



# 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 6 • February 17, 2011

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

**Making A Difference!**

Fairhaven  
**Animal Shelter**  
Samuel C. Barrett

**Kailee's 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!**

This is the image on the invitation that Kailee Rodrigues sent to her friends and family for her eighth birthday party. Instead of asking for gifts and money for herself, the young animal lover asked for donations to be given to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and for supplies to be given to the Fairhaven Animal Shelter. See page 3. See image in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com).

## Also Inside:

- **Selectboard**, page 4
- **Finance Committee**, page 12
- **Planning board**, page 24
- **School Committee**, page 13

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.

Desmond Tutu tweets. Who knew? I admit, I have a Twitter account, but I've never tweeted. I don't even know who is "following" me on Twitter. I think I signed up to follow a few people, but I don't remember who they are, and I didn't set it up to go to my phone.

For those who think I'm speaking another language, Twitter is a website/service thingy (that's techno-speak) that allows you to send very short instant messages up to 140 characters to people who have signed up to get them. The messages go to cellphones.

It's one of the tools the protesters in Egypt used to topple Mubarak. Desmond Tutu sent a tweet of support to the protesters. So, I say: Desmond Tutu tweets. Who knew?

I guess I'm feeling a bit behind the curve here. He'll be 80 years old this year and he tweets and I don't.

I started a Facebook account for me and one for the paper, and signed up on LinkedIn and Twitter so I wouldn't be left out of the social media revolution. Seeing as I publish a black & white weekly sheet, it seemed logical I would do something to remind me that I'm not a Mark Twain contemporary, but operating in the digital age.

But who has time for this stuff? The most profound thing I ever put on Facebook was to say it is a black hole that steals away your time.

But Desmond Tutu TWEETS!

I'd better get moving or the digital age will pass me by, too. I have no idea what's coming next, though. When the digital age is gone, what, indeed, will replace it?

Ah well, back to the local scene. The Fairhaven school building committee finally voted on a recommendation for a new school in Fairhaven (see page 17). They voted to mothball the Rogers School and build a new model school behind the Wood School on Scoticut Neck Road, combining the two student populations. Next step is School Committee, but that's after press time, so we'll run it next week.

We have lots of meeting coverage this week: Planning Board on page 24, Finance Committee on page 12, Selectboard on page 4, and School Committee on page 13.

Ah, the Fairhaven School Committee: a satirist's dream. The committee that just keeps giving fodder for the editorial mill. Let me quote my reporter here: *At one point, [committee chair Colin] Veitch and committee vice-chair Louis Kruger excused themselves from the meeting to confer privately for a few minutes, leading committee member David Gonsalves to raise concerns about the propriety and protocol surrounding the abrupt meeting recess.*

First of all, what you did is just, plain, old-fashioned RUDE! What does it say to your fellow committee members? I'll tell you what it says: You're not worth deliberating with; only my pal here is; you don't count, no one else does; just the two of us matter.

The other committee members were elected to their posts in town-wide elections, just as you were. They have the right to discuss the issues with you BEFORE you make up your mind, in a venue that all the voters have access to; that's what they were elected to do, although David Gonsalves seems to be the only one who has a clue. The others said not a peep...or even a tweet.

Oh, I could go on, and on, and on....but, hey, the words speak for themselves. WHAT PART OF "OPEN MEETING" DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND? You are supposed to deliberate DURING THE SESSION. You are not supposed to confer privately so that you're sure you agree BEFORE you talk about it. Yes, it can get ugly, the world sees your thought processes. But that's what "open meeting" means... OUT IN THE OPEN... not hidden in the back, not whispered away from the microphone....AARRGGHH!!!!



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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## CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

In last week's story on Fairhaven's green projects, we made an error in explaining how the town will receive its electricity. Although the solar arrays, the digester and the planned wind turbines will all produce electricity on-site, all electricity will be sent to the electric grid for a credit from NSTAR. The systems will not directly power the buildings. We apologize for any confusion we may have caused.

# Eight-year-old forgoes birthday money for the animals

By Beth David  
Editor

Seven-year-old Kailee Rodrigues knew exactly what she wanted for her eighth birthday party: nothing for herself.

The young animal lover decided to ask her friends and family to donate items for the Fairhaven Animal shelter (she sent a list with her birthday

party invitation); and money to be donated to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Ms. Rodrigues donated \$350 to the ASPCA and gave a load of supplies to the animal shelter on Feb. 12. Fairhaven's Animal Control Officer, Cat Mindlin, presented Kailee with a certificate of appreciation that reads in part: We at the Fairhaven Animal

shelter are grateful for your kind heart and warm compassion. Your generosity will help our animals find new, loving permanent homes now and in the future to come.

The *Neighb News* has it on good authority, that, although Ms. Rodrigues passed up the money and gifts, She did not forgo the cake and ice cream. ●●●



LEFT: Kailee Rodrigues (far right holding puppy) poses with (L-R) Fairhaven Animal Control Officer Cat Mindlin and Kailee's sisters Camryn and Kaitlyn. The four-month old Puppy, Zoe, is available for adoption at the Fairhaven Animal Shelter. RIGHT: the goodies Kailee received for her eighth birthday to donate to the Fairhaven Animal Shelter. Photos by Heidi Winnett. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

## The Fairhaven Historical Society

presents

### Native Americans on Sconticut Neck — A summer migration from Fall River and surrounding areas

A Lecture By

Cora Peirce

Friday, February 18, 7 p.m.

Fairhaven Town Hall

40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA • Accessible. Refreshments.

We will discover if Martha Simon, as depicted in a painting by Bierstadt, was the last Native American living on Sconticut Neck.

Artifacts may be taken to this event to establish their authenticity.

**For more information, please call Barbara Aksen, President at 508-993-0317.**

# Selectboard starting to grapple with FY2012 budget

By Mali Lim

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard reviewed two of the town's biggest department budgets and approved several articles for the town meeting warrant at its 2/14 meeting, in preparation for the annual town meeting on May 7. Fire Chief Timothy Francis and Police Chief Michael Myers defended their budget requests and faced the same questions that every department head will have to answer: where else can budgets be cut?

"In a couple of weeks the school department will be submitting its budget," said Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch. "But even without those numbers we're expecting requests will exceed revenues by 1.5 million dollars."

The selectboard scheduled a special meeting on March 7 to discuss the school department budget.

Fire Chief Francis submitted a budget request of \$1,849,865, not including articles, a figure approximately \$9200 more than last year's budget.

Repair costs for the department's 20 year old truck, professional dues and costs for life packs have also increased, but personnel services and salaries for firefighters and staff accounted for a \$8,835 dollar increase. Money shuffled from areas such as medical services and savings in other areas helped cover these some of these increases, said the chief.

Chief Francis indicated that he would be applying for grants to cover major purchases.

"We're one of the few towns that host a ladder truck for more than one community, and these go for about a million dollars," he explained. "Ours is 22 years old, so I'll be applying for a grant for that."

In past years, the chief was able to obtain \$230,000 dollars for new gear, \$500,000 dollars for new air packs and another grant to change all fire apparatus radios to narrow band.

When prodded by the selectboard

and the executive secretary on whether or not the department would be able to reduce its projected overtime costs of \$74,901 dollars for fire fighters and \$240,162 dollars for ambulance personnel, Chief Francis refused to answer on the spot.

"I'd have to scrutinize the budget and I don't know where I could make cuts right now. It depends on what level of services you want to maintain," he said. "It takes two people to run an ambulance, and if you want two ambulances, that's four people you need to have on duty."

"We're 125 runs over what we did last year, and the ambulances are going

The police department submitted a budget request for \$2,953,569 dollars (without articles), compared to \$2,848,856 dollars appropriated for last year's budget, with an estimated \$214,805 dollars for overtime costs.

Chief Myers explained that he was submitting a budget at full funding, with the understanding that when Fairhaven received actual financial figures from the state he would be willing to cut the budget. The department's projected salary budget is much higher than last year's primarily due to step increases and the fact that five officers are hitting the point of drawing longevity pay, all at the same time, he said.

"Looking at the overtime budget, believe it or not, it's right about where it has to be," he added.

Police salaries have gone up, and with operations understaffed by about six or seven positions, it leads to a lot of overtime, he explained.

Like the fire chief, he was able to shuffle money from some areas to others, but there were some expenditure increases that were outside his control. Subscriptions to Westlaw, a service that keeps

police departments up to date on current legislative changes, have gotten more expensive and the department foresees at least a 5% increase in the cost of replacing police cruisers.

"The Crown Vic will be replaced by either the Ford Interceptor, the Dodge Charger or the Chevy Caprice," he said. "Some of these will cost up to \$5,000 dollars more, especially in the case of the Interceptor, which is designed specifically for police use."

On the plus side, he noted, the newer cars are greener, and more fuel efficient.

The last category that the town has to address is building maintenance, which has been zero for the police department for the last five years, he concluded.

"When the heating system went down last year, it was a problem," said Chief Myers. "My office leaks, the dispatch area leaks, the back hallway

**SELECT: cont'd on page 23**

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...the ambulances are going out so often I'm at the point where I don't have time to take one of them out for service  
[Fire Chief Timothy Francis]

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out so often I'm at the point where I don't have time to take one of them out for service," he said.

