



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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Including event listings from Cape Cod to RI



*The little paper
with a big voice!*

Volume 6, Issue 8 • March 3, 2011

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

Firefighter's helmet returned after 40+ years



Linda Donnelly shares a laugh with her mother, Antonette "Toni" Byrne, as she holds up the helmet that belonged to husband and father, John "Jack" Byrne in the 1960s. The helmet fell off the fire truck during a dash to a fire and was picked up by a student attending Northeastern University. The man's nephew recently came across the helmet he used to play with as a child and decided to return it to its "rightful owner." He tracked Toni down through a *Neighb News* item he found on the Internet. See page 16 for story. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

Also Inside:

- **Selectboard**, page 4
- **Finance Committee**, page 12
- **The Report From Potter's Point**, page 17
- **Conservation Commission**, page 24

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

What a fun cover story we have this week. Toni Byrne got a phone call from a stranger saying he had a firefighter's helmet from the 1960s that belonged to Toni's husband.

Yeah, right, sure.

She and her children were suspicious. But the man didn't ask for any money. So, what kind of scam could it be? Turns out, it wasn't a scam at all. It was just a nice man who had an old helmet he used to play with when he was a child. When he realized it had a name on it, he wanted to give it back.

And (this is so cool), he found Toni because of an item in the *Neighb News*. Really. No fooling, no scam, for real. He found it online.

See why I love this job? Turn to page 16 for the story.

Speaking of firefighters....on page 3 you'll find a story about a beam from the World Trade Center arriving in Acushnet. The beam will be used in a memorial to those who died in the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks. Special thanks to Carol Kobza for taking a few pictures and sending them to us. Our readers are the best!

Well, it was Oscar week. It's a bad year when I haven't seen even ONE (count 'em....ONE) movie on the list. I think the Harry Potter movie is the only one I saw in all of 2010. Ugh... that is just SOOOOO wrong. I need to retire or something.

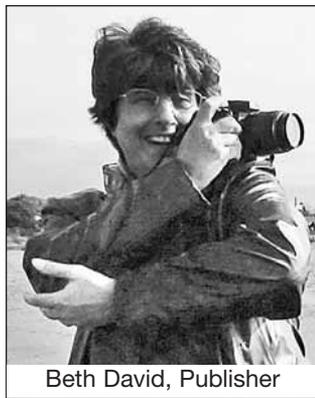
Chris Richard is back this week with The Report From Potter's Point. See page 17 to find out what those characters have been up to this month. You just never know what kind of trouble they'll find next!

We have some Fairhaven meeting coverage in this week. See page 4 for Selectboard, page 12 for Finance Committee and page 24 for Conservation Commission.

During the ConCom vote, member Susan Morris recused herself from a vote. She didn't say why. Our reporter asked her why after the meeting and she refused to tell him. They told John that she was not required by law to give a reason for recusing herself.

Bah! What a crock. Who cares about some ridiculous legal hairsplitting? People have a right to know why she is not able to vote on something. If it's because she is an abutter, an ex-lover, someone's aunt, or has some history with someone, people have a right to know why someone who is supposed to be voting on something is not. ConCom positions are appointed by the Selectboard, not voted in by the electorate, so it's even more important for people on that board to be up front about things. We can't just vote her out. It's all done by...hmmm....gee.... how is that done anyway?

Until next week then, see ya



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS

In the Finance Committee article about the Fairhaven police department budget, we used some of the wrong numbers. The police chief said his goal is to have 32 officers and six dispatchers; it costs \$2,500 per person to send officers to the police academy. The police chief's last name is spelled "Myers."

Beam from World Trade Center to be used in Acushnet

By Beth David
Editor

When Acushnet firefighters heard that steel from the World Trade Centers would be available to public service departments for local memorials, they "jumped on that," said fire chief Kevin A. Gallagher.

They sent in their written request and followed the progress of the request for 18 months. Last week, the steel beam arrived in Acushnet. They used a heavy duty Ford pickup truck owned by one of the firefighters to pick up the beam. When they got to the area, they transferred it to a "motorized caisson" owned by a New Bedford firefighter. The modified Peterbuilt truck owned by Sean Foley is used at funerals of public service and military personnel. The 2,700 pound beam had an escort from many local departments to get it to Acushnet.

The beam will be used in a monument in memory of all those who died in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93, which crashed in Shanksville, PA,

when passengers wrested control of the plane from terrorists.

The memorial needs to be dignified, respectful, lasting and accessible to the public, said Chief Gallagher.

"The door is wide open for designs or ideas," said the chief, adding that they are working with the College of Visual and Performing Arts at UMassDartmouth.

"The whole game plan is to have a dignified and respectful monument, and one that people will be very proud of when they drive by," he said.

The plan is to erect the monument at the Acushnet fire station.

"Without question, my successors will always tend to that particular



ABOVE: A steel beam recovered from the rubble of the World Trade Centers after the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks is hauled into Acushnet on Thursday, 2/24/11. BELOW: Vehicles from local fire and police departments escort the beam through Fairhaven. The beam will be used in a memorial on the grounds of the Acushnet Fire Department. Photos courtesy of Carol Kobza. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com



BEAM: cont'd on page 13

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Selectboard supports one school option, reviews 2012 budgets

By Mali Lim

Neighb News Correspondent

Parents made a final appeal to town officials in a bid to save the Rogers School from closure, but ultimately the Fairhaven Selectboard voted at its meeting on 2/28 to endorse the school building committee's recommendation to build one new school on the site of the LL Wood School.

Approximately a dozen parents turned out at the meeting, making a last ditch push for either the "two-school option" of renovating both facilities, or keeping the more historically significant Rogers School over the Wood School.

They raised a wide range of concerns, including the emotional impact and upheaval that moving would have on Rogers School students.

Some parents went as far as to blame the town for stonewalling their demands for open meeting records, transportation estimates, and other documentation that would have supported their case. Sharon Anderson, one of the few parents who agreed to identify themselves, said she had called the MSBA to find out on what criteria it was basing its decisions to fund one project over another.

