., 7/11, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 7/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 7/19, Parting Ways Bldg., 6:30

Selectboard

Wed., 7/11, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

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Destruction of Student Records

Please be advised that, in accordance with applicable state regulations, the Fairhaven Public School district will be destroying the temporary student records on file for students who exited the Fairhaven Public Schools seven or more years ago (students who have not attended since 2005). Temporary student records include all special education records [copies of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), test reports, progress reports, etc.]. School districts are required to destroy these materials seven years

after the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school system. Destruction of these records will begin on or after September 1, 2012. Should you wish to obtain your records, you must contact the Special Education Office at (508) 979-4000 prior to August 31.

Please note that permanent records (the student's transcript) shall be maintained by the school department and may only be destroyed 60 years following his/her graduation, transfer, or withdrawal from the school system.

Letters from our readers

Parent objects to book for middles schoolers

It is to me, in poor taste, and in bad judgement, that the book *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie, has appeared on the Hastings Middle School grade 8 summer reading list again this year.

Contrary to the administrators' opinion, I do not feel in the least, that it is an appropriate book for any adult, nonetheless educators, to recommend.

Last year, it was the sole required reading selection for that grade. I read the book, in advance of my son, so that I could discuss it with him as he read it. I was completely flabbergasted to believe this was the required reading, and immediately expressed my shock and disappointment to the principal. Fortunately, the required reading title was changed, and I thought I had seen the end of that book. The principal afterward told me, twice, that had there been a choice of books on the list, he would NOT have removed "The Diary..."

I did not think much about it, because I didn't think he was serious after being exposed to the language and content.

Later in the year, I read in *The Wanderer*, a letter explaining that the book also received controversy at O.R.R., in Mattapoisett. I was again shocked to think that ANOTHER school district was recommending this title. In a report in "The Standard Times" regarding the book, the H.M.S. principal said he changed the required book because of "inappropriate language and content." He appeared to be a man of character for saying it. I do wish now, that he had informed the reporter about how he planned to recommend it, had there been a choice. Perhaps the reporter could have inquired what his fascination with this book was. I'd love to know.

I would also love to know if all of the educators at H.M.S. believe that for ALL of the books on the library shelves, this one is a "must read." This book is like NOTHING my kids have read in the classroom. Whether the principal, or any of the "summer reading selection committee" admits it, or not, it is a completely inappropriate "recommendation."

First of all, I know some of the content is common "sidewalk lan-

guage." And I can face reality that my own kids might stumble across the book. But to RECOMMEND this book is WRONG.

I doubt the administration would allow a student to use this language in conversations with them. So why are they promoting it? To have it on the list IS promoting it.

The principal informed me this year that although the selection may not be right for "my" child, he feels that since there is a choice, it is okay on the list. I wish he would explain what he sees as the "literary value" of this book. It appears the same people who have the opportunity to influence children in positive ways, choose not to.

He says that he is leaving the choice up to "parental" guidance. That's great, except he knows that some children do not get "parental" guidance. Why else does he feel the need to suggest in his newsletters for us, to limit super caffeinated drinks, and keep bed times during vacation close to the norm, because he must believe we are lacking in parental guidance.

Some unsuspecting parent might falsely believe that all of the recommendations are sound, and tell "Johnny" to pick "any" book. I think a child might gravitate to this book because on quick inspection, it looks very similar to the extremely popular "Wimpy Kid" books, by Jeff Kinney, that contain cartoons as well as text.

Parents can give this book to their child whether it is recommended by the school or not.

The recommendation of this book, is like me wearing a hot pink mini, lace stockings, five-inch heels, and showing up drunk to open house. It reflects poorly on me, but it certainly isn't illegal.

The recommendation of this book will always be for me, H.M.S.'s "hot pink mini."

Michelle J. Furtado, Fairhaven

Thing North & Thing South (apologies to Dr. Suess)

They've escaped from the box and are creating havoc. How do we safely get them back in the box?

The debate over the health effects of the wind turbines will continue. The health effects studies has been elevated by the Board of Health requesting Department of Environ-

mental Protection (DEP) involvement. The need to explain the effect on property values belongs with town leaders.

The other important aspect of the process is whether the town will save money with this form of alternative energy?