Town meeting articles submitted by the fire department include:

- A request for Panasonic Toughbooks, using money from the ambulance fund, to replace the current, older computers which are unable to handle the new software;
- \$3,500 for new pagers, which the department has been replacing 10 per year over three years;
- Funds for software that automatically switches radio boxes offline during testing, to cut down on gas, mileage and personnel costs;
- Funds for Opticon system devices for both the police and fire departments. The devices are triggers used by emergency personnel to turn signal lights green. The state is currently installing signal receivers throughout the town.



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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

## Fhvn Historical Presentation

On Friday, 2/18. See ad on page 3.

## NFIA to honor Bowcock

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association is pleased to announce that our annual "Outstanding Public Service Awards" banquet will take place on Saturday, March 5th, at the Century House in Acushnet. Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 o'clock, dinner is served at 7:00 P.M.

The N.F.I.A. will proudly acknowledge Selectman Dr. Brian Bowcock for his many years of service to the town. As a member and chairman of the finance committee and currently sitting on the Board of Selectman, Dr. Bowcock has been a dedicated leader in Fairhaven for decades.

In addition, police Det. Pam Bourgault and school vice principals Karen Dorgan and Mary Jane Muello will also be recognized for their outstanding service to the residents of Fairhaven.

Tickets for this event are \$25.00 and can be easily obtained by calling N.F.I.A. President Michael Silvia at 508-990-3622 or Ted Silva, 508-996-3229.

## Homecoming Fair Applications

Applications for the 36th Annual Fairhaven Homecoming Fair are now available. The Fair will be held on June 25, 2011 from 10am-4 pm.

Applications have been emailed or mailed to vendors who have participated in the past two years. All others may complete the application online at [www.fairhavenhomecoming.wordpress.com](http://www.fairhavenhomecoming.wordpress.com) or pick one up at the Fairhaven Town Hall, Millicent Library or Fairhaven Tourism Office.

For questions, contact Eric and Angela Dawicki, Chairmen, Email: [angeladawicki@gmail.com](mailto:angeladawicki@gmail.com)

## Free Blue Spruces

Here's an ideal way to get into the mood for spring planting: Join the Arbor Day Foundation and receive 10 free trees to plant when the weather turns warm.

**Every person from Massachusetts**

**who joins the Arbor Day Foundation in February 2011 will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees.**

"Planting Colorado blue spruce trees will add beauty to your landscape in Massachusetts with their blue-green hue and distinctive shape," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These trees will also add to the proud heritage of Massachusetts' 91 Tree City USA communities. For more than 30 years, Tree City USA has supported community forestry across Massachusetts, and planting these beautiful trees will add to this important tree-planting tradition."

The 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

**To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE TREES, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by February 28, 2011, or go to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)/February.**

## Cataldo Scholarship

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association's Joseph Cataldo Jr. Scholarship applications are now available at the Guidance Offices of Fairhaven High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech High School, Bishop Stang High School, and Bristol County Agricultural High School.

The Joseph Cataldo Jr. Scholarships are open to qualified high school seniors who are Fairhaven residents enrolled in a full time degree program. The deadline for filing applications is April 23, 2011.

Applications may also be requested by mail: NFIA Scholarship

Committee, PO Box 877, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

## Victory Coffee Hse

Monthly Christian Coffee House, February 26 from 7-9/9:30 p.m. This month's performers are Jeff n Dan, at Victory Baptist Church, 7 Park Ave., Fairhaven. Accessible. Refreshments. Free. All are welcomed to bring many friends and or family. Call 774-206-6233 for more information.

## Historical Tea & Open House

Sunday, February 27, Coggeshall Memorial House, 6 Cherry Street, Fairhaven, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Free. Not accessible.

The 99 year old Fairhaven Colonial Club celebrates the anniversary of the town with its annual open house and tea, with refreshments provided by members of the club. Music will be performed by the Fairhaven Strings.

## Book Discussion

"Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout will be discussed on Monday, Feb. 28, at the Millicent Library, 45 Center Street, Fairhaven, Walnut Street entrance, at 7:00 p.m. Accessible. The public is invited. Refreshments. For more information call 508-992-5342 or visit <http://millicentlibrary.org/>.

## At the UU Church

The following events are held at the Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven. Accessible.

### Meditation

Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the parish house, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Free.

The monthly meditation for group practice of "Metta"—Loving kindness blessing for self, others, the world. Open yourself to transformation with this simple but powerful practice. Reflection and discussion on obstacles to spiritual progress also encouraged. For more information, call 508-992-7081.

### Drumfish Drumming Circle

Friday, February 25, 7:00 p.m.

Not a lesson, not a performance—a rhythm celebration! All are welcome. For more info, call 508-992-7081 or visit <http://drumfish.weebly.com/>

## Multi-org volunteers

Do you have a passion for local history? Do you enjoy working with the public? Do you have an hour or two to spare each week? If you answered "Yes" to any one of these questions, then please join us for a **Volunteer Information Session on Saturday, February 19, beginning promptly at 2:00 PM at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Visitor Center, 33 William St., downtown New Bedford. Accessible.**

Representatives from local cultural organizations including the **National Park Service, the New Bedford Historical Society, Working Waterfront Festival, New Bedford Port Society, the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, Greater New Bedford Summerfest, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, and the Schooner Ernestina** will be on hand to discuss volunteer opportunities and the national park's engaging free Exploration Series beginning Feb. 25.

Time commitment and work schedule varies by organization and position. For more information call 508-996-4095 ext. 6105 or email [emily\\_prigot@nps.gov](mailto:emily_prigot@nps.gov).

## Fisherpoets

**The New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center is located at 33 William Street, in downtown New Bedford, 508-996-4095. Accessible. All programs are free and open to the public.**

The Dock-U-Mentaries Film Series continues on **Friday, February 18th with "Fisherpoets,"** a film by Jennifer Brett Winston. Dock-U-Mentaries is a co-production of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the Working Waterfront Festival. Films about the working waterfront will be screened on the third Friday of each month beginning at **7 p.m. in the theater of the Corson Maritime Learning Center.**

The 42 minute film is the story of a unique breed of fishermen who spin tall tales and weave true stories of life at sea through vivid and powerful poetry.

Following the film, local poet Charlotte Enoksen will share some of her work. Ms. Enoksen's father emigrated from Norway's Loften

Islands and pursued the work of generations before him, owning two fishing vessels. Once married to a fisherman, Enoksen's poetry often reflects the lives of those left on shore. Her work is both creative and cathartic, a "song without accompaniment." She is a regular contributor to the annual Fisherpoets Session at the Working Waterfront Festival and was featured in Voices from the Waterfront: Portrait of the New Bedford Fishing Industry.

For information on the festival visit [www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org](http://www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org).

## At Whaling Museum

The following events are at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, **18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, 508-997-0046. Accessible. Visit [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org)** Free admission to the Whaling Museum for New Bedford residents through April 30, 2011 is sponsored in part by Bank of America.

### Honest Abe visits NB

Honest Abe returns to New Bedford for the first time since 1848 to talk with children and cut his birthday cake at the New Bedford Whaling Museum's **Presidents' Day Celebration on Monday, Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities for the entire family. Free admission.**

Explore how the Founding Fathers influenced New Bedford history, participate in a scavenger hunt, and create sailors' valentines, flags, and more. Children will have the opportunity to dress as their favorite president and have their photograph taken beside the famous Resolute desk, created from the same ship's timbers as the one used in the Oval Office. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Schedule of Events: 10am-1pm: Arts & Crafts. Make a sailors' valentine, build your own Lincoln cabin and more; 10:30-2pm: President Abraham Lincoln visits; 11-11:30am: Storytelling; 11:30-12:30: Scavenger hunt with prizes; 12-1pm: Photo opportunity with the Resolute desk, complete with choice of powdered wig or Lincoln beard and stovepipe hat; 1:30-2pm: Happy Birthday sing-along with presidential birthday cake.

### Black History Month

The New Bedford Whaling Museum

will observe Black History Month with a film about the life of Frederick Douglass, a groundbreaking ceremony honoring whaling captain, Paul Cuffe, and a talk by the award-winning author and poet, Sonja Sanchez. **Admission to these events is free.**

The film, Profiles in "Courage: Frederick Douglass," was produced in 1965 as part of a television series inspired by John F. Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same name. Starring Robert Hook, the 50-minute dramatic film opens at a meeting of abolitionists in the New Bedford home of Nathan & Polly Johnson, and covers Douglass' first years of freedom in New Bedford and beyond.

The rarely seen film was rediscovered by James Lopes, the Museum's Vice President of Education and Programming.

**The film will screen for four days, February 22-25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Cook Memorial Theater. Admission to the film is free.**

**On Saturday, February 26** at 1:00 p.m. a ceremony will honor whaling captain, Paul Cuffe, creating a park in his name at the corner of Union Street and Johnny Cake Hill. The park, located on the southwest corner of the Museum campus, is near the spot where Cuffe operated one of his many businesses. The ceremony will be held in the Jacobs Family Gallery.