"They told me they weren't making the decisions, it was the bureaucratic officials here in town that were making those decision," she said.

The selectboard acknowledged the parents' concerns, but endorsed the SBC's recommendation to build a new model school on Sciticut Neck Road.

SBC Chair Christopher Bunnell explained that the decision was based on various factors, including traffic risks, site flexibility, and comparisons of fiscal impacts for Fairhaven taxpayers.

"Our reasoning principally was the expansion possibilities that are available to us at the Wood School site as opposed to the Rogers site," he said. "The model school site provides the highest rate of reimbursement and the lowest net cost to the community, somewhere in the vicinity of ten to eleven million dollars. Clearly this was the more cost effective option."

Selectboard member Brian Bowcock, who served as a member of the SBC, stated that they had not made the decision lightly, and that he appreciated the historical significance of the Rogers School building.

"I don't want to see it sold, I don't want to see it torn down," Dr. Bowcock said. "I want to see it take on a new life as something else for the town."

The next step is to go to the MSBA to

try to obtain funding.

Much of the meeting was spent going over the Recreation Department and BPW budgets and town meeting articles.

Recreation Director Warren Rensehausen brought visual models to explain why he was seeking funds to replace the 10-year old flooring in the recreation center's gymnasium.

"Every October or November, bubbles start appearing in the floors," he told the board, citing a breakdown of the adhesive under the floor due to moisture and condensation. The bubbling problem began five years after the floor was installed, and has worsened each year. About 80% of the floor is now affected.

"We've spent almost \$8000 in repairs since 2006 because we keep having to restore adhesive and reseal the floor. I think we're going to have to replace the material eventually," he said.

Mr. Rensehausen presented the board

I don't want to see [the Rogers School] sold, I don't want to see it torn down. I want to see it take on a new life as something else for the town [Brian Bowcock]

with four possible scenarios with differing costs, each with pros and cons.

"The least expensive option would be to install snap-on plastic tiles. That's the least expensive, at \$35,000 dollars, but it's not the best playing surface," he said.

Another option is to replace the floor with a poured rubber floor that would adhere directly to the concrete, at the cost of \$74,000 dollars. Like the snap-on tiles, moisture would continue to be an issue without the use of an underlayment, and the 15 year product lifespan may be affected due to moisture, he explained.

The high end choice would be wood, costing approximately \$82,000.

"There would be some maintenance for that, probably stripping and repolying every few years, but it would be the best material. The majority of gyms and YMCAs around here have wood floors."

"The last option is to rip up the existing floor, lay down a new moisture barrier and reinstall with the same product," he

concluded. "If I had my ultimate choice it would be the wood floor, but I understand there would be budget concerns. I wanted to at least put this on everyone's radar and to let everyone know that this is something that needs to be addressed, if not now, then in the near future."

Mr. Rensehausen announced cuts in his contract and operational budget requests. He reported that the department collected more in dues than what it anticipated, so he reduced his request from \$105,000 to \$90,000.

Membership has increased approximately 10%, a rise that he attributed to an influx of members from Acushnet and Mattapoisett.

He was also able to reduce his request for contracted services from \$7,500 to \$6,000.

The Rec Department will not be taking over the town beach as had been discussed. As a result, the Town Meeting article regarding funds for replacing restroom facilities on West Island will be amended on town meeting floor to show that it is solely a public works article. The cost of replacing the existing trailer facility would be approximately \$24,000 to \$35,000, in contrast, a pre-cast facility would run between \$50,000 to \$75,000, said Superintendent of Public Works William A. Fitzgerald, Jr.

"If we take a state grant, we would have to open the beach to out-of-town residents forever, and we can only charge them up to double what we charge residents," he explained. "We would never be able to go back to the option of a town resident-only beach, and some people didn't like the prospect of losing that permanently."

The board, nevertheless, directed Mr. Fitzgerald to explore the possibility of outside grants.

Mr. Fitzgerald defended budget requests for a fume extractor for the highway department, an additional mechanic, and an article for money to finish replacing street signs with more reflective ones.

"The fume extractor is actually required by OSHA," he explained, adding that the town's new safety committee has recognized several issues that need to be addressed.

A state mandate requires that street signs meet certain reflectivity standards by January 2015, but an inventory is due to the state by January 2012.

In support of adding an extra position to the highway department, personnel

SELECT: cont'd on page 26

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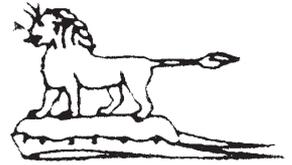


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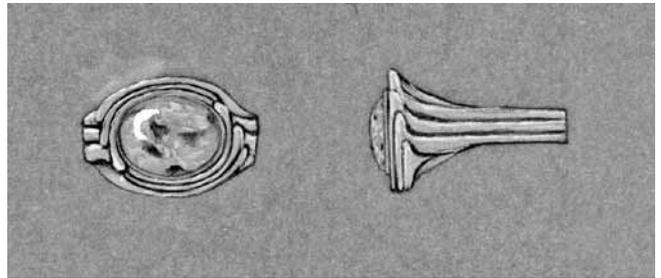
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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Free Political PR

The *Neighb News* will give all candidates for townwide public office in Fairhaven a chance to get their messages out. You may submit an article of approximately 500 words, with a picture, and we will publish at no charge before the April 4 election.

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

DEADLINE: Friday, 3/11. Statements will run in the 3/17, 24, & 31 issues.

Email NeighbNews@comcast.net, call 508-979-5593, fax 508-991-5580, or mail 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Email is preferred.

FHS Pops Concert

Annual Fairhaven High School **POPs Concert on March 5th at 7:00 p.m.** Dinner starts at 6 p.m. catered by the Century house. Our Theme this year is Literature Through Music. All the pieces being performed have been inspired by great works of literature. Some examples are: Lord of the Rings from JRR Tolkien, Abrams Pursuit inspired by the Bible, Beyond the Horizon from the play of the same name by Eugene O'Neal. Dinner tickets are \$15 and must be purchased in advance by calling 508-979-4051 x1023. Concert only tickets, \$5, available at the door.