The town must begin publicly reporting energy cost savings or losses from the turbines at least quarterly beginning no later than the fourth quarter of CY2012. In the second quarter of calendar year 2012, the turbines began providing electricity for some number of municipal buildings. What facilities are served by the turbines? How much is being saved? What additional cost is the town incurring by helping the developer come on line? What are projected savings over the 20-year life of the contract? Is this all smoke and mirrors from a financial point of view? Town leaders need to make this information public and follow it up with regular financial reports.

In a recent letter to the editor, it was pointed out that the town is in a public/private partnership with Palmer Capital. I'm not quite sure how this happened but I think the town leaders owe the taxpayers an explanation. What is the impact of this on the total alternative energy program? This was not part of the 2007 Town Meeting vote.

Rough calculations indicate the project may cost the town money beginning about 2020. If inflation increases at 2% per year, the highly touted \$100,000 yearly lease will be worth about \$62,000 by the year 2031. The town's income would be approximately \$1.6 million dollars instead of the \$2 million thrown about in 2007. The cost of the electricity increases 2% per year, the developer's inflation hedge. If the rate at start up of the turbines is \$0.10/KwH* it increases to around \$0.15/KwH in 2031; a 50% increase over the 20 years. How does this compare to projected costs from the current electric supplier?

By 2020, the estimated inflation adjusted value of the lease is about \$84,000 while the town's cost for electricity increases by about 16%. This is the tipping point where the town pays more than it receives in inflation adjusted dollars. Does the so-called public/private partnership

LETTERS: cont'd next page

Letters: cont'd from previous page

provide protection for the taxpayer?

I voted against the turbines twice, in 2007 because it appeared the town got insufficient value from the turbines. I still believe the town will spend more than it gains in the long run. In addition, health effects and other potential hazards of the turbines were not well understood. In 2011, I felt nothing changed on either of these points and the town leaders changed the rules of the game so I voted against it again.

It is now time for the town leadership to step up and let the taxpayer know what they are really gaining (or losing) from the turbines.

Marsby Wartens, Fairhaven

**Editor's note: The cost of electricity to the town of Fairhaven will be 7.43 cents per kilowatt hour the first year, increasing 2.3% each year after.*

West Island Hero

On May 24th, 2012, my husband Antonio (Tony, as he likes to be called) Alfonso was walking up Ebony Street to the mailboxes on the top of Ebony and Causeway Road. Tony has done this thousands of times, but this day was different. My husband, 69 years old, who had just retired three weeks prior, collapsed and fell to the ground.

Thanks to quick thinking and team work, my husband's life was saved. It started with a young man of 19 years who saw my husband go down and tried to get up, only to fall again, and not having the strength to try again.

The young man, Christopher (Chris) Hunter, witnessed the whole ordeal and sprang into action. He tried to help my husband up from the ground (my husband was experiencing heart failure).

Well, Chris couldn't get my husband up all alone, so he ran to his grandparents' house on West Island (Shirley and Herbert Hunter). Shirley got her car and she and Chris arrived at the scene, and with the help of Nick the landscaper put my husband in Shirley's car and brought my husband home. Tony refused a call to 911, thinking he was suffering from congestion due to pollen allergies.

But with my husband never looking so pale, and the cold and clamminess of his skin, and inability to stand on his own, 911 was called. EMTs arrived and worked on saving my husband's life and would not leave until he finally agreed to go by ambulance to Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River (my husband, needless to say, is a very stubborn man).

If it wasn't for Chris Hutner, first man on scene, my husband Tony would not have made it. That's how bad the condition of his heart was and is (waiting now for open heart surgery).

The slogan "West Island is Beautiful" is not just about the scenery, it's about the people who live here and look after each other, and it's about "heroes" like Chris Hunter.

A life was saved on May 24th, 2012, and you, Chris, made it all possible!

With gratefulness and love,
Tony & Jackie Alfonso, West Island

Misunderstood Again

To Acushnet Voters:

Thankyou from the hearts of the resident members of the Presidential Terrace Tenants' Association for the wonderful support you gave us through our petition with 325 valid signatures requesting a grant from

the Community Preservation Committee's (CPC) funds to replace 28 sliding glass doors. Also, for your Town Meeting votes resulting in the award of the grant to us. Our thanks are extended to our CPC and our Council on Aging, both of whom supported us

from the inception of the request to the awarding of the grant.

