



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 6, Issue 3 • January 27, 2011

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

Deep freeze moves in



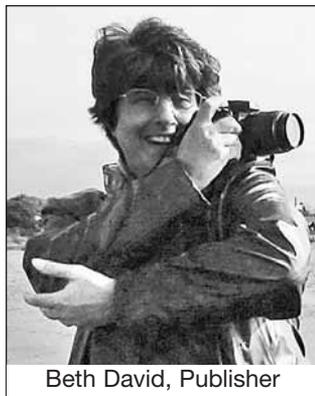
Temperatures dropped lower than they have since 2005 in our little part of the world this week causing marshes, coves, and shorelines to freeze over. Snowstorms, one after the other, have also hit the area, making winter wonderland scenes abundant for photographers. See page 12. ABOVE: The view of the Acushnet River/New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor from behind the Seaport Inn on Middle Street in Fairhaven on 1/24/11. Photo by Heidi Winnett. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook for more photos.

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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

The weather is the big news this week. We just keep getting pelted with snow, then super-cold temperatures, then snow, then...well, you get the idea. What a beautiful scene it made out there this week, though, didn't it? Heidi Winnett and I both got out there taking pictures. It is a winter wonderland that is getting more and more beautiful by the minute, even as I write this. The marshes are frozen, the coves are beginning to freeze up, and the snow on the trees creates a stunning scene on nearly every street and byway. It is something to behold.

We have a few pictures on page 12 for you. But, if you have a computer, or can get to the library to use one, look us up on Facebook. We'll be uploading tons more for you. I couldn't resist, I took hundreds of photos. One group is of Bobby Sakwa swinging his skiff around in circles breaking up the ice at Hoppy's Landing. I didn't have room for it here, but you can see it on Facebook.

Some of you may know that Lt. Paul Silveira from the Mattapoisset Police Department died last week. We did not go to the funeral because it was not Fairhaven. Well, a few of the Fairhaven police officers talked to me and said they were surprised we weren't there. They said the mutual aid agreements that Fairhaven has with Mattapoisset and Acushnet makes it feel like they are all one department sometimes.

I guess that's something I should've realized. I apologize if we slighted anyone. We did not mean to. I called The Wanderer and they were generous enough to let us use a couple of their photos and information from their paper. See page three for that. And a special thanks to Paul Lopes at The Wanderer.

On page three you'll also find a story about the Public Works Department in Fairhaven getting an award for the digester project. That's one of the projects that's just getting started. It's one of the reasons Bill Fitzgerald, the DPW superintendent, and his supporters wanted to get him a year's extension on his contract. (See page 14 and last week's issue page 3.)

I have talked to all the BPW members to ask them why they voted not to renew his contract. I personally think it is a monumental mistake. Hoppy is convinced that Selectboard member Brian Bowcock and Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeff Osuch somehow gave the order for the other members to vote Bill out of a job. The other members, those who voted for and against, adamantly deny any interference from the selectboard or anyone else on any votes. I did not call Dr. Bowcock or Mr. Osuch. The reality is that they have the right to weigh in on these issues as well as any other resident.

The question is not if they make those calls, the question is if they use coercion or threats, and if board members simply fall in line and do what other people tell them to do. Most voters vote for a candidate based on what that candidate says his or her philosophy on governing is. Voters want candidates who will take in the information before them and make a decision. Voters don't want someone who is just going to wait until the other guy talks and then vote the way he votes. Any monkey can do that.

The real problem here, as I see it, is that so much of the conversation went on behind closed doors, in executive session. All members told me there were things they couldn't say because of that. I am so tired of hearing that excuse. The use, and possibly abuse, of executive session by all town boards is sickening. The Selectboard went into executive session a couple of weeks ago to discuss the use of town hall by the producers of "Fairhaven, The Movie."

Now really — executive session to discuss whether or not you are going to let a bunch of people shoot a movie in town hall? Technically, I guess it was legal because they talked about how much to charge, so that constitutes contract negotiations. But that provision was put in the law so as not to give away strategy to unions or bid contractors, lawsuit lawyers, etc. Kind of a stretch, dontchathink? Surely, there's no strategy or competition to use town hall for movies. If there is more than one at any given time, they can just wait for their turns. No big secrets or grand strategies here.

Well, time to go. I hope you all have a chance to get outside and see the stunning beauty of this snowy winter. With all the hassles it causes, it's nice to see the bright side when you can.

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS

Nothing? Really? Are you sure you're paying attention?

Fairhaven digester project wins MMA award

Press Release

MMA Innovation Award winner, 2011

Until recently, anaerobic digestion — the process through which sludge and other forms of waste are converted into energy — was practical only for very large operations, such as the Deer Island Sewage Treatment Plant in Boston Harbor.

But thanks to technical refinements, state and federal assistance, and quick work by local officials and contractors, Fairhaven is on schedule to complete the first smaller-scale sludge-to-energy plant in Mass.

The anaerobic digester will save the town money in two ways: by generating heat and electricity that will reduce the wastewater treatment plant's energy costs, and by limiting the amount of sludge that Fairhaven pays to have shipped to an incinerator in Cranston, R.I. Annual savings are expected to total \$300,000, according to town officials.

In 2009, after the completion of a feasibility study, Fairhaven officials had to work quickly to meet a September deadline for obtaining federal stimulus funds channeled

through the Department of Environmental Protection.

According to Fairhaven Public Works Superintendent Bill Fitzgerald, the town did not learn about the availability of federal stimulus money until late July of that year. He credits the town's consultant, Brown and Caldwell, with superb work in completing a complex application for the federal funds under a tight deadline. Fitzgerald said the project also benefited from assistance from state Rep. William Straus, the Mass. Technology Collaborative, and Fairhaven's Finance Committee members, among others.