Dinner will be in the FHS cafeteria and the concert in the performing arts center, both are accessible.

At the Millicent

These programs are at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Auditorium and wheelchair access are at the Walnut Street entrance. To register, call the library at 508-992-5342, or email Jane Murphy, jmurphy@sailsinc.org.

- **Storytime Session IV, through April 7.** Toddler Storytime on Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m. Age 1-3. *Big Kid* Storytime on Fridays from 10-11 a.m. Age 3-5. *Baby* Storytime on Fridays from 11:15-11:45 a.m. Age 0-18 months.
- **March Teen Advisory Group (Milliwizards)** meets Thursday, March 10th from 3-5 p.m. Celebrate Teen Tech Week! Grade 6 and up.
- **Crafternoon** Wednesday, March 16th from 3-5 p.m. in the down-

stairs Auditorium. Ages 3 and up.

Peace Corps: 50 yrs

Join us for an **International Pot Luck Dinner in celebration of 50 years of Peace Corps, 3/12 at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven. Accessible.**

Hosted by Kelly Ochoa (Honduras 93-95) and Deidre Healy (Dominican Republic). The Peace Corps will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2011. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have provided technical assistance to the world's populations most in need in villages, towns and cities across the globe.

When volunteers return to the US they are committed to sharing their international experience with local neighborhoods in meaningful ways. To honor the five decades of service, returned volunteers will be throwing parties as a way to commemorate the anniversary. Both Kelly Ochoa and Deidre Healy will share pictures of their Peace Corps experiences.

Comedy Act Benefit

David DiLorenzo, Mike Murray, and Nick Albanese at Comedy Night at **Seaport Inn in Fairhaven on Friday, March 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door with free hors d'oeuvres. Accessible.**

For tickets, email Phantoms@comcast.net or call 508-971-3546. This fundraiser is to benefit the **Mass. Phantoms Girls 16-U Softball Team.**

Jazz Concert

The Fairhaven Community Concert Series is pleased to have the Southcoast Jazz Orchestra perform for our Mardi Gras concert **Sunday March 6 at 6:00 p.m., at the First Congregational Church Fairhaven, corner of Center and William Streets. Accessible.**

Southcoast Jazz Orchestra is led by Bob Williamson and features some of the best local performers and music educators in Southeastern Massachusetts. A social hour with hors d'oeuvres by Huttleston House precedes the concert from 4:40-5:30. **Reservations must be made for the social hour and will cost \$5. For reservations call 508-993-3368.**

Concert begins at 6PM. **Tickets are \$10, students free.**

Fishing Family F-R

Sponsored by Hastings Middle School Student Council. Seafood Dinner on **Friday, March 11, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., in the HMS Cafeteria, 30 School St., Fairhaven. Accessible.** All proceeds to go to the American Seafood Defense Fund, New Bedford Harbor Development Commission.

Meal includes: Baked fish and scallops, roasted potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, coffee or juice. Entertainment for kids: Arts & crafts, movie and music. Tickets: \$10 large seafood dinner, \$8 small. Tickets available at at HMS Office, 508-979-4063; at Euro's, Reidar's, and Shawmut Diner. Make checks payable to HMS Student Council.

NFIA Banquet to honor Bowcock

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association's 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 be recognized for their outstanding service.

Tickets are \$25 Call 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.

Complete the application online at www.fairhavenhomecoming.wordpress.com or pick one up at the Fairhaven Town Hall, Millicent Library or Fairhaven Tourism Office.

Contact Eric and Angela Dawicki, at angeladawicki@gmail.com for info.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Mural Musings

On **Saturday, March 5**, the **New Bedford Preservation Coalition (NBPC)** will host a forum to discuss murals in the downtown historic district at the **New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** Accessible. The event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is recommended. Contact Anne Louro at Anne.Louro@newbedford-ma.gov or 508-979-1488 for more information or to register.

New Bedford enjoys a vibrant arts community and recognizes that murals are an important art form, bringing art into the public setting. The NBPC hopes that Mural Musings will generate lively, dynamic conversations regarding murals within the historic district. This forum is open to the public, and the creative sector, downtown property owners, and all other interested parties are strongly encouraged to participate.

"Mural Musings" will include brief presentations by Dorr Fox, Circuit Rider for Preservation Massachusetts; Irene Buck, Executive Director of ArtWorks!; and Jennifer Nersesian, Superintendent, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Presentations will be followed by facilitated breakout group discussions.

The NBPC will utilize the information gathered from the forum to better identify potential city guidelines and/or regulatory processes related to the creation of murals within the downtown historic district.

NBHS Hosts

On **Saturday, March 5**, at **12:00 noon** **New Bedford High School** will host its **1st Annual Percussion and Colorguard Competition** in the Main Gymnasium of New Bedford High School. Accessible. It will include 25 member groups of the New England Scholastic Band Association (NESBA) which hail from throughout New England as well as New Bedford's own NBHS Percussion Ensemble, Winter Guard, and the NBPS All-City Middle School Color Guard.

The students of these ensembles are all members of the Whaler Marching Band. The NBHS Colorguard Routine is titled "Into the Woods" and features music from Danny Elfman's soundtrack to "Alice in Wonderland."

The Percussion Ensemble Show is titled "Aruban Jam" and features upbeat musical selections with a touch of Caribbean flair. It tells the story of a neighborhood street fair where the bright colors and tropical atmosphere are a festive backdrop for the musical repertoire that includes original music by Chris Brooms and Kennan Wylie.

Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and proceeds from the event will benefit the New Bedford High School Band and Color Guard programs.

For more information about this event or the NBHS Band program contact Eric Drew at 508-997-4511 ex 2369 or Kerri Quinlan-Zhou Director of Fine Arts, 508-997-4511 x 3352.