"Black mariners were common in American history. Black entrepreneurs in the maritime trades of early American history, however, are almost non-existent. Captain Paul Cuffe (1759-1817) of Westport, Massachusetts was not only a successful black mariner but stood shoulder to shoulder with some of the most prominent Quaker merchants of New Bedford and Philadelphia as well as other dynamic intellects on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean in the formative years of the American Republic. Cuffe's ideals of human rights developed, enabled through his maritime merchant and whaling endeavors, growing and blossoming in the tolerant fields of Quaker New Bedford, and spreading to the shores of Africa itself. He was a much respected ship-owner, whaling master, merchant trader and man of letters whose abolitionist ideas prefigured much that grew into the

cont'd on next page

## STILL OVERTOWN

fervor of abolitionist rhetoric in antebellum America," said Michael Dyer, the Museum's Maritime Curator

**On Tuesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.**, award-winning author and poet, Sonja Sanchez will speak in the Cook Memorial Theater. Ms. Sanchez was the first to create and teach a course based on Black women and literature in the United States. Much of her writing explores the struggles and lives of Black America. In 1985, she was awarded the American Book Award for homegirls & handgrenades. This event is sponsored by the University of Mass. Dartmouth and the New Bedford Historical Society.

### Lecture series

Now in its 21st year, the Sailors' Series illustrated lectures begin on

**Tuesday, February 22.** This year's four lectures feature both historical and contemporary topics on sailing, boats, and the sea. The Tuesday evening programs begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Cook Memorial Theater, with a pre-lecture reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Jacobs Family Gallery. The Sailors' Series continues on March 22, April 26 and May 24.

Sailors' Series admission to all four lectures: **\$50 for members, \$75 for non-members. For individual lectures: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. To reserve tickets, please call 508-997-0046 ext. 100. The Museum is fully accessible.**

The 2011 Sailors' Series is sponsored by C.E. Beckman Co. and Citizens-Union Savings Bank.

**Tuesday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.** "Voyage to Greenland." Bill Cook is a yacht designer living in Barnstable. His designs range from a 10' frostbite dinghy to an 85' world champion maxi; in recent years his office has focused on blue water cruising boats. Bill has sailed over most of the North Atlantic, including one year living aboard his boat while cruising in Western Europe, the Mediterranean and Caribbean. He currently sails a Bristol 56, which he has taken to Labrador three times, Baffin Island once, and Greenland twice. He will show a 30-minute video of his 2010 cruise to South Greenland, home of some of the world's most dramatic fjords, as well as the Norse settlements of the Middle Ages.

## HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

### Foxwoods Fund-raiser

Board the bus to Foxwoods and benefit the Humane Society and Shelter Southcoast with the second annual fundraiser to help homeless dogs and cats.

**On Sunday February 27 the bus leaves the Humane Society at 31 Ventura Drive, Dartmouth at 8 am and leaves Foxwoods at 4 pm. For the low price of \$25.00 per person the day includes a buffet or \$15.00 meal ticket and \$15.00 for Keno.**

To reserve a seat and for further details please call 508-995-6661.

### 5th Tiara Classic

The Women's Fund invites runners and walkers to consider celebrating Mother's Day in a different way this year. No breakfast in bed. No sleeping in. Instead, wrap around Ned's Point lighthouse with your family and loved ones in Mattapoissett at the 5th Annual Tiara Classic 5K Race or Walk. You don't have to have your fastest time. Just the best time with those you love!

The Tiara Race Team is in full training mode as they prepare for the 5th Annual Tiara Classic 5K Race & Walk event to take place on **Mother's Day, Sun. May 8.** As in prior years, the race will start and finish at the **Oxford Creamery in Mattapoissett.**

**Registration opens at 7 a.m., with the Children's Fun Run starting at 9:00 AM and the 5K Classic starting at 9:30.**

New this year, The Women's Fund will be helping supporters form teams for the race. The organization is encouraging runners and walkers to register for the race and to organize a team to help raise additional funds in support of the Women's Fund. **The first meeting for those interested in organizing their own team is March 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.** Many friends and family have made Mother's Day morning with the Tiara Classic their annual tradition. Forming teams will enhance the fundraising efforts of this event, and it will have a tremendous impact in our community.

The Women's Fund at the Community Foundation funds programs that promote the educational and economic advancement of women and girls in Southeastern MA. Run by a committed group of volunteers, the Tiara Classic 5K Road Race aims to inspire and celebrate women of all ages and backgrounds. Over 750 runners, walkers and children participated in the race in 2010 bringing in over \$50,000 in revenue for the organization.

The Tiara Classic 5K has become a signature event of the Women's Fund and supports all operations. In addition, 2010 marked the first year

that race organizers were able to put seed funding toward The Life Work Project, a higher education initiative that the Women's Fund seeks to establish in this region.

For more information about the Women's Fund or **to register for the Tiara Classic 5K visit [www.womensfundsema.org](http://www.womensfundsema.org).** If you are interested in organizing a team for this year's race, please contact Colleen Millett at [cmillett@gmail.com](mailto:cmillett@gmail.com).

### MARE Heart Gallery

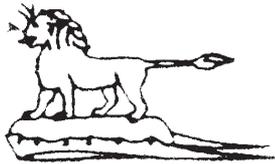
**February 15 - March 31, 2011:** South Shore Plaza, Braintree, hosts the Heart Gallery Photography Exhibit, featuring 24 portraits of youth in state foster care in need of adoption. Organized by the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), the Heart Gallery is designed to raise awareness of the hundreds of local children who are waiting for families. Volunteer photographers create portraits of the local children and teens, ages 6-16, who are awaiting adoption. The Heart Gallery exhibit is free, and can be seen at South Shore Plaza, Braintree, during regular business hours from February 15 - March 31.

For more info, contact MARE at 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or visit [www.MAREinc.org](http://www.MAREinc.org).

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Coors Light 30 pack .....	\$20 <sup>49</sup> + dep.
Heineken 24 loose bottles.....	\$23 <sup>79</sup> + dep.
Absolut Vodka 1.75.....	\$29 <sup>99</sup>
Captain Morgan Rum 1.75.....	\$29 <sup>99</sup>
Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75 .....	\$24 <sup>99</sup>
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# Recipe of the Week

## Oven Baked Stew

2 pounds of boneless beef chuck or round steak, cut into one inch cubes

1/4 cup flour

1 1/2 cups sliced carrots

14-16 oz. whole peeled tomatoes, undrained and chopped

1 envelope onion soup mix

1/2 cup dry red wine or water

1 8 oz. package medium or broad egg noodles cooked and drained

Preheat oven to 425°. In 2 1/2 quart shallow casserole, toss beef with flour; then bake uncovered 20 minutes, stirring once.

Reduce heat to 350°; stir in carrots, tomatoes, soup mix and wine

Bake covered for 1 1/2 hours or until beef is tender. Remove from oven.

Place hot noodles on platter and put beef mixture on top.

Serve hot.

By Maria Moniz

# A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

## Special to the Neighb News

### F.H.S. Boys Make State Tourney

The Blues got another fine defensive game and a big win over Case 36-34. Adam Mullen had 23 points and Billy Lessa had 9. Dylan Pietraszek, Pete Deterra, and Kevin Pepin were big contributors.

### F.H.S. girls Basketball

The Lady Blues rolled all over Case 70-50. Kara Charette 21, and Kelsey Perron Sovik 19 led in scoring.

On Saturday the girls beat Seekonk with Charette's 20 points and Kayli Moniz's 10 points leading the way in 69-48 victory

### UMD Hockey in first place

The Corsairs got a big win Saturday at Hetland. Coach John Rollis crew played super 4-1 win. Senior goalie Collin Tracy was super in goal.

Last week the Corsairs rolled over Westfield 7-2. Dan Dempsey had the hat trick for U.M.D. Now 15-6-1 Corsairs host Worcester Thursday.

### UMass Basketball

Last Tuesday, the Corsairs knocked off

UMass Boston 79-57. Seniors Brandon Stevens, led all scorers with 21 points. Justin Pulver 15 points, and Kyle Yeadon had 14 points for UMD

On Saturday, the Corsairs lost a heartbreaker to Eastern Conn. 79-76. Stevens and Paul Rose were the top scorers.

Play Keene State at home on Saturday.

### UMD Women's Basketball

The Lady Corsairs got a big win over UMass Boston, 57-44 on Tuesday night. New Bedford's Stephanie Houtman had 19 points for UMD.

### Prose on Pros

Celtics were lucky to beat Heat last Sunday, they seemed to fade in the fourth quarter (cement shoes) Perkins drags this team down. Need Shaq or Davis to play more.

Looks like the NFL will go on strike. NFL owners have football monopoly, need another league to compete with them.

Spring training starts this week, wish that we could get a little spring weather here.