Now, I must call your attention to the articles in both the Standard-Times and the Advocate reporting on the Acushnet Town Meeting of 6/4/12. I quote from one article: (1) Residents of Presidential Terrace turned out in large numbers to approve funding for sliding glass doors (2) They left soon after the vote, decimating the number of Town Meeting voters.

Statement #1 is 100% RIGHT. Statement #2 is 100% WRONG!

When I read those statements, the only conclusion I could draw from them was "Presidential Terrace residents are the most gratuitous examples of ingratitude that I have ever heard of." Because I have read many articles relating to Presidential Terrace by this author and the fairness she has always shown to us I knew this misstatement could only have been made because of incorrect info given to her.

Here are the facts NOT stated in those reports: (1) Only our Director left after the vote on our Article 13. She was there only to provide additional info needed before the vote. As a Somerset resident, she could not vote at Town Meeting.

(2) Our residents stayed from the opening of Special Town Meeting with Article 1 to the close of the STM with Article 23.

(3) We listened to the comments on each of the 23 Articles and then voted as our heart and conscience dictated. Could anyone have done more?

We left with the mass exodus, our residents and many other voters feeling pride in a job well done. Imagining our chagrin when we learned in the morning newspapers that we had been singled out as a bunch of INGRATES!!!

A biblical invocation applying to all who read those reports warns us: Judge not lest ye be judged also. It could happen to you, too.

We are not ingrates, we are voters who did our job and did not understand how there could be a second Town Meeting after the one we had just left.

Misunderstood again??

Thank you,

Bob Varley, Acushnet

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State announces access to aqueduct trails system

Press Release

Mass. Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan and Mass. Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Executive Director Fred Laskey announced recently a new policy for public access to open space along historic aqueducts in 14 communities across the state.

"This policy is a great example of promoting multiple environmental goals — clean water supply, open space access and connecting people to the outdoors," said Secretary Sullivan.

The new public access policy applies to the Sudbury, Weston, Wachusett and Cochituate aqueducts, which formerly comprised the water supply system for greater Boston and currently serve as emergency back-up water supply.

The aqueducts form a recreational trail network through 14 Metro west communities: Berlin, Boston, Clinton, Framingham, Marlborough, Natick, Needham, Newton, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Wayland,

Wellesley and Weston.

"These aqueducts follow miles of scenic, tree-lined paths across the landscape, which will be a great addition to the open space in these communities," said MWRA Executive Director Laskey. "This is a model that has been in place at the Weston Reservoir for many years and we've recently entered into a similar agreement in Natick. It's been a very successful program and we look forward to expanding it."

Beginning at Jamaica Pond in the late 1790s, greater Boston's water system grew into one of the country's best water systems over the next two centuries. As demand grew, planners looked to the Metro west area outside of Boston for larger sources: Lake Cochituate in the 1840s, then the Sudbury system in the 1870s, the Weston and Wachusett Reservoirs at the turn of the 20th Century and the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s

After decades of neglect, MWRA began to modernize the system with a

new deep rock aqueduct and covered storage tanks, making the historic aqueducts and reservoirs part of an emergency back-up system, no longer in daily use.

"This new policy has the potential to open more than 40 miles of trails across densely populated suburbs west of Boston. These are public lands, and the public deserves the opportunity to enjoy hiking and biking on them," said Joel Barrera, one of Governor Patrick's appointees to the MWRA Board of Directors.

With this policy, MWRA is now formally encouraging public access to the general public through partnerships with neighboring communities. Communities can enter into agreements with MWRA to assume some stewardship responsibilities, allowing for the trails in their towns to be officially open to the public for recreational use. MWRA has developed a new aqueduct trail logo for signage that will also include the name of each community. ●●●

Fairhaven Cultural Council elects officers; announce deadline

Press Release

Music, visual arts, drama, dance, festivals and school field trips will enrich lives in Fairhaven and surrounding towns thanks to grants from the Fairhaven Cultural Council. The Council recently elected new officers for the 2012-2013 year. Laura Garner was elected as Chair, Willoughby Elliot, Secretary, Jacqueline Kenworthy will continue as treasurer and Maureen Sylvia as publicist. The council wishes to acknowledge the dedicated past service of Kristine Daniels, past

chairperson and Penny Brewer.