Exploration Series

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park continues its Exploration Series on **Fri., March 4, from 6:30-8:00 PM. at the Research Library of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 791 Purchase Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible.** The series is an opportunity for the public to delve into New Bedford's fascinating history and its people. The sessions take place on select Friday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM and on select Saturday mornings from 10:00-11:30 AM. All sessions are free of charge, and the public is welcome to attend one, some or all of them.

This Friday's session will focus on the worldwide search for whales. This interactive session will feature Mike Dyer, Maritime Curator of New Bedford Whaling Museum. Participants will hear about this fascinating industry and the role it played in New Bedford, as well as having an opportunity to examine firsthand some of the original documents that date back to the days of whaling.

Pipe Organ Recital

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 6, James Morgan of Rhode Island will play a recital on the historic pipe organ at St. Anthony of Padua church in New Bedford's North End, 1359 Acushnet Ave. This is the third recital in the 2010-2011 "Music at St. Anthony's program." We regret that St. Anthony's is not accessible.

Started in 2004, the focus of the series is to raise funds to completely

restore the church's 1912 Casavant organ. The organ, Opus 489, is one of the largest four manual pipe organs of its age, type and size in playable condition in New England. Built for the space by Casavant Brothers of Quebec, Canada, its rich tones are enhanced by the construction of the church, which is of wood and plaster rather than stone.

For more information, please call the rectory at 508-993-1691. Directions and information about the Church and the organ fund are posted on the Internet at www.MUSICSAINTANTHONYNS.ORG.

Int'l Women's Day

Celebrate the women in your life by gathering for the 100th International Women's Day at the **Wamsutta Club, 427 County Street, New Bedford on Tuesday evening, March 8th from 5:30pm-7:30pm.** This event is sponsored jointly by The Women's Center, YWCA Southeastern Mass. and the Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts.

A short program by the sponsors will review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development; and how Women are making a difference in the Southcoast region.

Umoja, a local acapella singing group, will entertain us as they honor women around the world with songs of peace and social justice. You can make a difference by thinking globally and acting locally. You can make every day International Women's Day by working to ensure that the future for women and girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.

Admission is free and includes appetizers, cash bar, coffee and dessert. RSVP requested by email at gfortes@ywcasema.org or phone the YWCA at 508-999-3255.

Blooms at the Zoo

In happy anticipation of Spring, the Buttonwood Park Zoological Society invites you to an informal flower show: Blooms at the Zoo. This event will feature flower arrangements based on favorite books about animals. Participation is open to everyone; details are available at www.bpzoo.org.

Blooms at the Zoo is free **with zoo**

cont'd on next page

STILL OVERTOWN

admission on Sat., 3/12, and Sun., 3/13. You are warmly invited to enjoy the show and vote for your own favorite arrangements!

Special events include a cocktail party preview on Saturday evening (donation of \$25) with music by guitarists Toph and Tom, excellent hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer.

Also join us as we welcome the Zoo Society's new Executive Director, Sonia Schonning. **Please RSVP for the cocktail preview party** at 508-991-4556 x 18. On Sunday, the Dartmouth High School Chamber Orchestra will provide a Musical Matinee.

Come see how "Where the Wild Things Are," "Black Beauty," "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," or even "Moby

Dick" can be artistically interpreted by our various classes of arrangers: Kids, Novice Adult, Experienced Adult and Intergenerational Teams of Parent/Grandparent and Child.

Everyone is invited to get a glimpse of Spring with Blooms at the Zoo, 425 Hawthorn St., New Bedford.

Trolley Tour

On AHA! Night, Thursday, March 10, join Bruce Barnes of the New Bedford Preservation Society for a trolley tour of the South End of New Bedford and stop at the Hathaway Mill on Cove Street for a reception at New England Demolition and Salvage and Circa Vintage Wear. The tour will

highlight the late 19th century development of the area including its mills, churches and neighborhoods. Did you know that a New Bedford man who once owned and operated a nursery here later became Governor of Michigan? Or that one of the most important mill housing developments of the New England textile era still exists in quiet anonymity just off Rockdale Avenue?

AHA! night is a free event, and this program is co-sponsored by the New Bedford Preservation Society and New England Demolition and Salvage. Trolley seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis with departures at 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. from the William Street side of Custom House Square.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Mystery Theater

Join author CJ West for an interactive murder mystery show on **Friday March 4th, (Doors open at 6:30 PM), at the Century House, 107 South Main Street, Acushnet. Accessible.** Tickets \$30 per person. Each guest receives a CJ West novel, appetizers and a chance to solve the mystery and win a gift from Zorvino Vineyards. Cash bar.

Loud & Lethal is an interactive murder mystery show where the guests mingle with amateur actors from the local area. The action takes place in and among the crowd and the murder is committed in plain sight. The challenge to the guests is to follow the right characters, ask the right questions, and solve the murder.

Actors and guests really enjoy this unique event, which is like playing Clue with a room full of people and live playing pieces.

Mardi Gras Smorgasbord

At Acushnet-Wesley Methodist Church, **67 Main Street, Acushnet, on Sunday, 3/5, at 5:30 p.m. Not accessible. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 children 10 and younger.** For tickets call Debbie, 508-996-3101 or Sandy, 508-995-1668.

MO LIFE ball

M.O. L.I.F.E. (Murphy and Others Living Interdependently for Future

Endeavors) will sponsor its 15th annual semi-formal ball at **White's of Westport from 6 p.m.-midnight on Friday, April 1. Semi-formal attire.**

Tickets: \$45 per person. Order tickets online at www.molifeinc.com or call 508-992-5978.

The evening will include dinner and dancing, entertainment, raffles and silent auction.

Each year M.O. L.I.F.E. recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond for others. This year the entire Cox family from Dorothy Cox Chocolates in Fairhaven is the Family of the Year; Thomas Riley is Person of the Year; Jeannette Pittsley will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award; and Craig Fortin will receive the Personal Achievement mAward.