"Success has a thousand fathers," Fitzgerald said. "This one really, really did."

By January, the anaerobic digester tanks were being erected; they are



Fairhaven's anaerobic digester is expected to save the town \$300,000 per year in electricity costs and in reduced sludge removal costs. The digester transforms sewage sludge into a biogas that is then burned to create electricity. ABOVE: The foundation of a tank that will hold sludge for the new digester, which should be fully operational this summer. The building is new and will house machinery for the digester. Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com

expected to go online as an energy source sometime this summer.

Although it has been only 18 months since Fairhaven began planning the project, Fitzgerald said, the obstacles to creating such

MMA: cont'd on page 21

Mattapoissett police officer dies from brain aneurysm



Police officers from throughout the SouthCoast, including Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, Marion, Rochester, Acushnet, New Bedford and Dartmouth, marched in procession to Cushing Cemetery for the funeral of Detective Lt. Paul Silveira on Thursday, January 20, 2011. Mr. Silveira, who had served on the Mattapoissett Police Department since 1984, died unexpectedly of a brain aneurysm on January 14, 2011. Lt. Silveira, 60, was remembered as a kind man with a good sense of humor who truly believed that there were no bad people, just people who made bad choices. He died on Jan. 14, eight days after he felt a strange and powerful headache during a traffic stop, and was sent to Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He leaves his wife Jane, two children, Tracy & Paul, and one grandson, Mason, 7. Photos by Laura and courtesy of The Wanderer. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com. To see more photos of the funeral procession, visit www.wanderer.com/gallery.

BPW does not renew contract for superintendent

Michael J. Decicco

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works voted against renewing the employment contract of department superintendent William Fitzgerald in a meeting on Jan. 18 that emphasized his failure as a hands-on manager.

"You were always being reprimanded for something," board member Kathy Sturtevant said, "then given another chance, then another chance. I suggested you cross-train, so that if someone leaves or is absent someone would be able to jump into that person's place. You haven't done that."

"You were told to get out from behind your desk and get to know the guys," said member Daniel Freitas. "Instead, morale in the department is low. Employees feel the department is out to get them."

Mr. Fitzgerald said he was addressing the critiques he had received in recent evaluations and argued that this is a bad economic time to change managers.

"I've adapted to your suggested change in direction," he said. "I would think this would be a tough time for a transition in this department."

Mr. Fitzgerald lost a one-year extension of a three-year contract that will expire in May by a vote of 3-2. Chair Geoffrey Haworth and veteran member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson were in favor of the renewal. Members Kathy Sturtevant, Daniel Freitas and Steven Riley voted against.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he has emphasized developing needed public works projects in town and finding grant funding for them. He

said that was an emphasis he informed the board he was interested in when he was interviewed for the position.

He noted he has attracted approximately \$12 million in grant funding and has gotten three major Fairhaven public works projects on the priority funding list of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District municipal planning agency.

Mr. Fitzgerald objected to Ms.

If you've got someone following your evaluation directions, is that the person you want to get rid of?
[Bill Fitzgerald]

Sturtevant's comment about being reprimanded.

"There was one reprimand, one issue with a sick leave. I docked myself a day's pay over that."

Regarding cross-training, he said, "At certain times of the year it's difficult to cross train. I can't ask someone to practice on a grade when you need it full time on the roads."

Mr. Hobson said he was a board member when Mr. Fitzgerald was hired.

"Nobody's perfect," he said. "I think he gets a grade of 'B.' His superintendents I've spoken to don't want to see him leave. He's doing a decent job. I've talked to other superintendents in other towns.

They say for the kind of projects we have in this town, he's the one we need. He deserves another year."

Mr. Fitzgerald said his thick-headed Irish stubbornness may have been his problem.

"I didn't understand what projects to say no to," he said.

"Twelve million dollars in project work doesn't overcome how you handle subordinates," member Steven Riley said. "Projects alone don't run a large operation."

Mr. Fitzgerald argued his accomplishments include ridding the department of civil service procedures.

"That's management, and I am getting better at it," he said. "If you've got someone following your evaluation directions, is that the person you want to get rid of?"

Despite this argument, Mr. Riley led the motion against renewing Mr. Fitzgerald's contract.

After the vote, Mr. Fitzgerald told the board the action would not change the positives in his job performance.

"I will work my butt off for you until May," he said.

In other action, the board: Approved articles for the spring annual town meeting that include \$328,000 in road work to focus on Dogwood, Lafayette, Oxford, Wayne and West; \$13,100 to replace 1983 gas pumps; \$6,000 for a new concrete sidewalk on Fort Street; \$14,7440 for new fencing for dugouts and perimeter of Macomber Pimental Field; \$540,000 to rehabilitate the waste water treatment plant; and funds for pumping station rehabilitation.●●●

Tourism office wants info from businesses

Press Release

In its effort to expand and update its email lists of town businesses, the Fairhaven Office of Tourism is asking members of the business community to submit their contact information to the office.

According to Tourism Director Christopher Richard, a survey recently completed by students from the UMass Dartmouth Center for Marketing Research shows that few Fairhaven businesses are making contact with his department.

"The Town offers a number of free services to businesses that wish to take advantage of them," he said. "We

have space for the display of business brochures, cards, sample menus and fliers at the Visitors Center at no charge. We have opportunities for businesses to have free Internet links through the Tourism web site. We're also now giving Fairhaven businesses a chance to post discount coupons online so consumers can print them to use when they visit the town."

To make sure that businesses stay up to date with these and other programs and activities, Mr. Richard asks that they provide the Office of Tourism with their business name, an email address, mailing address, phone number and the name of a

contact person. If the business has a website, its url can be sent, too. The information can be emailed to FairhavenTours@aol.com or mailed to 43 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

"Sending an email is quicker, more cost efficient and 'greener' than any other way of getting the information out there," Mr. Richard said.