The Fairhaven Cultural Council is supported with funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Town of Fairhaven. The next grant deadline is October 15, 2012. Additional information about applying for a grant can be found online at www.mass-culture.org/Fairhaven.

The volunteer council awarded \$4,236 in funding to 16 different organizations for 2012. Grants were awarded to: ArtsWorks! Teen Artist program, Fairhaven Bicentennial Parade, Working Waterfront Festival,

Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell for Celebrating Reading in Story & Song, FHS Theatre Company Beauty and the Beast, Greater New Bedford Summerfest, Hastings Middle School Drama Club for Grease, Wood School and St. Joseph School for field trips to the Zeiterion Theatre, New Ballet Ballet, Festival Theatre for Hairspray, Your Theatre for Gee's Band and Scott Tooker for Ragtime and Romance performance.

For additional information contact Maureen Sylvia, publicist (508) 207-6864 or moes@comcast.net

SMCU announces annual scholarship winners

Press Release

Southern Mass Credit Union, Fairhaven, MA, recently presented its 2012 Annual Scholarship Awards to three credit union members entering college as freshmen this fall. Each recipient received a \$1,000 scholarship award.

This is the 21st consecutive year SMCU has awarded college scholarships.

Recipients were: Meghan Dorian of Fairhaven attending Wheaton College studying liberal arts, Matthieu

Oliveira of Dartmouth attending Fashion Institute of Technology studying commercial photography and Cody Santos of Dartmouth attending UMass Dartmouth studying mechanical engineering.

Southern Mass Credit Union congratulates our scholarship recipients and wishes all of our student members the best in their future endeavors.

Southern Mass Credit Union, headquartered at 123 Alden Road in Fairhaven and with a branch office at

2926 Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford, is a full service community credit union with approximately \$193 million in assets and 10,000+ members. SMCU offers a variety of competitive savings, checking, auto loans, mortgage loans and equity lines of credit to everyone who lives, works or attends school in Bristol, Barnstable and Plymouth counties. For more information on credit union membership, services or products, contact SMCU at 508-994-9971.

●●●

Treatment plant still facing challenges

Timothy Haggerty

Neighb News Correspondent

As the Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment plant makes strides towards renewable energy, it may soon have to face another environmental concern: Nitrogen pollution.

The Fairhaven WWTP is the largest contributor to nitrogen pollution within New Bedford Harbor because it releases all its water directly into the harbor between the Fairhaven shipyard and Pope's Island.

New Bedford Harbor has much higher rates of nitrogen, PCBs and metals than the outer harbor and Buzzard's Bay. The increased nitrogen content comes from the flow of waste coming into the harbor. The Harbor receives the outflow from the Fairhaven wastewater treatment plant and Fairhaven and Acushnet Septic tanks. All of these sources of nitrogen then become concentrated in the harbor, where the hurricane barrier prevents most of the water from flowing out to the bay.

According to the 2011 State of Buzzard's Bay report, published by the Buzzard's Bay Coalition, the bay's toxins score improved from 47 to 52,

while its nitrogen score declined from 56 to 53, from 2007 to 2011.

Nitrogen has become a point of concern in Buzzard's Bay over the past ten years. Efforts previously focused on the "Old pollution," such as PCBs and other toxins. Water treatment plants were not required to control for nitrogen levels. Higher concentrations of nitrogen lead to an increase in the green algae and phytoplankton populations, which block necessary sunlight from eel grass, scallops, and other species, negatively affecting the entire ecosystem.

In a recent agreement between the Buzzards Bay Coalition, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and UMass Dartmouth, plans were made to ensure that Final Nitrogen Pollution Threshold Reports for five critical embayments in the area would be delivered within the next year.

The draft report for New Bedford Harbor is scheduled for release on February 28, 2013. The final report, released within six months of the draft, may lead the DEP to attach a nitrogen limit to Fairhaven's

Wastewater Treatment Plant permit.