M.O. L.I.F.E. is a 501(c)3 recognized non-profit organization.

Author Event

What happens when the picture you see no longer makes sense? What do you do when you may lose everything you love most? Dartmouth author Kim Marcus has written a provocative and challenging young adult novel, EXPOSED, which she'll be reading from and signing copies of at a launch celebration at Baker Books, 69 State Rd., Dartmouth **on Sun., Mar. 6 at 2 p.m. Accessible.**

Sixteen-year-old Liz is Photogirl—sharp, focused and confident in what she sees through her camera lens. Confident that she and Kate will be best friends forever. But everything

changes in one blurry night. Suddenly, Kate is avoiding her, and people are looking the other way when she passes in the halls. As the aftershocks from a startling accusation rip through Liz's world, everything she thought she knew about photography, family, friendship and herself shifts out of focus.

Told in stunning, searingly raw free verse, EXPOSED is Kimberly Marcus's gut-wrenching, riveting debut and will appeal to fans of Ellen Hopkins, Laurie Halse Anderson and Virginia Euwer Wolff.

5th Tiara Classic

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 Mattapoisett. 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.** Many friends and family have made Mother's Day morning with the Tiara Classic their annual tradition.

The Tiara Classic 5K has become a signature event of the Women's Fund and supports all operations.

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



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Recipe of the Week

Mushroom Stuffed Brie

- 1 bulb garlic
- Olive Oil
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1/2 lb mushrooms, chopped
(I use baby portabella)
- 2 tbsp dry sherry
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 pkg puff pastry
- 14-16 oz Brie

First. Roast a bulb of garlic: place it in aluminum foil with olive oil and bake at 300 for 1 hour, let cool

While garlic is cooling, in a large skillet, melt butter, add mushrooms, sherry, nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste and saute over moderate to high heat until liquid is evaporated. Set aside and cool.

Take all the cloves of garlic out of bulb. Horizontally halve brie. On each inside half spread roasted garlic. Place bottom of brie on rolled out pastry, put mushroom mixture on it, place top on brie and wrap the pastry around the brie.

Place on baking sheet and bake in a preheated oven at 425 for 10-15 minutes. Enjoy!!!

By Kelly Mattos

A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

FHS Girls in Playoffs

Coach Jeff Perry brings his 17-5, fourth-seeded Lady Blues to tonight's game versus Ashland at the Leach Gym. Ashland defeated the Blues last year in State Playoffs. Look for high scoring Kara Charette, to lead, Kelsey Perrone Sovik, Brittany Texeira, Kaya Mullen, Kayli Moniz, and Ashley Brown. Good luck girls and congratulations on a great season.

FHS Boys in Playoffs

The 11-9, 12th seeded, FHS Blues, were set to travel to Bishop Feehab on Wednesday. The masked blond bomber, Adam Mullen, will lead the Blues. Adam, who broke his nose, managed 35 points in 59-45 win over Canton in the season final. He also is my choice as MVP of southcoast basketball.

Congratulations to team on a great season, and seniors Matt Wordell, Brad Carvalho, Bob Perry, Roger Evans, and Dylan Pietrazek.

UMD Hockey Wins First Place

The UmassD Corsairs secured first place with a 4-1 win over Fitchburg. The Corsairs earned top seed with 18-6-1 record, winning nine of their last ten games. They will be playing tonight at Hetland in first game of playoffs. The Corsairs have gotten great play from seniors Joe Hill, Jason Stahl, Colin Tracey, Mickey Dudley, and Adam Horgan.

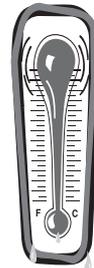
Prose on Pros

Celtics make big thunder trade

The Celtics made a big trade with Kendrick "big thunder" Perkins and Nate "little thunder" Robinson going to Oklahoma Thunder. In return Celtics got former first round Celtic pick Jeff Green, Jeff never played for Celts. He went to Seattle in Allen trade. He is a very good player. Nenard Krastic, a seven foot center, also came along.

Shaq will have to stay healthy and play for Celts to do well. I think Nenard will fill in fine, because Nenard will not be had.

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Boiler and dump truck okay, new chairs not

By Joyce Rowley

Neighb News Correspondent

A transfer of reserve funds for an emergency replacement of the sewage treatment plant building boiler was the first order of business for the Finance Committee at their February 24 meeting. The boiler, installed in 1987, heats three buildings, and warms the sewage sludge to keep it moving.

FinCom Chairperson John Roderiques said the Committee received a request for \$42,500 transfer to purchase a new boiler, but the sewer enterprise reserve fund contains only \$25,000. The general levy fund will need to be tapped for \$17,500.

The boiler will cost a total of \$80,000, of which insurance covers \$37,500 after deductibles, according to Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch. Linda Lima, Sewer Superintendent, said NSTAR will provide a \$15,000 rebate for the upgrade after it is installed. The \$15,000 will be put into the general fund.

Member Scott Fernandez asked if it had to be bid. Because it is an emergency, it is exempt from bid laws, according to Mr. Roderiques.

"If the insurance company considers it an emergency, you know it is," said Mr. Roderiques.

FinCom voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$25,000 from the sewer enterprise reserve fund, and \$17,500 from the general levy fund.

In another matter, Public Works Superintendent William Fitzgerald presented the FY 2012 BPW budget at just over \$5.25 million for all divisions. Mr. Fitzgerald said administration costs were level funded with the exception of a \$3,700 capital outlay needed to replace 27-year-old office equipment.

Member Theresa Szala said she had looked at the equipment to be replaced and only the desks needed replacing.

"Desks I can see, but replacing other things to make them match—no," she said. She requested that just the two desks be priced and no chairs.

Mr. Fitzgerald also presented the \$1.31 million highway budget in Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau's absence. Mr. Roderiques noted that the Highway division is requesting another person and asked for justification.