The Fairhaven Office of Tourism is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The tourism web site is <http://FairhavenTours.blogspot.com>. It may also be accessed from the Town's main web site <http://Fairhaven-MA.gov> ●●●

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* Available on model years 2007-2011, and requires a minimum down payment of 5% of the purchase price or NADA value, whichever is less.
** Property Hazard Insurance required and Flood Insurance may be required. APR assumes home equity loan does not exceed 80% of the appraised value of your owner-occupied 1-4 family principal residence. Consult your tax advisor regarding income tax benefits.



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Branch Office: 2926 Acushnet Avenue
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Noon until closing, Sat., Feb. 12

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Come in on any Thursday evening for a complete,
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Vacation Time!

Mac's will be **closing Mon., Feb., 21** for cleaning, maintenance and repairs.

We will **reopen Thursday, Mar. 3**

The staff at Mac's Soda Bar wish all of our many friends a

Very Happy and Successful New Year

And we thank you all for your patience, understanding and continued support.

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Middle School Play

The Hastings Middle School Drama Club presents "Into the Woods," A part of The Broadway Junior Collection™, on **January 20 and 21, at 7:00 PM**, at the Hastings Middle School Auditorium, 30 School St., Fairhaven.

Book by James Lapine, music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine.

General admission tickets are on sale for \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets, please call the school's main office at 508-979-4063. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$10.00.

Super Sub Sunday

On February 6, 2011 the Fairhaven Association for Music Education (F.A.M.E.) will be holding their annual Super Sub Sunday Fundraiser to benefit the music program in Fairhaven. The subs are made fresh on Superbowl Sunday and are layered with ham, bologna, salami, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, and onions. **The subs are only \$5 each. Orders for the subs will be taken up to January 28th** and they can be picked up at the side entrance of the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on February 6th.

To order subs please contact any music student in the Fairhaven Public Schools, or call Doreen Nelsen at 508.994.1098. F.A.M.E. thanks you for your support. For more information about music in the Fairhaven public schools or F.A.M.E., visit: <http://f-a-m-e.home.comcast.net>

Tourism offers free coupon ads

The Fairhaven Office of Tourism has just begun offering FREE online coupon ads to Fairhaven businesses that would like to promote special offers to consumers.

The coupons will be posted on a page linked from the Office of Tourism website. You may see the current sample page by visiting <http://fairhavencoupons.blogspot.com/>

Consumers will be able to print the coupons from their computers to

use when they are visiting Fairhaven.

Coupons may offer a discount, either a percentage or a dollar amount, or any other special (Buy One Get One Free, Free Gift, Free Coffee With Purchase of Meal, etc.)

To begin this program, the Office of Tourism is placing the following conditions on the coupons:

Only one coupon per business will be posted. Coupon offer should be open-ended, no expiration date.

Since coupons are displayed and printed at 72 ppi, lots of small type must be avoided. Name, address, phone number will be allowed. Other copy beyond the offer itself should be kept to a minimum. Business hours, a logo and a very short description may be added as space allows. (See samples as a guide.)

Coupons should be for a service that tourists might use during a short stay (retail purchase, dining, admission, lodging, services such as personal care, charters, pet sitting, etc.), and should not require long-term memberships or multiple visits.

Since there can be no guarantee that only out-of-towners will download the coupons, you must be willing to accept them from all consumers including local residents and/or regular customers.

The Office of Tourism will design your ad or you may submit a jpeg file that is ready to post. (Image area is a total of 400 pixels wide by 192 pixels deep at 72 ppi.)

For further information, email Tourism Director Christopher Richard at FairhavenTours@aol.com or call 508-979-4025. The Office of Tourism is open Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Japanese Class

The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society is preparing to offer a second beginners course in Japanese. The class will meet once per week for 8 weeks. Classes last 90 minutes and are conducted at the WMF House museum. Accessible. The fee is \$80 for the program and \$7 for the basic book. The organizing meeting and sign-up will take place on Tuesday, Feb 8th at 6:30 PM, at the museum. Anyone interested, or seeking more info, should call Gerry Rooney at 508-995-1219 or e-mail Gerry@WMFriendshipHouse.org

Volunteers Needed

The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society announces two opportunities for volunteer activities. In keeping with the busy schedule of events for this new year the Society is seeking the following:

TOUR GUIDES. These individuals will be trained in the intriguing story of how the grass-roots relationships between Japan and the USA were initiated at 11 Cherry Street, Fairhaven. At this house Capt. Whitfield hosted Manjiro as the first Japanese person to reside in the USA. Tour guides will be prepared to conduct tours of the museum for visiting parties from all over the USA and Japan as well as other locals. Since opening in May of 2009 the museum has hosted over 1,100 visitors. This is a great opportunity to learn important local history as well as meet interesting people from all over the world.

MANJIRO FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE. On October 1 of this year the WMFS will hold the 13th Manjiro Festival. This is always a huge production for a small organization. However, this year it is projected to be even more demanding as Dr. Hinohara, who raised the funds for the museum, will return at festival time with 100 visitors from Japan. As he promised during the dedication in 2009, he will return so we can help him celebrate his 100th birthday. The planning and execution of events for that week-end will require many hands and brains.

The help of many locals will ensure a quality event for our visitors in response to the overwhelming hospitality shown to anyone from this area who visits Japan and especially our sister city of Tosashimizu. Together will can make it a memorable week-end for all.

Anyone interested in either of the above should contact Gerry Rooney at 508-995-1219 or e-mail to Gerry@WMFriendshipHouse.org

We frequently forgive
those who bore us, but
cannot forgive those
whom we bore

Francois Duc de la Rochefoucauld

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Free Flu Shots

The Greater New Bedford Community Health Center has announced that it will provide free flu vaccine, every day, free of charge, to any walk-in. Individuals receiving the vaccine just need to fill out a consent form. The vaccine provides protection against seasonal flu and will be available to adults 18 years and older. The vaccine will be available through the Urgent Care Department at 874 Purchase St., New Bedford. Accessible. For further information, please call 508-992-6553.