## To share a recipe with your neighbors

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



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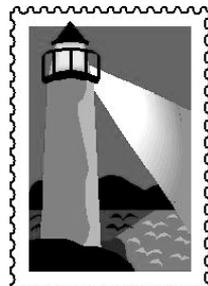
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# Rec Ctr decides against beach; FinCom sees \$1.5 mill shortfall

By Joyce Rowley

## NeighNews Correspondent

At the February 10, 2011 meeting, Warren Rensehausen, Recreation Center Director, began his presentation to the Fairhaven Finance Committee by saying that the deal was off with Department of Public Works Parks Division — he would not be providing lifeguards and gate staff for the Town beach.

Although it had seemed practical, the DPW wanted to hold onto the gate receipts. Mr. Rensehausen said that he would provide what support he could to the DPW since he had experience in beach management from his past two jobs. However, he said being responsible for salaries but not getting the receipts would cost the department \$23,000 from the Recreation Center's retained earnings account.

Without the beach staff salaries, the Rec Center budget decreased more than 6% from FY2011. Mr. Rensehausen submitted a budget of \$280,558 for FY2012, a decrease of \$19,320. The decrease is mainly from unused programming funds and savings from energy efficiency efforts.

John Roderiques, Finance Committee Chairperson, asked that the beach transfer not be brought back to the committee again unless they had worked out all details. He was also concerned that several FY2012 budget items had not decreased, although FY2011 monies for those items had not been spent. He noted that \$7,500 in contractual services was budgeted in FY2011, although only \$3,000 had been spent to date with only four months left in the fiscal year. Mr. Rensehausen agreed to drop the contractual services line item to \$6,000.

Committee member Theresa Szala questioned why the Rec Center leased a photocopier for \$207/month or \$7,200 over the term of the lease, when buying a copier would save more in the long term. Ms. Szala noted there was nearly \$172,000 in the Rec Center reserve fund.

Mr. Rensehausen replied that the previous lease expired after Town Meeting, so he was forced to sign up for a new three-year lease, as there are only certain times when transfers are allowed.

Committee member Kathleen Carter requested that he look into the cost of ending the lease early and purchasing a copier.

Ms. Szala also asked for a list of activities that the training budget covered. Mr. Rensehausen identified several trainings that he and his staff attended. She asked for back up on the training sessions such as the brochures, which he agreed to email to her.

On the income side, Mr. Rensehausen provided a graph showing \$85,150 in program and membership revenues by January 2011, up from \$72,000 for the same period last year and \$70,000 in FY2009. Membership revenues are on track at \$32,000 and programs at \$57,000, he said.

In another matter, Town Meeting Article 26, for a \$35,000 new portable restroom at the Town Beach on West

options: a new vinyl system, a poured self-leveling rubber floor, or a new wood floor. The cheapest would be the vinyl system at \$34,000 and the most expensive would be the wood floor at \$84,000.

Committee member Padraic Elliot asked if there were services or types of sports that would make wood floors uneconomical. Mr. Rensehausen said that a rubber floor would be more resilient. Wood would have to be stripped and polyurethaned annually, he said.

"Like the school parking lot, we knew it had to be done for six years. We had to make the decision — what was the greatest need," said Mr. Roderiques.

For the balance of the meeting, Mr. Osuch presented the Town Administration budget items. He began with an overview of the FY2012 General Fund. The Town General Fund accounts totals \$45.8 million, with an assumed level funding for the school department.

After subtracting out enterprise accounts and dedicated accounts but adding in articles proposed for Town Meeting and an estimated 1% raise for all Town employees, the total budget would be roughly \$42.4 million, according to the figures provided to FinCom.

Based on Governor Patrick's revenues for State aid and taxes, Fairhaven was facing a \$1.16 million shortfall, Mr. Osuch said.

It would go higher if, for example, the school budget was not level funded.

Mr. Osuch said that the assumption for raises for Town employees was based on the school department's settlement with its contracted employees for a 1% raise on salaries. Also, the numbers he used for schematic design and other articles were the low end of ranges provided. If Town Meeting voted the more expensive alternatives, or if the school department budget were not level funded, the shortfall would increase.

Mr. Roderiques said realistically, it would likely be closer to a \$1.6 million shortfall based on the school budget.

He also asked if the Assessor had written a letter for an \$822,000

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Senior citizens have not gotten a raise for two years. So I don't think anyone else should be getting raises  
[Jennifer Bishop]

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Island, was presented on behalf of BPW. Mr. Rensehausen provided photos of the existing one, which had been repeatedly vandalized.

"The [existing] toilet is held together with duct tape. It's not [ADA] accessible," he said. "The [proposed] one is handicapped accessible."

He said the previous one was purchased used for \$8,600.

Article 37, for a new gym floor at the Rec Center, would correct existing moisture problems that have cost \$7,556 in repairs.

"Three-quarters of the court [floor] has bubbles," said Mr. Rensehausen, making it difficult to use for volleyball and basketball.

According to Mr. Rensehausen, the problem has been going on for several years. Jeffrey Osuch, the Selectboard Executive Secretary, said that there was no problem during the first four years after construction.

Mr. Rensehausen presented three

FINCOM: cont'd on page 22

# School comm. discusses eval for super.; supports fishing FR

By Mali Lim

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven school committee quickly dispatched a number of business items in short order on Wednesday night, 2/9, with the most controversial item on the agenda — a presentation from the school building committee regarding the fate of the Woods and Rogers schools — postponed until further notice.

The school building committee was unable to come to a decision at their own meeting the previous night, as supporters on each side lobbied hard to save their schools.

According to Superintendent Dr. Robert N. Baldwin, the school building committee is slated to meet again on 2/15, with a chance that the presentation would be ready for the 2/16 school committee meeting, the same night a draft of the new budget is scheduled for discussion.

“We may spend a beginning portion of the meeting on the school building committee’s presentation, then have a short recess then reconvene to go through the budget,” said Dr. Baldwin.

There was discussion on whether the school committee would meet a half hour earlier to accommodate the considerable amount of work needed but Dr. Baldwin proposed to wait for the rest of the agenda to form. He added that he would coordinate with the selectboard and finance committee to properly post notices for the upcoming budget meetings.

The school committee voted to retire 43 obsolete policies, holdovers from previous administrations, found during a recent review of the district’s manuals. The committee also voted to retire a newly superseded policy on the use of school facilities by outside organizations, as well the former policy on evaluations for the superintendent.

There was considerable discussion on new or modified policies for superintendent evaluations and field trips, which were received on first reading that evening. The modified policy on field trips, which was submitted in draft version, is an attempt to define and regulate the different types of school-related

travel, explained committee chair Colin Veitch.

“There are school business-type trips that aren’t field trips,” Mr. Veitch explained. “They involve going outside a 30-mile radius but are still an extension of a student activity. Right now there’s no regulation that covers that and there should be some administrative guideline for what’s not covered.”

Dr. Baldwin further explained that these trips were extensions of academic or athletic activities, such as traveling to receive awards or to participate in an athletic meet. Dr. Baldwin suggested that trips such as these, as long as they were not overnight trips or more than 30 miles away, may not necessitate school committee approval, only notification to the superintendent and school

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At one point, Mr. Veitch and committee vice-chair Louis Kruger excused themselves from the meeting to confer privately for a few minutes, leading committee member David Gonsalves to raise concerns about the propriety and protocol surrounding the abrupt meeting recess.

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principals.

Student Advisory Committee liaison Amber Katan chimed in with her own example of traveling to Bridgewater for student council-related meetings on a monthly basis. To have to request permission every month from the school committee would be somewhat burdensome, she pointed out.

Dr. Baldwin added that the new modified policy highlighted the need to make sure the district’s student transportation protocols were also in effect.

“We need to look at our student transportation policies as well. If we’re sending students on school business duties, we also want to make sure they’re safe,” he said.

Discussion grew slightly strained, as committee members debated at length the proposed superintendent

evaluation policy, as well as Dr. Baldwin’s request to have an evaluation conducted sometime this spring. At one point, Mr. Veitch and committee vice-chair Louis Kruger excused themselves from the meeting to confer privately for a few minutes, leading committee member David Gonsalves to raise concerns about the propriety and protocol surrounding the abrupt meeting recess.

Mr. Gonsalves also raised concerns about the timing of Dr. Baldwin’s evaluation.

“This request should have been made months ago; this should have been done before the holidays, not at the same time when we’re doing the preliminary budget next meeting and a discussion on the school building committee presentation,” he said. “I’m not saying it doesn’t need to be done, I’m just questioning why it has to be done at this time.”

The committee refrained from accepting an evaluation format suggested by Dr. Baldwin, which was modeled on formats used in other school districts, citing objections to a checklist-style system.

The general consensus of the committee was that they preferred to see a process that required the superintendent to establish realistic goals and objectives, which would be submitted to the committee for review and approval.

“We need goals that are measurable, we can’t leave them open to interpretation,” said committee member Stasia Powers.

Mr. Kruger urged that the evaluation process also include a secondary component to allow committee members to weigh in on how they felt the superintendent handled matters over the course of the year.

“There are times when we can’t put the onus on the superintendent, things that we can’t hold Dr. Baldwin responsible for,” he said. “These things, in my mind, are outside the goals and objectives, and so it should be a two-part evaluation.”