Mr. Fitzgerald said last year, three

new positions were cut and two were reinstated at Town Meeting but the highway division's position was not put back in the budget. He said they have more than enough work for another laborer. The position will pay \$32,364 annually.

"Just because someone got it back, doesn't justify it for you. We've got to trim \$1.7 million [from the budget]," said Mr. Roderiques.

Geoffrey Haworth, chair of the Board of Public Works, said the division was incurring overtime costs for a longer period of time without the extra person. This raised questions by FinCom member Jennifer Bishop as to why she saw two snowplows out on Sunday after minimal snow.

BPW member Daniel Freitas defended the need for the trucks to

It's a matter of
priorities. Our
priority now is to
keep the bodies
we have.

[John Roderiques]

go out and clear the street drains. Mr. Freitas also said the division needed to have another body.

"It's a matter of priorities," countered Mr. Roderiques. "Our priority now is to keep the bodies we have."

Highway budget capital outlays in the amount of \$163,188 for equipment replacement was \$38,476 over last year. According to Mr. Fitzgerald, capital outlays include a fume extractor for the welding area, a new front carriage for a tire-mounted loader, two dump truck bodies, a small bobcat, and a bobcat trailer. An MIG welding machine could be deleted from the list as one was donated from New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Mr. Haworth said they were trying to maintain instead of replace equipment. Based on a mechanical assessment of the trucks, it was worth it to replace the bodies rather

than buy new trucks.

Mr. Haworth also told the board that the bobcat would be used for clearing storm drains, plowing the bike path, and loaming and seeding roadsides where heavier machinery would be oversized.

Sanitary landfill, trash and garbage removal, street resurfacing repairs and improvements, sidewalk repairs, highway hardsurfacing, and highway drainage services are level funded in the proposed budget. Subdivision management fees were raised from \$2,100 to \$8,367 in order to better maintain subdivision improvements such as detention basins, according to Mr. Haworth.

Ms. Lima presented the Sewer budget as level funded at \$1.64 million with the exception of those anticipated costs associated with the new sewage digester. Costs related to the digester included a new employee, chemicals and laboratory supplies for a total increase of \$112,392. Sludge removal adds another \$330,000 to the total budget.

Mr. Roderiques questioned when and how the cost savings of the new digester would kick in. Mr. Haworth said the \$200,000 or more savings would be seen within a year as reduced sludge disposal costs and in energy generation.

FinCom member Kim Hyland, asked about the \$18,000 increase in contracted services. Ms. Lima stated it was for new activated carbon system for the well at West Island Treatment Plant, which needs to be done periodically.

Water Superintendent Edward Fortin presented his \$964,665 FY2012 budget, up \$152,730 from last year. The salary line item reflects step increases for existing employees and 5% increase in overtime. He also showed an \$11,000 increase in contractual assistance for road patching, although that was less than he spent so far this year on that item.

Well cleaning and redevelopment, were also increased, according to Mr. Fortin. However, the largest increase was for a \$128,897 capital outlay for a new six-wheel dump truck.

"The way we do it now is inefficient," Mr. Fortin said.

The Water division currently relies on the Highway division to send a truck out when they are repairing

FINCOM: cont'd on page 13

FINCOM: cont'd from page 12

water leaks. Saying he needs it "all summer, every day," in response to questions on usage, he said the request includes a snowplow so that the highway division can use the truck.

Mr. Fitzgerald then presented the Parks division budget of \$109,439, of which salaries comprise \$85,839. The budget was level funded except for a line item for seeding. Mr. Haworth explained the Board felt strongly that the athletic fields needed preventive maintenance and so increased the budget to \$4,000 for loaming and seeding the parks.

"If you don't do something, we'll have the high price of fixing it after 10 years of neglect," Mr. Haworth said, adding that the previous year's budget of \$500 was not enough to correct problems at Lindsey Park and Cushman Park.

Member Ronald Quinton reminded BPW to have the Howland Road contractor repair any damage they may have caused by storing equipment at Lindsey Park.

In other business, FinCom reviewed Town Meeting Article 8, Roadwork, for \$557,510. Lafayette and Oxford are the first and second priorities, then

Dogwood Street, Wayne Street, and West Street will be submitted to town meeting for resurfacing, according to Mr. Fitzgerald.

Both Mr. Roderiques and Ms. Szala questioned why West Street couldn't be done at the same time as Oxford and asked that Mr. Charbonneau present his rationale for postponing West Street at a future meeting.

Mr. Fitzgerald also said Wayne Street would not receive a new water line as it only served four or five homes. Residents were not experiencing water quality or pressure problems, he said. Wayne Street would be triple-stone sealed.

Additional articles presented by BPW included: Article #17, New rails on bike path, \$10,000; Article #23, Dug-out demolition at Macomber Field, \$14,171; Article #24, \$5,000 for completion of street signs for mandated changes; Article #31, Cushman Park tennis court, \$7,500 for Town share with contribution by partnership; Article #32, Fort Street sidewalk replacement, \$6,050; Article #36, West Island Town Beach portable restroom, \$38,000; Article #42, Town fueling station, \$15,000. •••

BEAM: cont'd from page 3

monument because of what it means to us," said the Chief. "We will provide a 24-7 set of eyes on the monument."

When the towers collapsed, 343 firefighters and paramedics were killed, and 60 NYPD and Port Authority police officers were killed. In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks, although the exact number continues to be disputed.

Design ideas are welcome. Donations of \$9.11 are also requested. Both should be dropped off or mailed to the Acushnet Fire Department, 2 Russell Street, Acushnet, MA 02743. Make checks payable to "Acushnet 911 Memorial Fund."

Keep an eye out for upcoming fund-raisers, too. Phase one was securing the steel, phase two is design, planning and financing, and phase three will be construction.