Foster Parent Training

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

This is your chance to make a real difference in a child's life! Trainings begin every Thursday evening throughout 2011 at the DCF office, 100 N. Front Street, New Bedford.

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

Please call Lynn Mourao at 508-910-1083 to learn more about foster care opportunities and to pre-register for the training.

Singers Invited!

The Greater New Bedford Choral Society invites singers to open rehearsals starting Tues., Jan. 11, at 7:30 P.M. for the Society's spring season. Rehearsals are Tues. evenings 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church, corner of County and Union Streets, New Bedford. Private auditions are not required. **New singers are welcome until Feb. 1, 2011.** For more information, call 508-644-2419 or see www.gnbcs.org.

Sign Lang. Class

Classes held at: DEAF, Inc., New Bedford Regional Office, 105 William St #25, New Bedford. Accessible. Contact Jennifer Glinos, jglinos@deafinonline.org, 617-254-4041.

Spring class: March 9 -May 11, Wednesdays 6-8pm*. ASL, Level 1

Signing Naturally, Level I, Units 1-6

*ASL Classes must have a minimum of 5 students

Tuition is \$200. Email us for registration form, info@deafinonline.org and send with tuition payment to DEAF Inc.—IL/ASL, 215 Brighton Ave., Allston, MA 02134

Free presentation

The Ocean Explorium and the Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth welcome Sylvia Ann Soares for a special event on **Tuesday, February 8. Doors open at 6 p.m.** for light refreshments and mingling in the Ocean Explorium before the presentation begins at 7.

Ms. Soares will share highlights from *By the Sweat of Our Brow*, created from an oral history project, with photo slides selected from the project presentation. Ms. Soares undertook the project as a way to honor her late father, Arthur S. Soares, President of the International Longshoremen's Association, Local #1329 in Providence. Ms. Soares interviewed retired longshoremen in the project, funded by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.

Many of the men interviewed for *By the Sweat of Our Brow* are first-generation Cape Verdean-Americans, and their stories offer a rich collage of life experiences. The men witnessed injustice at home and abroad, worked in hazardous weather and under dangerous and unhealthy conditions. They took pleasure from travel, nature and the arts. The men enjoyed benefits gained through tenacious bargaining and were supported by strong and loving families.

Sylvia Ann Soares, a graduate of Brown University, is a poet and union actress. She performed in the Black Movement Theater of the 60's and 70's and toured nationally with the Negro Ensemble Company. Ms. Soares has appeared in many stage and television roles and has created and produced a number of performances honoring Cape Verdean and African-American history and culture.

The Ocean Explorium is pleased to partner with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education

Center to host this special event celebrating Black History Month. *By the Sweat of Our Brow* is presented to the public free of charge.

The Ocean Explorium is located at 174 Union Street in New Bedford and is wheelchair accessible through the rear entrance. Call 508.994.5400 for after-hours access.

Whaling Museum Grant Challenge

The New Bedford Whaling Museum has been selected to receive a \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the largest award possible through this grant program. The prestigious grant is the result of a highly competitive national application process. The Museum has four years to raise \$1.5 million in new gifts to meet the challenge.

Each year a percentage of the permanent endowment's value is disbursed, which funds approximately 7% of the Museum's operating expenses. These include exhibitions, educational programming, collections care, and all public programs.

"The Museum relies on charitable contributions for more than 75% of our operating funding each year," said James Russell, President and CEO of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. "The endowment helps relieve some of that pressure by providing a reliable annual income stream. The NEH Challenge Grant represents an exciting milestone toward our long-term goal to have 25% of annual expenses covered by the endowment."

The Museum's grant received the NEH's We the People designation in recognition of efforts to strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture.

NEH is an independent federal agency dedicated to supporting cultural initiatives throughout the country by providing grants to improve classroom learning, museum exhibitions, and programs in libraries and other institutions.

The Whaling Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740; 508-997-0046. Visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

Hospice Spaghetti Supper

The annual Spaghetti Supper fundraiser for hospice continues to be a favorite in the community and will take place on **Saturday, January 29, 2011 from 4-7 p.m.** For the third consecutive year, Community Nurse & Hospice Care (CNHC) will hold their event in the cafeteria of St. Francis Xavier Elementary School at 223 Main Street in Acushnet (wheelchair accessible). Tickets are \$8 each for adults and \$4 each for children under 12 years old. Attendees can purchase their tickets in advance by calling 508-992-6278, going to www.communitynurse.com under the Upcoming Events tab on the home page or at the door.

As always, CNHC uses the proceeds from the Spaghetti Supper to care for their hospice patients including the cost of hospice staff, medical equipment and supplies, pain medications and bereavement support not covered by health insurance.

To purchase tickets, donate a chance auction item, advertise on the placemat or for more information, please contact Linda Quinn at 508-992-6278, lquinn@communitynurse.com or 508-992-6591 (fax).

Volunteers Needed

Did you know that 1 in every 50 children in the U.S will go to sleep without a home this year? Horizons for Homeless Children is looking for energetic and enthusiastic volunteers to play with children living in family homeless shelters in Barnstable, Bristol, and Plymouth Counties.