Mr. Gonsalves added that he wanted to see part of the evaluation tied to the overall performance of the school district, and recognized that Dr. Baldwin should also have some

**SCH COM: cont’d on page 16**

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Session starts: Tues. Feb. 22-25th.  
Time: 745-300pm. Cost \$100.00 for members / \$125.00 for non-members

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Wednesday at 9am

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Ages: 9-11. Feb. 28th Instructor:  
Beth Oleson Time: 5:30-8PM. \$40  
members/\$45 non-mem.

## Little Kickers

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## Upcoming Trips

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**Apr. 30, Daffodil Days on Nantucket.** Visit the island & view the antique cars & doggie parade all celebrating the arrival of spring. This trip has limited seating on the fast-ferry. Reserve early to avoid disappointment.

**May 26, Newport Dinner Train And tour** of Rosecliff Mansion (1st floor only). Enjoy an afternoon of elegance aboard the dinner train with your choice of meals. A bus tour of the mansions in Newport will complete our day.

**June 13, 2011 - The Hamptons & Montauk Point, Long Island.** Seating is limited. Lunch at Gurney's Inn & a tour of wine tasting at Duck Walk Vineyards.

*Reserve your seat for these events.  
Call Nancy at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 508-979-4029.*

### With George

**Monday, March 28, Foxwoods.**  
Bus leaves Fairhaven Senior Center at 7:15 a.m. and returns 4:00 p.m.  
Call 508.979.4029 or after 3pm  
George Arruda @ 508.996.6538.

### MALL TRIP:

Feb. 23: Swansea Mall & Seekonk Plaza

### ENTERTAINMENT:

Feb. 23: 1 p.m., Bday Party/DJ Joe

Every Thurs. dancing w/the COA Band

**CLOSED Monday, Feb. 21 for Presidents Day**

### March Mall Trips

**Mar. 2:** Providence Place Mall and Whole Foods

**Mar. 9** Dartmouth Mall & Area Plazas

**Mar. 16** Silver City Galleria, Kohls, and Target

**Mar. 23** South Shore Plaza

**Mar. 30** Hyannis Mall, Christmas Tree Shop, and Trader Joes

### Tax Assistance

Help is once again available for low-income seniors, filing a short form. Please call the Senior Center at 508.979.4029 to schedule an appointment to meet with the Tax Aide.

### Homeowners and Renters

You may qualify for a cash refund from the State if you pay rent or property taxes. The Mass. "Circuit Breaker" Tax Program is for persons 65 or over whose property taxes (or 25% of rent) exceed 10% of their annual income & who meet other qualifying criteria. Call the Senior Center at 508-979-4029 and ask for Lucille to see if you qualify for this cash refund of up to \$960.

to physical or emotional limitations.

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## SCH COM: cont'd from page 13

contractual say on the type of evaluation the committee ultimately selects.

Mr. Veitch concluded that a sub-committee should be formed to develop the evaluation and subsequently report back to the school committee. Both policies will be discussed further at the next meeting.

There were no comments from the public, but representatives from the Hastings Middle School student council and their advisor Ann Richard sought permission to hold a fundraiser for the families of fishermen affected by economic hardships.

"The student council has done many fundraisers in the past, but we would like to hold a Fish Dinner on March 11th to raise funds for the fishing community," said eighth grade Student Council President Andrew Romano.

"There are many people in our community in general involved in the fishing community and between the crises around regulations and expenses for repairs, people are having difficulty paying for houses and food," continued seventh grade student Council President Kennedy Ryan. "Owners are forced to lose their boats, and then five or six people are losing their jobs at once."

In response to the economic crisis, the student council is proposing a fish dinner at Hastings Middle School, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on March 11th.

Local fishermen have donated seafood for the dinner and for a seafood auction, and school cafeteria personnel are donating their services for the evening. Entertainment, including games and movies, will also be provided for children in the school library.

"We're trying to publicize this event," concluded 7th grade student council representative Caleb Cebula. "We're inviting the governor and the

receive the money?"

Mr. Veitch also cautioned the students on their involvement in "a quasi-political issue."

"I have no problem helping families who need it, but I would feel a little more comfortable having a written statement or guarantee that the money collected would be specifically set aside for that group," he continued.

The student council explained that New Bedford Harbor Development Commission Executive Director Kristin Decas would be in charge of making the decisions as families come forward to seek relief, and the students agreed to request a letter from Ms. Decas that would provide assurance to that effect. They also promised the committee that there would also be salad and other food alternatives for people who simply do not like fish.

"People can also just donate money if they don't want to come," they added. Tickets, ranging from \$8 to \$10 dollars, will be available at the school, and at Euro, Reidar's and the Shawmut Diner. A limited number of tickets will also be sold at the door.

The school committee commended the students for the thought they had put into their proposal and wished them luck in their venture. "Friday, March 11 at Hastings Middle School Cafeteria," Mr. Kruger reminded the audience. "Bring money. Be hungry."•••

---

Friday, March 11 at  
Hastings Middle School  
Cafeteria. Bring money.  
Be hungry [Louis Kruger]

---

school committee and we're planning to go to the selectboard next week. We want people to show their support for the fishermen."

The school committee questioned the students on how they would ensure that the money being collected would go to families in need.

"There's money already being collected for the American Seafood Defense Fund earmarked specifically for fishing families," said Mr. Gonsalves. "Who would be making the determination which families

---

## Richard Brodeur announces BPW run

### *Press Release*

Richard Brodeur will not be deterred by his loss last April, he is proud to announce his intention to run the position of Fairhaven B. P. W. Commissioner in the election which will be held on Monday April 4 2011.

Richard has always proudly exclaimed, "I have demonstrated the dedication to do the job with 17 years in that position and never seeking anything for myself or family or friends. I do not now or have I ever worked for or own any company doing business with the B.P.W., so I have no conflicts of interest."

He also is proud of the fact that he has been an independent voice on the board, whose only interest is to serve the people of Fairhaven and that he is not and will not be part of any clique

or machine, and that he does not take political advice or direction from anyone other than the voters of Fairhaven.

In addition to his service on the B.P.W., Mr. Brodeur also serves on the two Regional Water District Committees, and as a town meeting member. In the past, he has also served on numerous town committees for the same selfless reasons.

Mr. Brodeur also had this to say about his past service and present bid for the Fairhaven B.P.W., "I have no pet projects, I am only interested in what is good for the citizens of Fairhaven. I feel that with my years of experience in road construction, drainage, water systems, and training in wastewater treatment plant operations that I offer a unique set of

education, training, experience, leadership, and integrity with the ability to work impartially for Fairhaven.

"I ask for your Support on April 4 2011 whereas I will be the voice of experience and reason in the policy making and administrative process of the B.P.W. If you would like to help me with sign locations, holding signs or in any other way it is greatly appreciated and I ask that you call me or email me 774-263-5018 or Brodeur.Richard@gmail.com."

For more information Richard Brodeur go to <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Richard-Brodeur-for-Fairhaven-BPW/154072474620639> and become a fan; or you can visit his website <http://www.richardcbrodeur.com/> •••

# Two meetings, one vote, one school

By Joyce Rowley

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Elementary School Building Committee (SBC) on Feb. 8 delayed its vote on choosing which town elementary school to renovate and which to close in response to residents who clamored for more information on options that could spare closing either.

The committee previously narrowed its choices down to two: rebuilding either the Wood Elementary School or the Rogers Elementary School to fit their student populations in one building while closing the school not chosen for reconstruction. Over 50 percent of the cost of either project would be reimbursed by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The Rogers School option would cost \$24.2 million, costing the town \$10.7 million\* after MSBA reimbursement. The Wood School option would cost \$24.7 million, but the town would pay \$10.1 million\* after the MSBA's reimbursement.

The tone was respectful on both sides of the aisle as about 75 residents gathered again on Tues., 2/15, for another meeting of the SBC.

Architect Pip Lewis presented detailed drawings and costs for each of seven options. The first four options were variations on a two-school option that ranged in total cost from \$28 million to \$32 million for renovations to both schools.

Mr. Lewis also reviewed the one-school options for improving either Rogers School or creating a model school at the Wood School site. Those costs ranged from \$24.4 million for Wood School to \$24.2 million for a two-story Rogers School.

School Committee (SC) member David Gonsalves asked whether the two-school option could meet the existing school population. Mr. Lewis answered it could.

Resident Eric Dawicki, in favor of restoring the Rogers School, noted that he believed small classrooms were key to a good education. He questioned the costs of renovating the Rogers School.

Jennifer Bishop voiced her concerns that the Committee did not meet the MSBA standards for parent representation. She said not all were Fairhaven residents, and that parents from each of the two schools were not represented. She also questioned why

the minutes were not on repository at the library, as was required by MSBA.

"I think the process has been handled so badly. It's just been bungled," she said.

Mr. Gonsalves objected to the term, saying he had spent countless hours at Honey Dew Donuts talking to people who "want the same thing you want. I'm not going to sit here and listen to how we bungled everything."

Brian Monroe, a parent with two children at Wood School, and a school committee candidate, said he had faith in the people elected to represent them.

"Dr. Baldwin went to MSBA," said Mr. Monroe. "If he's lying, then they're all lying."

He noted the many problems at Wood School, including the music classes held in a closet.