"The outpouring of support and interest by the regional community has been exceptional," said the chief, adding that local businesses have been very supportive. "We're hoping it is not a very expensive project. We're hoping it's more community driven, but we do need seed money to get it going." •••

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Friday, April 15th, at 7:30pm, \$5 per child Ages 10 and under

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Kool Kids April Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in group activities such as soccer, floor hockey, cooperative games, and more. Kids need to bring lunch the first 3 days, pizza lunch on will be served on Thursday. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn. For more information, call Fairhaven Recreation at 508-993-9269. Monday, April 18th-21st from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.. Grades K-5, \$100.00 member/ \$125.00 non-member

Little Kickers

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Fairhaven Senior Center

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ENTERTAINMENT:

Mar. 9: Music with Rod at 1pm
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Volunteers Needed

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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.

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Helmet brings memories and gratefulness to Fairhaven widow

By Beth David
Editor

John "Jack" Byrne came from a family of firefighters. Back in the 1960s, he waited a long time to get into the Boston Fire Department. When he did, his wife, Antonette "Toni" Byrne, drove through the Boston streets to Somerville to deliver the letter to him. She still can't believe she found her way to the house he was helping to build.

"He was so happy," recalled Toni this week, as she and her daughter, Linda Donnelly, recalled the story of the lost helmet.

Toni got a phone call a couple of weeks ago from a man who claimed to have Jack's helmet.

"I told my kids [about the call] and they said 'oh, ma,'" said Toni, and told her not to give him any money, to which she replied, "I'm not that stupid."

Besides, "I have dad's helmet," her son Danny told her.

"If I get the helmet, it's real. If I don't, eh, somebody's pulling my leg," said Toni.

He did not ask for any money, so they could not figure out what kind of scam it could be. That's because it was not a scam at all. A few days later, the helmet arrived in the mail, with a note from Nick Bergeron of Biddeford, Maine, explaining how he got the helmet.

His uncle was a student at Northeastern University in the 1960s. He told the family that the helmet flew off a fire truck as it raced around a corner headed to a fire. Uncle Bob

picked it up and gave it to his brother.

"I used to wear it when playing as a child in the 1980s," wrote Mr. Bergeron in a letter to Mrs. Byrne.

He said the helmet was put into storage in the 1990s and "the box made its way to my house."

At some point he "rediscovered" it and decided to do some research on it. As he examined the helmet for a manufacturer or model of some kind he came across the name tag inside. It was faded, and very difficult to make out, but it says "Byrne, John P."

"Even growing up I never realized there was a name in it," said Mr. Bergeron, 32. "Once I found out it actually had a name that went to it, I said I've got to get this to its rightful owner. If it was my father or grandfather I'd want to have it."

He did an Internet search and found the obituary of a Jack Byrne who was a firefighter in Boston. From the obituary he got Antonette Byrne's name and hometown. A search of her name took him to an item in the 12/2/10 *Neighb News*, with a picture of Toni and some other residents of Atria Assisted Living. He called Atria and left his number. They gave it to Toni, and she called him.

"I was just really excited that I could even track her down," said Mr. Bergeron. "Within 20 minutes I was talking to Antonette."

The helmet was not idle all those years.

"I was a preschool teacher and I used to take it in when we did fire prevention," said Nick's mother Cheryl Bergeron.

Nick is a special needs teacher and was going to take it in for the same reason. Instead, his students got a lesson in how to mail a package, including a walk to the Post Office.

As for the Byrne clan, they are more than delighted. When the helmet arrived at Atria, the staff opened up the box for Toni. It was lunch time and she was heading to the dining room.

"They were all excited," said Toni.

She wore the helmet to lunch that day, discovering, "that thing's heavy." Back in her room, she cried.

"My husband fought fires with that on," she said. "I sat here and I cried. It brought back a lot of memories."

"I would've been a puddle," said her daughter Linda.

The helmet will now join the other



ABOVE: Nick Bergeron of Biddeford, Maine holds the firefighter's helmet that belonged to John "Jack" Byrne when he was with the Boston Fire Department in the 1960s. Mr. Bergeron's uncle was a Northeastern University student and picked up the helmet when it fell off a fire truck. Mr. Bergeron tracked town Jack's wife, Toni Byrne in Fairhaven, through an item in the *Neighb News* and returned the helmet last week. *Submitted photo.* BELOW: The name tag inside the helmet that led Mr. Bergeron to Jack's widow, Toni Byrne of Fairhaven. *Photo by Beth David.*



remembrances of Jack on display in Toni's living room, including pictures of him and his firefighter brothers and father, all in uniform.

An article in the 1/8/67 Boston Sunday Advertiser named Mr. Byrne Firefighter of the Month for rushing into a burning building and saving a three-year-old boy who had to be resuscitated. The article described Mr. Byrne as a "slightly built, gentlemanly man."

The family has a picture of Jack with the boy's grandmother, and a letter from the boy's grandfather. The letter says the family prays for "God's richest blessings to you and your family and we do hope peace and good health through your entire life."

"I hope that you and your family enjoy this piece of family history," wrote Mr. Bergeron.

They already have.

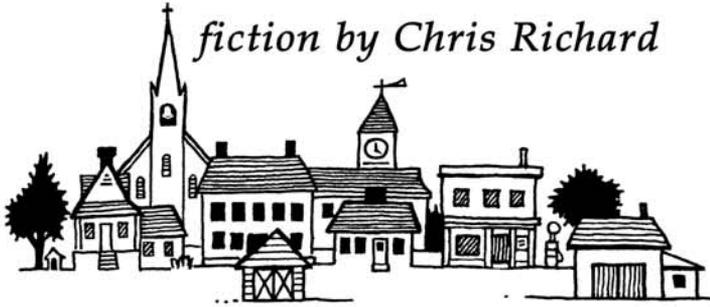
Toni and Jack had five children: Donna Fallon, Cathie Byrne, Jon, Linda Donnelly, and Danny.