If you have an extra 2 hours a week and a desire to make a difference in the lives of some wonderful children, then we have the volunteer opportunity for you! A six month commitment is required. Attendance at one of our training sessions is mandatory. **Upcoming trainings: Saturday, February 5th from 9:30-4:30 in Boston, MA and Saturday, February 12th from 9:30-4:30 in Bourne, MA.** All of our trainings are wheelchair accessible. Sign up today! Contact our office at 508-510-3250 or at southeast@

horizonsforhomelesschildren.org for more information and an application, or fill one out online at www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

Adoption Parties

The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) and the Department of Children & Families (DCF) invite adults interested in adopting from foster care to attend two informative events in February. Anyone interested in adoption, from beginners to experienced adoptive parents, is welcome to attend either or both free events.

***Multi-Cultural Adoption Information Meeting, Thursday, Feb. 3, 6:00-8:00 PM, Blue Hills Boys and Girls Club, 15 Talbot Ave., Dorchester, MA 02125. Accessible.**

This Information Meeting is an opportunity for interested families to learn more about the process of adopting a child or teen from foster care. Attendees will be able to gather information about some of the children in the region, especially those of color, available for adoption and will also hear from a panel of older children/teenagers living in foster care. Social workers will provide information about the youth they can meet at the upcoming Adoption Party.

***Multi-Cultural Adoption Party, Sunday, Feb. 13, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Blue Hills Boys and Girls Club, 15 Talbot Ave., Dorchester, MA 02125. Accessible.**

This event focuses on finding permanent families for children of color. All families are welcome. An orientation session will be held at 3:00 PM to help families make the best use of this event, immediately followed by an information session about adopting from foster care. State Representative Gloria Fox, a former foster child herself, will welcome prospective families. At 3:30 PM, the party activities begin for adults and waiting children of all ages. Join youngsters in activities such as arts and crafts, basketball, and table games. The adoption party gives prospective parents the chance to interact with adoptable children in these low-key, informal activities. Social workers and seasoned adoptive parents will also be on hand to speak with prospective

families. Attendees should dress casually. Refreshments served.

In Massachusetts, more than 600 children and teens in state foster care are waiting for adoption into permanent loving families. School-aged youth, sibling groups, children of color and youth with special needs tend to wait the longest for families. MARE's Adoption Parties provide a relaxed setting where waiting children and adults hoping to build their families can meet.

Participants can also learn about the adoption process and support resources available, as well as financial subsidies for which children adopted from foster care may be eligible.

To RSVP for the Information Meeting and/or the Adoption Party contact MARE at 617-54-ADOPT (542-3678). To learn more about adoption from foster care, call or visit www.MAREinc.org.

MARE is a private, non-profit organization, working since 1957 to find a "permanent place to call HOME" for youth in foster care, including sibling groups and children who are traditionally harder to place. We do this by recruiting, educating, supporting and advocating for families throughout the adoption process.

Clothing & Toy Drive

The Acushnet Police Department in conjunction with the Acushnet Council on Aging will hold a clothing and toy drive at the **Acushnet Senior Center, 59½ South Main Street, Acushnet, MA on Sat., Feb. 5th from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Accessible.**

All donations will benefit Gifts to Give, a 501 c(3) not-for-profit charity helping low-income and homeless children lead successful, productive lives.

We are collecting clean, gently used or new clothing in all sizes, brand new socks and underwear, batteries, new/like new books, school supplies, hygiene supplies (must be brand new), hats, gloves and scarves.

For more information please call Heather at 508-998-0280. Thank you for your support, it could make all the difference in the life of a child.



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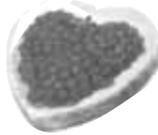


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Recipe of the Week

Bacon-Wrapped Dates with Goat Cheese

1 package (8 oz.) bacon
30 pitted dates
Goat cheese

Heat oven to 350°. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with nonstick aluminum foil; set aside.

Cut bacon slices into thirds. Using a knife, split open date on one side from top to bottom. Fill with about 1/4 teaspoon goat cheese. Wrap date with 1/3 slice of bacon and secure with a toothpick.

Place bacon-wrapped dates on prepared baking sheet and bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until browned and crisp.

Serve immediately.

Submitted by Denise Gaudiello

The battle, sir,
is not to the strong
alone, it is to the
vigilant, the active,
the brave.

Patrick Henry

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

F.H.S. Boys Basketball

The Fairhaven Boys beat Old Rochester on a 35-foot at-the-buzzer shot by Adam Mullin. Billy Lessa and Mullin combined for 47 points in the 56-54 win.

On Friday, the Blues lost to coach Scott Ashworth's Bourne team, 60-46. Mullin 23 for FHS.

FHS Girls

Last Tuesday the Lady Blues rolled over ORR, 58-45. Kelsey Perron-Sovik, Kara Charette, and Brittany Teixeira were the top scorers. The girls beat Bourne on Friday behind point guard Ashley Brown's 24 points, 64-36.

FHS JV Girls

The Lady Blues Jayvees were in a seat squirmer, which went down to the buzzer. With seconds left, Kiyana Alfaite made a super shot to win the game 43-41.

UMass Hockey

The Corsairs got a big victory over Worcester State on Saturday, 3-0. Goalee Collin Tracey got shutout. Seniors Joe Hill 2, and Todd Bartelson won head goals for the John Rolli Icemen

Super Bowl Championship Games

Steelers beat Jets, 24-19. The Steelers won the first half, and the Jets won the second half. No way the

Jets could beat Colts, Pats, and Steelers.

Prose on Pros

Green Bay Beats Bears

Green BAY was very lucky to beat Bears 21-14 in NFL Championship game. Third string quarterback for Bears Caleb Hanie did a great job. BJ "Freezer" Raji, Green Bay's answer to Fridge Perry, was super.

Baseball

Manny Ramirez and Johnny Damon signed with Tampa Bay. The ex-Red Sox duo should be fun to watch. Yanks got another Jones boy who is over the hill. GM Cashman has done zero for Yanks.

Local Pro

ST's Buddy Thomas wrote a great article on Bobby Watkins.



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Pick the Super-bowl Winner and total points for tie-breaker.

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Frozen!