"In an ideal world, we would remodel both schools. If we pick a

---

No matter what my decision is, I'm going to make half of you really mad  
[Wendy Williams]

---

two-school option, [the taxpayers] won't approve it," said Mr. Monroe.

SBC member and Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch described the committee selection process, and the process that went into building East Fairhaven and closing Oxford School. He said MSBA would not fund two-schools. He said the charge to each committee was the same: the educational needs of the students must be met, and it must be cost-effective.

The educational component could be met at either school, but at Wood, \$700,000 more would be reimbursed by the state, and the Town owned the drawings for Wood school for another \$200,000 savings, he said.

Mr. Osuch also noted that Wood school had the flexibility to add parking up to 200 spaces, and adequate laneways to allow more vehicles. During recent snowstorms, Rogers School drop-off area was hazardous.

"What I'm asking you to do tonight, instead of reacting to a two-school

option that is not going to happen, is to act in the best interest of students in the Town," he said.

Lisa Schroeder-Plante, a School Board candidate, said, "With all due respect, I don't believe a two-school option is dead."

She noted that choices had been made that may have made problems worse. She asked that the Committee slow down and seek other sources of funding to renovate both schools.

Diane Hahn spoke to say that she trusted the committee, and that the East Fairhaven school was warm and inviting. She said Fairhaven would be "very fortunate to have a second model school in town."

Coach Richard Andrade asked what would happen to Rogers School if it were not selected.

"If it's like what's happening at Oxford, that's a tragedy," he said.

Mr. Gonsalves said the reason that Oxford has not been turned over to the Town is because it may need to house students during construction.

"Kids have to go somewhere while the school is being built," said Mr. Gonsalves.

Ann Elliott thanked the committee for providing additional information, but noted that the amount of state reimbursement was listed as yet to be determined.

"We still do not have it in writing that MSBA will not consider a two-school option. I'm not calling anyone a liar. It's a legitimate concern," said Ms. Elliott. "When MSBA was here, we were told something different."

Mr. Bunnell said that the MSBA representative told them "that a two-school option for less than 300 students was 'an awfully steep hill to climb.' Those were her exact words."

Ms. Elliott countered that MSBA funded renovations of schools for fewer than 300 students. Mr. Lewis noted that it was rare, and more often MSBA encouraged small communities to regionalize schools.

Ms. Elliott asked the Committee to invite MSBA to a meeting. Mr. Bunnell said that MSBA would not come to the Town, but that the Town has to go to MSBA once the project meets the criteria.

Ms. Elliott also asked if the Town would be required to give half of the sale price of the school not selected

**SCHOOL BLDG: cont'd on page 25**

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# Local café to be on Food Network's "Cupcake Wars"

By Beth David  
Editor

Lori Shubert let out a big yell when she found out the big news: she was chosen to compete in the "Cupcake Wars" on the Food Network.\*

"I'm so excited," said Ms. Shubert, who owns the Narragansett Star Cafe and on Route 6 and Narragansett Boulevard in Fairhaven. "We were like a train wreck."

An avid fan of the show, Ms. Shubert submitted an application through the Food Network's website. She said she kept trying, and then got busy and forgot about it. When the phone call came in, she thought it was a joke.

After a couple of minutes, she realized it was for real. She was given a set of instructions, including that she needed to create a three-and-a-half-minute video that will run before her segment on the show. And she had less than a week to do it.

She said her contact at the network, Justin, asked her a lot of questions about her business, about it being "green," and about her life. He especially liked that she rides a Harley Davidson motorcycle, so she pulled it out of the shed in the sub-zero temperatures and fired it up for the video.

The show revolves around a contest starting with four bakers. There are two permanent judges and one rotating celebrity judge. The celebrity has an event that he or she

needs cupcakes for.

The four contestants first make a cupcake based on a theme given to them by the show (such as date night) and suggested ingredients. In round two, the contestants make three different cupcakes.

The two finalists must make 1,000 cupcakes and create a display for them. The winner's cupcakes and display are taken directly from the studio to the event, where the finalist gets to hobnob with the rich and famous.

Oh yeah, the winner also wins \$10,000.

"It's very cool," said Ms. Shubert. "I couldn't be more excited."

The last week has been a whirlwind of activity, with all the Valentine's Day orders needing to be filled at the very same time the video needed to be created.

Ms. Shubert relied on friends and customers to help her create the video.

"I think we'll be



ABOVE: a cupcake bouquet at the Narragansett Star Cafe in Fairhaven. The cafe's owner, Lori Shubert, has been invited to participate in the "Cupcake Wars" on the Food Network. BELOW: Ms. Shubert's friend Jim upstairs at the cafe editing the video that must be submitted for the opening part of the show. Photos by Beth David. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

able to turn out a decent product," she said.

Ms. Shubert gets to take one assistant with her, and is provided with a team of helpers, including a carpenter, to create her display on the set.

Her excitement is obvious as she talks about the upcoming show and her little venture on Narragansett Boulevard in Fairhaven.

"I love the coffee shop, and I love my customers," she said.

And the excitement is palpable as the Narragansett Café heads to New York.\* Ms. Shubert will let us know when the episode is set to run.

\*CORRECTIONS from previous versions: The cafe has made the finals; they have not been chosen yet. They will travel to California, not New York.



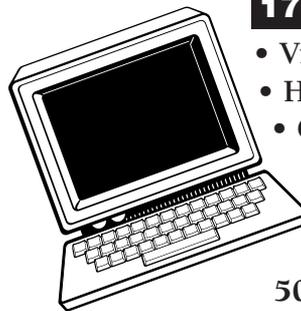
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# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

## Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

1. Ana Borges Hidden Drive Plat 39, Lot 1A Book 9936, Page 179 198-28-G Special Permit required for construction of more than 500 sq ft in the Nasketucket River Basin.

*Very Truly, Peter DeTerra, Chairman*

## Planning Board

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing at **6:30 P.M. on March 8, 2011**, in the Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA.

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following applications. 1) Special Permit, the applicant, **The Town of Fairhaven-BPW for Pasta House**, is requesting Special Permit approval for a parking lot addition. In addition, a waiver to

section 198.31.1 Stormwater Management is being requested. The location of the property is 100 Alden Road, Map 26, Lots 71 & 72. 2) **Rezone:** To Rezone 126 and 122 Bridge Street, Lots 82B & 83 on Assessor's Map 25 from Business (B) to Single Residential (RA).

Copies of the applications are on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the application call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082.

*Wayne Hayward, Chairman*

## Conservation Commission

**The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on February 28, 2011 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 Appli-

cant Paula Desrosiers Location 92 Long Road Plot 23 Lot 175S Purpose install 18 x 36, in-ground pool and foundation for pool cabana, within the 100, buffer zone to BVW.

- Notice of Intent Applicant Kricor K. Melikian Location 2 Alcobia Drive Plot 42 Lot 69, 70 Purpose repair foundation and construct addition within 100, buffer zone to BVW and within a VE flood zone.
- Request for Determination Applicant Fairhaven Board of Public Works Location Balsam Street (at 46 Balsam Street) Plot 43C Lot 18 Purpose restoration of blocked drain outlet, when house was reconstructed, includes deep sump catch basin in front of house, then perforated fabric lined pipe heading westerly. This would address a freeze up that occurs across the street width creating a serious hazard for all vehicle traffic on Balsam.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Jones, Chairman*

*Fairhaven Conservation Commission*

## ML's Eye on the Weather



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

### A Mild Trend...for now

A recent shift in the jet stream means milder conditions for most of the country. The 6 to 10 day outlook shows a significant change that is reversing the below normal temperature trend.

According to the Climate Predic-

tion Center (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/610day/610temp.new.gif>) cold Arctic air will remain bottled-up where it belongs over the next week or two.

Unfortunately, the 10-day outlook is the farthest extent for these kinds of predictions.

As far as precipitation, the second half of February doesn't show any significant rain or snow events until the end of the month. These outlooks are based on data received at the time of this publication and is subject to change.

With two thirds of winter under our belt, I caution, that the later third with quiet trends can be deceiving, so keep the snow blowers fueled up and the shovels on stand-by.

The island's ocean temperature is 36 degrees. Countdown to Spring: 31 days. Don't forget to spring ahead the clocks 1 hour on Sunday March 13., and watch the sunset at 6:48 p.m..... weather permitting.

## Forecast

**Friday:** Hi: 51° wow! This is NOT a typo! Lo: 35° Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Highs in the lower 50s.  
**Friday Night:** Chance Of Showers Lo: 35° Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain showers. Lows in the mid 30s.

**Saturday:** Hi: 40° Partly sunny and brisk. Cooler with highs around 40.  
**Saturday Night:** Lo: 18° Partly cloudy. Lows 15 to 20. Highs in the mid 30s.