Vinnie Furtado, Superintendent of Fairhaven Public Works, said that the plant currently discharges between eight and eleven milligrams of nitrogen per liter of water. The new permit, he said, could mean a nitrogen limit below eight milligrams per liter. Getting the plant to meet this requirement would require upgrades to the plant that could cost tens of millions of dollars that Mr. Furtado said may have to come from a loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Anaerobic Digesters

The latest addition to the Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment Plant is the anaerobic digester system, which has not yet become operational. This system includes two giant tanks that produce methane gas released by the anaerobic bacteria in wastewater sludge which will then be burned to create electricity.

The sludge travels to the first of three tanks where wastewater is

WWTP: cont'd on next page



A worker is silhouetted against the setting sun as he works on the anaerobic digester tanks at Fairhaven's Wastewater Treatment Plant back in January. The 143-gallon tanks hold sewerage that will be turned into electricity through anaerobic digestion which creates methane that is then burned. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

WWTP: cont'd from previous page

removed and sent back to the existing plant. The thickened sludge then enters one of the two tanks, each of which optimally holds 143,000 gallons of sludge. There is also a large, spherical tank next to the digesters that stores the methane gas.

The tanks were the result of a \$7.2 million federal stimulus grant through the Massachusetts DEP for the purpose of helping the wastewater treatment plant and other municipal structures in Fairhaven meet their energy needs. Fairhaven was selected for the grant because the town had already done a feasibility study for the anaerobic digester tanks back in 2008. Construction of the tanks and the building that houses the generator and the plumbing for the tanks began in winter of 2010 and has been plagued with numerous delays, putting the project more than a year behind schedule.

The new digester tanks will generate electricity that will go into the grid and the town will be credited for the amount generated.

The anaerobic digester tanks are expected to save approximately \$150,000 in sludge disposal costs per year. The plant currently has two 9,000-gallon tankers carrying sludge every single day to an incinerator in Cranston, RI. The digester tanks will break down a certain amount of the sludge and convert it into methane and carbon dioxide. The digestion process should reduce the amount of sludge that needs to be disposed of by half, said Mr. Furtado.

"There's less waste being disposed of, we're saving money, and we're generating energy credits by the formation of methane gas. It's a win all the way around," he said.

The digestion process happens in three steps. First, a group of microorganisms breaks down the organic materials found in the waste, including fats, cellulose, and proteins, into simpler compounds. A second group of organisms then uses these compounds to form organic acids. Finally, methane producing anaerobic bacteria use these acids to complete the digestion process, giving off methane, water and carbon dioxide.

The most important factor in the operation of these tanks is temperature. The tanks must be maintained at a constant temperature

at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit for optimal bacterial activity. Some of the methane gas produced by the tanks will be used to heat them and keep them operational. There is also a back-up natural gas heater that will help keep the tanks heated during the winter months.

In addition to the digesters, there is a third tank that will store grease from local restaurants. Once the grease has been treated for other contaminants, it will be brought into this tank. The grease is then used as fuel to help heat the digester tanks, keeping them at the right temperature.

The bacteria that breaks down the sludge grows naturally under the right conditions, said Mr. Furtado. In order to jump-start the process, however, the BPW has imported bacteria from another wastewater treatment plant to initiate the process of breaking down the sludge.

Solar Panels

The \$7.2 million grant also allowed for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the wastewater treatment plant. Electricity from the solar panels has covered the costs for the operation of the Board of Public Works building since they were installed last year.

The solar panels were installed in three locations in Fairhaven. There are 375 panels on the roof of the BPW administration building, which can produce 78.75kW of electricity. There are 35 panels on the sewer sludge building, which will produce 7.5 kW, and 80 panels installed at the West Island Treatment Plant, which will produce 16.4kW.

Since the solar panels were installed at the BPW building last year, they have covered nearly all electricity costs for that building, saving the town more than \$11,000. Mr. Furtado estimates that another \$12,000 has been saved between the WITP and the sludge building.

The green projects that Fairhaven took on with the federal stimulus funds allow the town to enter into an agreement with the energy brokerage company, Nexant, which specializes in "intelligent grid software and clean energy solutions." Nexant buys the excess energy produced by Fairhaven and twelve other municipalities with similar green projects to sell as energy packages, giving each town a share of the revenue.

The money being generated by these projects will go into the general fund for expenditure by town meeting.

...



These solar panels on the West Island Treatment Plant were installed with funds from the federal stimulus package in November of 2010. Solar panels on the Fairhaven Public Works building have saved \$11,000 in electricity. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

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