Temperatures this week dropped to a low not seen since 2005, according to ML Baron of the West Island Weather Station (see page 21).

Even parts of the New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor froze close to shore. Local lore states that the river once froze enough to allow horse and buggy to ride over from Fairhaven to New Bedford (who needs that bridge anyhow?). ML said he did not have any information on that specifically,

but did send this along as a response to the inquiry.

Not specifically, but the river was frozen across enough to require an ice breaker in Jan., 1977. There was a significant freeze across in Dec. 1989. (I know that one really well, because I taped it the week before Christmas.)

The deep freeze in 1934 and 1857 probably froze over the river (enough to support horse and buggy and maybe even a Model T) for many

weeks or even a couple of months.

February still remains as the coldest month on Modern Record (1934) in Southern New England which brought sub-zero Arctic-like temperatures. In Massachusetts, 27 below zero; Providence, RI, 17 below; Connecticut, 26 below; and Boston, 18 below zero. These sub-freezing temperatures smashed all time records with the last cold snap of this magnitude recorded in January 1857.



LEFT: a boater cuts through the ice in Round Cove as he comes out from behind Earl's Marina heading to the West Island causeway on Monday, 1/24. *Photo by Heidi Winnett.* RIGHT: the path through the ice left by the boat is still visible on 1/25. *Photo by Beth David.* See all photos in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Visit us on Facebook to see many more snow pictures and photos from other events.



LEFT: Snow on the trees at Douglass Tree Farm on Sconticut Neck Road on 1/25/11. RIGHT: A hardy soul walks two dogs on the bike path at the end of David Drown Blvd., facing west, on 1/25/11. *Photos by Beth David.* See all photos in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Visit us on Facebook to see many more snow pictures and photos from other events.

School Building Comm narrows it to 2 options, not 2 schools

Michael J. Decicco

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Elementary School Building Committee voted at its Jan. 19 meeting to drop the two-school option from consideration for addressing the student population and building condition problems at the Wood and Rogers elementary schools, despite that most residents at the meeting argued in favor of that option. The two-school option would mean renovating both schools for \$27.5 million.

Committee members voted to eliminate this option because it is the only one whose costs would not be reimbursed by the state.

The other options are to expand the Rogers Elementary School or to rehabilitate the Wood School and build a new, two-story classroom wing behind it to fit both Wood and Rogers students. Jeffrey Osuch, who is also the executive secretary to the selectboard, said those options are more cost-effective and a comprehensive, educationally appropriate solution for all of the town's students.

"Two schools is not an option," Mr. Osuch told those assembled in the East Fairhaven School cafeteria. "It's an option only in your minds, if you want support for the construction costs, if you want the best interests for all students in the town."

The committee consultants' cost

estimates show the Rogers School option would cost \$24.2 million but only cost the town \$13.5 million after 56.79 percent reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The Woods School option would cost \$24.7 million but the town only \$14.5 million after the MSBA's 59.79 percent reimbursement.

Residents, mainly concerned parents, expressed concern something would be lost if the student populations of two small schools were moved into one large school totaling over 350 pupils.

In September of 2007, the Oxford

deserves a chance because it's what's best for our students."

Local parent Christopher Anderson questioned whether the study being presented was cost-effective and unbiased, since consultant HMFH Architects has done other projects for the town's schools and would likely get the contract.

"How can we be sure it's the best option?" he said.

Project Manager Richard Marks responded proudly that HMFH was responsible for the East Fairhaven School project and the state has since dubbed the facility a model school.

"It shouldn't be about cost but about what plan has the most educational merit," he said.

Pointing to the \$21 million in estimated construction costs for the two-school option versus \$18-19 million for the other options, Mr. Marks added, "We'd get paid more for a two-school option. This is about the best option for the town."

Attendees applauded again when Mr. Anderson said, "How much would it cost to just fix the Rogers School and keep the Wood school the way it is now?"

"I decry creating a larger school," Sharon Lacroix-Anderson said. "This is disheartening. I don't think the research is lying to us that small schools of less than 350 students have lower levels of violence, higher graduation rates, out perform

SCHOOL BLDG: cont'd on page 20

I decry creating a larger school. This is disheartening. I don't think the research is lying to us that small schools of less than 350 students have lower levels of violence, higher graduation rates, out perform students in larger schools, foster connection among neighbors, have lower incidences of negative social behavior.

[Sharon Lacroix-Anderson]

School and the East Fairhaven School students were combined into the new East Fairhaven School.

The approximately 30 residents facing the committee applauded local parent Monika Whalley when she said, "I support the two school option. The two school option

Superintendent of Schools explains process

The following is a synopsis of the new school building process from Dr. Robert Baldwin, Superintendent of Fairhaven Schools

On January 19th, 2011, the school building committee met at 6:30 p.m. at the East Fairhaven School to narrow down the options to two. At this meeting the results of traffic and environmental studies that are being done for both the Rogers & Wood sites were presented.

On February 1st, 2011, the school building committee will be meeting to make a final recommendation. During the following week, the plan is to meet

with the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen who will be asked to approve the final decision.

In February the preferred option

Ultimately, 51% of the Fairhaven voters need to approve the project in a general election vote.

will be presented to the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA). The final option must be presented to the MSBA six (6) weeks

prior to the MSBA meeting in March 2011. During the MSBA meeting in March 2011, they will give their opinion of our option.

Assuming that the MSBA approves the plan, Town Meeting needs to appropriate money for schematic design. The town meeting approval will not be authorizing the building of a new school, but just for the architectural design of the building which will provide a much more accurate cost of the new school. Currently, we have been

BALDWIN: cont'd on page 20

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**May 26, Newport Dinner
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ENTERTAINMENT:

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Feb 2: 1 p.m., Karaoke w/Bev
Every Thurs. dancing w/the
COA Band

Music & Entertainment by Fiddlin Keys

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This musical performance is
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Bella Vista on track for approval; shed on Monadnock cont'd

By John Garcia

Neighb News Correspondent

The Conservation Commission continued a hearing regarding Bella Vista Island at their meeting on Monday, January 24th.