**Sunday:** Hi: 35° Lo: 18° Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. **Sunday Night:** Lows 15 to 20.

**Monday:** Clear. High: 32° **Monday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 29°

**Tues.:** Light Rain And Snow. High: 39° Precipitation: 5.13mm (0.20 in)

**Tues. Night:** Mostly Cloudy. Low: 35°

**Wedn.:** Partly Cloudy. High: 37°

**Wed. Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 31°

**Thursday:** Cloudy With A Light Shower Possible. High: 37° Precipitation: 1.56mm (0.06 in) **Thursday Night:** Overcast. Low: 36° ●●●



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### TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers  
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	February 2011	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	17	0646 1911	----	1250*
Friday	18	0734 1959	0053**	1332*
Saturday	19	0823 2048	0145**	1413**
Sunday	20	0912 2139	0235**	1454**
Monday	21	1003 2232	0325*	1535*
Tuesday	22	1056 2326	0414*	1618*
Wednesda	23	1151 ----	0507*	1705*
Thursday	24	0023 1248	0615	1800
Friday	25	0124 1349	0815	1915
Saturday	26	0229 1454	0937	2111
Sunday	27	0337 1601	1033	2221

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

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

**REPORTERS NEEDED:** To cover town meetings for the Neighb News. Attention to detail and ability to be objective essential. Competent writing skills necessary. Journalism experience preferred, but not necessary. Must not be easily intimidated or afraid to question authority. Call 508-979-5593.

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*Francois Duc de la Rochefoucauld*

#### FINCOM: cont'd from page 12

overlay account. John Nunes, Finance Director, said that was correct. The money had been set aside as disputes about tax abatements, etc., were resolved. The money has accumulated over a number of years.

Mr. Osuch noted that it was a one-time figure that would not be available in subsequent years. He cautioned against using it for operating expenses.

As to salary increases, Mr. Roderiques reiterated that the salary increases are not a given.

"We're not saving money for raises," he said.

"Senior citizens have not gotten a raise for two years," said committee member Jennifer Bishop. "So I don't think anyone else should be getting raises."

Additional Town Administration items were presented by Mr. Osuch. Most were level funded, he said. However, the Worker's Compensation Insurance Fund was "going to go through the roof," according to Mr. Osuch. He said \$558,505 was budgeted

## Fairhaven Meetings

### Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/1, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

### Board of Health

Tues., 2/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Public Works

Mon., 2/22, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

### Boat Ramps Comm.

Thurs., 2/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Community Preservation

Thurs., 2/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Conservation Commission

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

### Finance Committee

Thurs., 2/24, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

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

### Park Committee

Mon., 3/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Planning Board

Tues., 3/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Wed., 3/9, FHS Library, 6:30

### Selectboard

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

### Mattapoisett River Valley Advisory Committee

Tues., 3/8, Arsene St., 3:30 p.m.

### Mattapoisett River Valley Water District

Tues., 3/8, Arsene St., 4:30 p.m.

for FY2011, and \$50,000 more had been spent than last year at this time.

The Town's insurance agent, the Sylvia Group, was reviewing the Town's claims to determine a rating.

"We need to make [the department heads] more aware of what's transpiring in their departments," Mr. Osuch said. "School and highway departments have too many claims."

Mr. Osuch asked that the contributory retirement fund discussion be postponed to another meeting. He said that the health insurance item may need to be modified as employees' share went up on January 1 and so should also be postponed.

In other business, the Board voted unanimously to approve a \$50,000 transfer to cover snow and ice removal, which was running at a \$25,000 deficit.

The board also discussed replacement of street lights throughout town. Sciticut Neck is the next area that will be worked on. The town is replacing 150 lights per year with LED lights that will save the town money while providing brighter illumination.

**SELECT: cont'd from page4**

leaks. Downstairs, when it rains, we have sandbags on the sump pump to handle water overflow."

Mr. Osuch suggested that the police chief research the warranty information on the department's roof to see whether or not the town could go straight to the manufacturers to provide warranty repairs.

The selectboard voted on several articles on the town warrant, primarily those that only dealt with revolving accounts and had no impact on the general fund.

The board noted that the current snow and ice deficit supply is at \$40,074.22 dollars and voted to cap deficit spending for snow and ice removal to \$50,000 dollars.

The board also accepted a copy of a letter sent to the Board of Public Works from the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation regarding maintenance at Ft. Phoenix.

The town has received complaints from residents asking why Ft. Phoenix was not being plowed after snowstorms, said Mr. Osuch. The town was surprised to discover that Lou Hannigan, who was the only year-round staff member assigned to Ft. Phoenix,

had retired last year after 40 years of service. Due to budget cuts and hiring freezes, the state has not replaced retired personnel. Ft. Phoenix is now operating on a part-year basis, and snow plowing has been severely curtailed.

Selectboard members commented that they had not been aware that Mr. Hannigan had retired, and that they wished they had been made aware of the fact earlier.

The board also

- Approved a request from the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center to hold a Road Race on May 29th.
- Approved a request by Hastings Middle School students to hold a fundraiser for fishing families on March 11 and called on the public to support the fundraising efforts.
- Accepted a letter from the town's building commissioner requesting that the town send a letter of thanks to the visual design students and staff of the Greater New Bedford Vocational-Technical High School, who provided designs and lettering services for the town's official vehicles at little cost to the town.
- Voted to delay a decision on a proposal from King Information

Systems for records conversion services. The company, which creates record archives systems and records transfers to microfiche, has offered to give the town a quote for its services at the cost of \$525 dollars per day. Board Member Michael Silvia recommended that Mr. Osuch contact Town Bookbindery to see what they would be willing to do for Fairhaven, noting that the Freetown company is noted for being one of the leaders in the state for records conversion.

- Placed on the agenda for the next meeting, a proposal to participate in a statewide public safety aid program. Chiefs Myers and Francis explained to the selectboard that the municipal relief act allows communities to enter into mutual aid agreements for police, fire, ambulance, board of health and public works services in case of national disasters or catastrophes.
- Reconvened in executive session to discuss issues regarding legal correspondence from Attorney Saunders, the New Bedford water and sewer agreement, tax title issues, and a license issue connected to Full Throttle. •••



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# Planning asked to endorse healthy building, green building

By John Garcia

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Planning Board scheduled several Public Hearings at their meeting on Tuesday, 2/8.

Two representatives of Voices For A Healthy Southcoast appeared before the Board to request that it sign a resolution containing initiatives the organization says will help build and support healthy lifestyles. They have sent the letter to other communities, including New Bedford, and have met with Fairhaven's Board of Health.

Voices member Donna Querim, a Fairhaven resident, praised the town for its bike path and farmer's market, both of which she said supported the group's vision.

"I like to say we're ahead of the curve," she said.

She told the Board that the document was not intended to be binding.

"It's nothing more than a show of support," she said.

Board member Jeff Lucas stated that several of the ideas in the letter, such as one supporting the promotion of open space, were already carried out by the town's bylaws.

"In principle, a lot of what is in our bylaws do work toward this end," he said.

However, he noted that some of the initiatives were out of the Board's jurisdiction, including one that encouraged designating all public areas and public housing as smoke free.

"We have nothing to do with smoke free environments," he said. "We don't regulate this."

Chairperson Wayne Hayward stated that he would not sign the letter before first gathering input from the community.

"We have to hold a hearing," he said. "The hearing is there for a reason."

He suggested that Ms. Querim and Voices Co-Chairperson Nancy Bonell talk to the Select Board.

Ms. Querim and Ms. Bonell will draft a revised version of the document and present it at the Board's March 8th meeting.

Town Planner Bill Roth presented drafts of two bylaws that would be proposed at Town Meeting. Both would serve as criteria for Fairhaven to be certified as a Green Community. The first of the drafts he presented regulates wind energy.

Mr. Hayward stated that it was important that the bylaw address shadow flicker (the moving shadows cast by rotating blades, which create a flickering effect) in order to prevent it from being a nuisance for those who live near turbines.

All members present voted in favor of scheduling a hearing on the

possibility of rezoning properties on 122 and 126 Bridge Street from business to residential. One of the properties is owned by Board member Joseph Morra. Noting this fact, Board member Raymond Fleurent stated that he wanted Mr. Morra's opinion of the potential rezoning before coming to a decision.

"I won't vote for it if I don't know what I'm voting on," he said.

Mr. Hayward said that it would be a conflict of interest for Mr. Morra to give his opinion on the matter in the middle of that discussion. He added that Mr. Morra would get a chance to have his opinion heard during the Public Hearing on the issue, as he would be appearing as homeowner rather than Board member. All

members present and eligible to vote were in favor of scheduling the hearing for March 8th. Mr. Morra must abstain from any votes related to the rezoning.

The Board received a Special Permit request that would allow the Pasta House to add more parking. All members present and eligible to vote were in favor of scheduling a Public Hearing for March 8th. Mr. Hayward abstained, as he has a family member who works for the Pasta House. He will sit out during the hearing.

The Board also discussed the potential release of three lots from the Torrington Road Subdivision. Mr. Roth stated that the lots had been sold despite the fact the no sale was supposed to take place before they were released. They will need to be released before anything can be built on them.

"We're basically cleaning up an issue," he said.

Mr. Hayward noted that the issue hadn't been publicized, and that he wanted it to be discussed at a Public Hearing.

"I'd be more comfortable doing that at the next meeting," he said.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of scheduling the Hearing for March 8th. ●●●

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Mr. Hayward stated that he wanted solar facilities to be adequately fenced and have emergency access in order to ensure safety.

"They may be green, but they're very dangerous," he said.

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proposed bylaw for March 8th, the last day a hearing can be held for a bylaw presented at Town Meeting. Gary Staffon was absent.

The second bylaw regarded the use of Solar Energy. Mr. Roth told the Board that the bylaw would set up a public process for the installation of solar panels.

Mr. Hayward stated that he wanted solar facilities to be adequately fenced and have emergency access in order to ensure safety.

"They may be green, but they're very dangerous," he said.

All members present voted in favor of scheduling a Public Hearing for March 8th.

The Board discussed the



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**SCHOOL BLDG: cont'd from page 17**

to MSBA. Mr. Lewis noted it has not been done, although the rules could be interpreted that way.

There was much discussion about how the MSBA arrives at its projected student population numbers, but in the end, MSBA uses its own numbers.

Another parent, who presented a letter to the Committee, was concerned that the class size might rise to 25-30 students per class.

In her letter, which she read to the Committee, she requested a full economic analysis which included the cost of busing [to Wood], teacher layoffs, renovation or remodeling of Rogers School, portion of sale to MSBA, displacement of students and renovation of Oxford, changes to property values, the merit of new construction, changes in employees, and fluctuating enrollment.

Linda Rogers, a teacher at Wood School, defended the teacher's ability to handle a class size whether 16 or 25, and said her colleagues at both schools were amazing.

At the end of the public comment, Dr. Baldwin, Committee member and Superintendent of Schools, noted his time at both schools, and his pride in the staff at all Fairhaven schools. He said that he was basing his decision on the need to be forward thinking, that he had to consider what would be best for all children, and what would get 51% of the vote at Town Meeting.

Because the Wood School site has the ability to expand, he would look to the future for all children and would recommend the siting of a model school at the Wood School site.

Mr. Osuch asked him to make it a motion, and seconded it.

Wendy Williams, principal of Rogers School, said that it had been a difficult decision.

"No matter what my decision is, I'm going to make half of you really mad," she said.

Although she had spoken strongly against renovating Rogers School without upgrading the Wood School as being unfair, she said she looked at Rogers School walkability, traffic, impacts to the Town, and concern

with what would happen to Rogers School if Wood were selected.

She also noted that Sciticut Neck homeowners had increased flood insurance and betterment fees, and that adding another \$100 to their tax burden was asking a lot. For those reasons, she would vote to improve Rogers School.

SC member Pam Kuechler said that she had a difficult time deciding as well. She said that children were at

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**If it's like what's  
happening at Oxford,  
that's a tragedy  
[Richard Andrade]**

---

the center of her decision and she had a responsibility to the community.

"Long term, as we draw people into the community, people will want to be here based on our decision," said Ms. Kuechler. She favored Rogers School as a better option long-term because it is an opportunity to preserve the historic building.

Brian Bowcock, Selectboard representative on the committee, noted for the record that BOS voted to appoint all committee members. He said he enjoyed the passion of the residents attending the past meetings, and that there were two good options, but one was a better opportunity: a model school at the Wood site.

Mr. Gonsalves said that Wood School's room for expansion, and better traffic flow

tipped in its balance.

Mr. Bunnell thanked the residents who attended and spent their time on the issue.

"Rogers School will remain in good hands and it will be cared for," said Mr. Bunnell. "A building is nothing more than bricks and mortar. It's what goes on inside that makes a community."

Citing traffic and expansion limitations at Rogers School, he said Wood School was the appropriate choice.

The committee voted 6-2 in favor of building a model school at the Wood School site.

David Gonsalves, Paul Kitchen, Brian Bowcock, Jeff Osuch, Christopher Bunnell, and Dr. Baldwin voted in favor. Pam Kuechler and Wendy Williams voted against.

Residents accepted the decision quietly.

Mr. Osuch moved to vote that the Selectboard add an article for Special Town Meeting to appropriate \$200,000 for schematic design for the Wood School site model school. It passed unanimously.

*Michael J. Decicco contributed to this article.*

*\*Fixes errors: \$10.7 instead of \$13.5 for Rogers and \$10.1 instead of \$14.5/Wood.*



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# Letters: readers weigh in on school building decision

## Adults should work together

My former boss told me, "The squeaky wheel doesn't always get the grease — sometimes it gets replaced."

I hope Fairhaven citizens will consider that, and come to a rational and fiscally responsible agreement about building a new school.

We cannot afford two new schools. No one has proven otherwise. If we continue to be a "squeaky wheel," the state will replace us on their list for assistance, with a town that desires opportunity for their children. And we will have nothing, except two defunct schools, for ours.

Let's put this situation in a positive light and imagine what our wonderful educators, ambitious volunteers, and eager children could do in a real learning environment.

I believe the choice is to build one school, or force the children and taxpayers to live with the dire consequences as a result of current personal emotions.

We expect our children to work together. Now it's time for the adults in our community to work together.

*Michelle Furtado*

## Single new school best option

It is unfortunate that the School Building Committee was unable to vote [at its 2/8 meeting] on a final plan for the new school project. Whereas I appreciate the historical significance of the Rogers School building, I am convinced that a single new school is the best option for the Town as a whole, as well as for its

students.

The parents and community members that are still insistent on a two school option obviously have a strong sentimental attachment to the building and the neighborhood school concept. To them I respectfully respond that the town of Fairhaven has not had neighborhood schools for longer than the dozen years that I have resided there.

My neighborhood is known as "the bubble area," where the children attend whichever school has the lower number of incoming students that year. At one point the children from my block were attending Rogers, Wood, East and Oxford simultaneously.

The Rogers School is the only elementary in town that services a neighborhood, the other two schools house students from the entire town.

My sons attended the Wood School where I spent a large number of hours volunteering in that building over eight years. I've also spent a significant amount of time working as a building aide at the East Fairhaven School. I can attest to the fact that the schools are equally warm, inviting and accepting despite the disparity in their sizes.

Given my experience at both schools I believe that a new school on the same scale as East Fairhaven would not be a detriment to our children, but rather it would create an equity that could only benefit them.

I also support the idea that a single, larger building be placed at the Wood School site not only because of

the land available but also because there is a large, handicap accessible playground already in existence at that site.

I would not worry that class size will negatively impact the students in a single school because it seems to me that a single school requires a single principal, a single cafeteria and other single expenses that would decrease the budget and perhaps free up money that can be used to enhance classroom instruction for all students.

It is true that busing costs would increase with the one new school option, but I believe that busing costs are worthwhile because it assures safe passage to school for larger numbers of students and it also reduces tardiness and absences when parents can rely on that transportation.

I have long held the belief that a small town, even with its big history, needs only two elementary buildings. My vision differs in that I think all PreK through grade two students should be in one building and grades three through five should be in the other building along with a high needs special education classroom that will support those students through sixth grade.

All of our children should have the same experiences and opportunities available to them while they learn and grow together. I hope that the school building committee will reach a decision soon so that we do not miss the opportunity entirely.

*Diane Hahn*

## CD release party from one-woman show

### Press Release

Maureen Curran has been through more in one life than one could imagine. Having been raised in one of the toughest drug ridden streets in New Bedford, Roosevelt Street, she worked very hard to put herself through college and graduated from UMassBoston on the Dean's List in the top 20 percent of her class.

She worked hard for many years as a teacher, counselor, case manager, coordinator, but she always loved writing and singing.

Ms. Curran has performed in plays locally and in California, including a rehearsal\* at the Bay View Opera House in San Francisco, and singing\* in the San Francisco City Hall Rotondo.

She was nominated "Best Supporting Actress" in the A.R.T.A Awards on the Cape for her role of Georgette in "School for Wives" with Gateway Players in the Cape. Her first acting role was at Try Works in Neil Simon's play "God's Favorite."

She always loved singing, but never having had much money, she is a self taught singer. She did have at a few music lessons, but taught herself most of the chords.

She has done local concerts concerts to benefit vulnerable populations at the former Oceanna, the Wamsutta, the Marion Music Hall, and others as well as a concert at Besse Park on the Onset/Wareham waterfront, and sang a mini-history of contemporary music

at the Millicent Library, for which she was awarded a grant from the Fairhaven Cultural Counsel to do.

Last summer, she wrote and created her own CD, "Bright Lights," in which she sings all the vocals, and plays the only instrument on it, the keys. Her CD release party is on Feb. 23 from 7-9 p.m. at the Mattapoisett Chowder House. General Admission is \$15, and includes a complimentary CD. For seniors and students, admission is only \$7. Seniors and students can get the CD, for only \$5 extra. Portion of proceeds benefits Pilgrim United Church.\*\*

\*Fixes errors from previous versions: "rehearsal" and "singing" instead of "performances." \*\*Adds benefit info.

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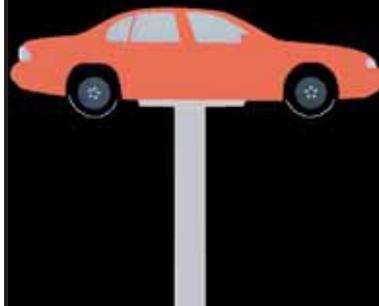
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