Applicant Heiam Alsawahli had filed a Notice of Intent for after the fact work performed on her property. The work included road maintenance, safety improvements for a private bridge, landscape improvements, construction of walls, construction of a concrete stairway, clearing of vegetation, and restoration of filled wetland. Ms. Aisawahli was represented by Engineer Rick Charon. Anwar Faisal, her husband and the co-owner of the property, was also present.

Mr. Charon presented an updated set of plans to the ConCom. Commission member Susan Morris noted that some of the assessor's parcels shown on the plans were listed in the wrong order. They will need to be fixed.

Wetlands Scientist Lenore White, whom the town had hired as a consultant for the project, stated that the updated plans were an improvement over what had previously been submitted.

"I think we've come a long way," she said.

Ms. White told Mr. Charon that he would need to submit a plan for controlling invasive species of plants on the property. Mr. Charon asked what she wanted the plan to contain. She responded that the applicants would select the method used to control the species.

"I just want to make sure there is a plan," she said.

Mike Ristuccia, an abutter to the property, told the Commission that he believed Mr. Faisal was trying to do the right thing.

"Any disagreements we had have been resolved," he said.

Chairperson Andrew Jones stated that although there was still some work to be done, the application was in good shape.

"This looks like a really solid plan," he said. He noted that the applicants should come back before the ConCom if they dredge under the bridge.

Members voted unanimously in favor of continuing the hearing until February 7th. Ms. White will help

draft an Order of Conditions.

Olde North Wharf Fisheries filed an After the Fact Notice of Intent for their property on 4 Washington Street. Engineer Walter Galuska told the Commission that a bulkhead had collapsed in June 2010. The applicants had installed a new steel sheet bulkhead, which they said constituted emergency repairs.

Mr. Jones stated that given the collapse had taken place seven months ago, the applicants had ample time to comply with regulations by filing a Notice of Intent before starting work.

"It's kind of a slap in the face to us really," he said.

He instructed Mr. Galuska to tell the applicants to be more timely in the future.

Mr. Jones added that after the fact Notices make it more difficult for the

that the original order of conditions forbade building in that area in order to conserve the beach land.

"We're losing beach at an alarming rate out there," he said. "We need to protect that area."

He added that backing down from the original order of conditions would diminish the Commission's credibility.

"If we go back on that now, we would be erasing our word," he said.

Mr. Jones noted that John Rockwell of the Buzzards Bay Project had suggested two possible ways that Ms. Garfield could resolve her situation. One suggestion was to build a deck around the house in order to fulfill the shed's storage purpose without infringing on the dune. The other possibility was to file a Notice of Intent for the project in an attempt for the shed to be approved.

Ms. Garfield will have until March 21st to either take down the shed or file a Notice. All members voted in favor of setting this deadline except for Vice Chairperson Carol Tyson, who recused herself because the applicant is a neighbor.

Richard Nunes made a Request For Determination regarding a project on his property at 260 Mill Road, which is within the Nasketucket River Basin.

He intends to construct a garage, construct a breezeway, and to pave his driveway. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of granting a Determination of Positive Six, which signifies that the work is subject to a municipal by-law but not the Wetland Protection Act. It will require filing a Notice of Intent.

We're losing beach at an alarming rate out there. We need to protect that area...If we go back on that now, we would be erasing our word [Andrew Jones]

Commission to have oversight on projects. Commission member Jay Simmons agreed, saying that it should not be easier for an applicant to file after the fact than it is to follow the correct procedures.

The Commission voted unanimously in favor of continuing the hearing until February 7th. The vote specified that the project will require a statement from Shellfish Warden Timothy Cox describing the extent of habitat loss caused by the work, as well as a plan for replicating what was lost.

The Commission continued a hearing on Joanne Garfield's after the fact Request For Determination regarding a shed she had built on her property at 18 Monodach Beach, which is within both a barrier beach and a VE (High Velocity) flood zone.

Mr. Jones stated that a site visit confirmed the shed was on a dune below the house and trampled on vegetation. He reminded Ms. Garfield

Look to your health;
and if you have it, praise
God, and value it next
to a good conscience;
for health is the second
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are capable of; a blessing
that money cannot buy.

Izaak Walton

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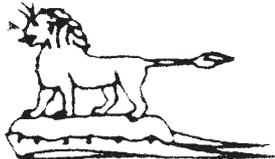
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BALDWIN: cont'd from page 13

provided with preliminary costs associated with the different building options, without the detailed plans. They are just rough estimates.

For two months, drawings would be drafted and matched to the educational program. Once we have the completed plan this will go back to the MSBA for final approval.

Once the plans have received the final approval from the MSBA, there will be a special town meeting vote to seek their approval for a debt exclusion. A 2/3 Town Meeting vote would be needed to ask for a debt exclusion.

Ultimately, 51% of the Fairhaven voters need to approve the project in a general election vote.

•••

SCHOOL BLDG: cont'd from page 13

students in larger schools, foster connection among neighbors, have lower incidences of negative social behavior.”

Rogers School principal Wendy Williams explained the disadvantages of her small school.

“Because of stairwell leak, we had to close a whole side of the old building, closed fire access, closed off basement restrooms for the younger students. And three new locations started leaking,” she said. “The water is so deep at the steps of a pre-K portable classroom that we had to find alternative routes for their exit. This state money is a guarantee to fix the problem. Going to Town Meeting to ask for all that money is a huge risk.”

The committee ultimately voted unanimously to drop the two-school option.

The committee also heard the results of traffic and environmental studies.

Jeffrey S. Dirk of Vanasse & Associates, Inc. said the Rogers School presents “challenges” for expanding traffic space for student buses and parent pick-up. He said the Wood School’s wide street better allows improvements to fit the expanded traffic of a larger school.

Addressing the environmental study, Richard Marks said it “found no significant environmental issues” at either site.

On Feb. 1, the committee will vote on its final building project recommendation; on Feb. 8, the panel and the school committee will meet jointly with the selectboard to seek the latter’s endorsement of that recommendation. •••

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ML's Eye on the Weather



A weekly weather report from ML Baron of the West Island Weather Station: westislandweather.com

Monday's low temperatures fell to 1 degree at West Island and zero in North Fairhaven right before 8 a.m. These are the lowest temps here since Jan 2005. Inner bay and harbor inlets quickly froze over in less than 12 hours. More below normal temps are expected over the next few weeks but nowhere near as cold. As we say good-bye to January, I caution that February is a winter month with lots of surprises!

Forecast

Friday: Hi: 29° Lo: 18° Partly cloudy. Lows 15 to 20. Highs in the upper 20s. **Friday Night:** Lo: 18° Mostly cloudy. Lows 15 to 20.

Saturday: Hi: 31° Lo: 21° Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Lows in the lower 20s. **Saturday Night:** Lo: 21° Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Highs in the lower 30s. Lows in the lower 20s.

Sunday: Hi: 31° Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s. **Sunday Night:** Lo: 13° Mostly cloudy. Cooler with lows 10 to 15.

Monday: Hi: 25° Mostly sunny. Cold with highs in the mid 20s.

Tuesday: Clear. High: 21° **Tuesday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 21°

Wednesday: Partly Cloudy. High: 32° **Wednesday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 31°

Thursday: Light Rain. High: 37° **Thursday Night:** Overcast. Low: 36°

The island's ocean temperature is 32 degrees

Countdown to the first day of Spring. The Vernal Equinox is in 52 days.

MMA: cont'd from page 3

systems have declined significantly, thanks to the increasing acceptance of smaller-scale anaerobic digestion as a viable and affordable technology.

Rather than paying for the design and construction of anaerobic digestion systems, wastewater plant officials can now buy off-the-shelf products at significantly lower costs, according to Fitzgerald. And anaerobic digestion, he added, doesn't need to rely on wastewater sludge alone. One garbage-disposal company has begun running full-page

ads in wastewater trade magazines touting the use of food waste as the raw material for digester tanks.

The winners of the annual Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards were recognized at the MMA Annual Meeting on Jan. 22.

Written by MMA Associate Editor Mitch Evich

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Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 07, 2011 at 6:30 P.M... In the Fairhaven Town Hall East Room (2nd floor), Purpose is for the Request for Determination of the following matters as required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Notice of Intent Applicant Lawrence D. & Donna J. Gillis Location 45 Alder Street Plot 43A Lot 54 Purpose remove existing dwelling and construct new single family dwelling within a VE flood zone .
- Abbreviated Notice of Intent Applicant Sara & Bradley Schipper Location Doane Street Plot 3 Lot 200 Purpose verify wetland line.
- Notice of Intent Applicant Nancy P. Antin Location 91 Balsam Street Plot 43A Lot 134 Purpose raze existing house and construct a new single family dwelling on a flood plain foundation within a VE El 19 flood zone.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Jones, Chairman

Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Mediocre minds usually dismiss anything which reaches beyond their own understanding.

Francois Duc de la Rochefoucauld



Erica Ferreira

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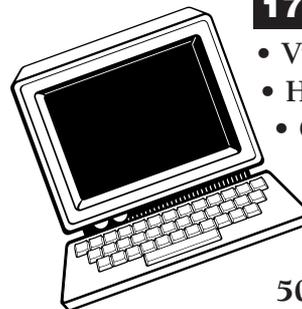
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	January 2011	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	27	0145	1409	0829	1945
Friday	28	0249	1514	0948	2106
Saturday	29	0356	1620	1047	2209
Sunday	30	0459	1719	1135	2259
Monday	31	0553	1811	----	1214
February 2011		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Tuesday	1	0641	1856	----	1244*
Wednesday	2	0723	1938	0025*	1311*
Thursday	3	0803	2017	0106*	1340*

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

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

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The following is the Town of Fairhaven snow parking policy.

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 am and also during the time of any snowfall or snow removal operations.

On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west. The only exception is the block on Centre Street from Pleasant Street to Chestnut Street where parking is permitted on the north side of the street.

Fairhaven Police will strictly enforce this Parking Ban.

Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

By Order of: FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS. Geoffrey A. Haworth, Chairman

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/1, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health

Mon., 1/31, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/31, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 2/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 1/27, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

School Building Committee

Tues., 2/1, East Fhvn School 6:30pm

Tues., 2/8, East Fhvn School 6:30pm

School Committee

Wed., 1/26, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Tues., 1/31, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

We confess to little
faults only to persuade
ourselves that we
have no great ones.

Francois Duc de la Rochefoucauld

Preschool Applications

Preschool applications for the 2011/2012 school year are now being accepted for the Fairhaven Public School Integrated Preschool Program located at the East Fairhaven Elementary School.

The child must be 3 (by August 31) or 4 years of age and must be a resident of Fairhaven. Parents must arrange transportation for the child to and from the program. Children to be enrolled in the program will be determined by lottery.

If you would like an application please contact Beth Mitchell at 508-979-4058, or you can get them online, or pick one up at the Administration Center, located at 128 Washington Street, or at any of the elementary schools.

Applications for the 2011-2012 school year must be received by February 28, 2011. The Preschool screening times will be scheduled for Wed., March 9th and Tues., March 15th.

Please note preschool integrated session is only from 12:00-2:30

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