ABOVE: a news clipping that ran in the Boston Sunday Advertiser on Jan. 8, 1967, recounting John "Jack" Byrne's rescue of three-year-old Alfred Miles, pictured here with Mr. Byrne. The article described him as a "slightly built, gentlemanly man." *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

The report from Potter's Point

fiction by Chris Richard



Well, not an awful lot went on in Potter's Point last month except for Maggie Boggs' outrage at a decision made by certain persons who obviously had no idea what they were doing. Worse, they had taken a life-changing action without asking for her opinion or approval. It nearly made her go off her rocker.

She had been sitting in her rocker with a cup of tea when she first found out about the outrageous action of the proprietors of the Phineas T. Burlap Seed Company.

For years and years, looking through the colorful Burlap catalog had brought cheer to Maggie Boggs during those cold gray winter days when spring seemed so far away. She would spend hours admiring page after page of marigolds and petunias and zinnias, reading with great interest about the latest advances in hybrid squash or wilt resistant salad greens.

Each winter a long wish list of flowers and vegetables would be made. Then, item by item, the list would be whittled down to the few select packets that would be purchased. There would be sweet peas to grow up the mailbox post and multicolored snapdragons to plant along the front walk. To go into the herb garden with the perennial herbs, some dill and sweet basil. For the salad garden the choices were the old-fashioned standbys: lettuce, cucumbers, radishes and Burlap's Best Big Girl Tomatoes.

Now, competition between tomato growers on the earliness, size, weight, color, flavor and overall tomatoiness

of their crops is pretty common in Potter's Point, but in the Boggs family the level had been raised to something close to an Olympic event. Reputation and standing within the family are at stake. They say that the unfortunate incident back in '87 with Beane Boggs and the weed-whacker in Lizbeth Boggs' tomato patch is what cost Beane his inheritance and led to his banishment to St. Cloud, Minnesota.

For Maggie Boggs, the tomato of choice had always been Burlap's Best Big Girl. According to company lore, Phineas T. Burlap himself had created the Big Girl by crossing a 'Brandywine' with an 'Arkansas

As it turned out the Board of Selectmen could not meet because Aggie Bristol went south to visit a cousin in Sarasota and she accidentally took the key to Town Hall with her.

Traveler.' It was the tomato that Maggie's father had grown. It's the tomato that her brother Virgil had won prizes with as a Junior Farmer. And it was the tomato that Maggie herself, somewhere around 50 years ago, had first started to raise in galvanized buckets on the back porch of her own little house at the edge of the Boggs property on Cranberry Drive.

It was true that the Big Girl had to be coddled and was much more susceptible to blight than the latest varieties that had been developed. The plants were fragile and the fruit often split open before it was ripened, but the flavor was unsurpassed. It

was the flavor of Maggie Boggs' childhood.

This year, as usual, she wrote Burlap's Best Big Girl on the order form and then flipped back through the catalog to find the product ID number. But there was no Big Girl entry on the tomato pages. Quickly she turned to the heirloom vegetables page to see if they had moved it. It wasn't there either. In fact, it was not mentioned anywhere in the entire catalog.

For a moment or two Maggie Boggs felt like she was in one of those weird dreams where she was caught in public without her fedora or she couldn't remember the lock combination to her cigar humidor. But no. She was awake, sitting in her rocker with a cup of Earl Grey and a good Dominican corona. And the Phineas T. Burlap catalog no longer carried Burlap's Best Big Girl Tomatoes.

To Maggie Boggs, there was just one thing to do.

"Discontinued?" Prudence Worthy looked at her phone. "Was there a public hearing on it? Did they let people vote? They should not have done that without getting somebody's permission."

"I was told their sales department needed to make room for new varieties," said Maggie Boggs. "Can you believe they said that last year only sixteen packets of Big Girl seeds were sold? I know of five of us right here in town who bought them. I wouldn't think to bother you, Prudence, but you're president of the Horticultural League and you're a Selectman. . . person. . . woman."

"We can pass a resolution!" said Prudence. "We can send letters to senators. We can go on the computer and post messages on Tooter!"

As it turned out the Board of Selectmen could not meet because Aggie Bristol went south to visit a cousin in Sarasota and she accidentally took the key to Town Hall with her. In the meantime, some folks from the Horticultural League got up a Save the Big Girl petition and collected somewhere close to twenty signatures.

Maggie Boggs was dismayed that many residents of the community seemed not to take their tomatoes seriously enough. In fact, a sizeable majority buy those hard, flavorless pink things from the supermarket and

POTTER'S: cont'd on page 22

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Clean energy internships for college & Univ. students

Press Release

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and the New England Clean Energy Council (Council) announced a new clean energy internship program dedicated to connecting students throughout the Commonwealth to internships at Massachusetts-based clean energy companies.

"Developing a corps of qualified professionals who are passionate about leading and contributing to Massachusetts' burgeoning clean energy industry is essential to meeting the Patrick-Murray Administration's goals for a clean energy future," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr., who chairs the MassCEC board of directors. "This exciting new opportunity advances the Commonwealth along that path."

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Internship Opportunity Program will place up to 50 students and recent graduates in summer internships at 25 to 50 clean energy companies across the state. This program continues MassCEC's commitment to supporting education and training opportunities that align with the Commonwealth's clean energy goals and industry growth, while furthering the career goals of those considering career opportunities in clean energy.

Massachusetts-based clean energy companies that are looking to hire summer interns will be eligible to receive internship stipends of up to \$15 per hour, or a total of \$6,000, for up to ten weeks. In addition to compensation, interns will gain meaningful employment experience such as networking opportunities, mentoring, and industry knowledge only gained from working within

clean energy companies.

"One of the Commonwealth's most vital assets is its world-class academic institutions," said MassCEC Executive Director Patrick Cloney. "This program will help clean energy companies take advantage of that asset and enhance their talent pipeline, while training the next generation to be part of our clean energy future."

"From brand new startups to established industry leaders, Massachusetts clean energy companies can offer students a wide variety of professional experiences," said NECEC President Peter Rothstein. "This program will help prepare the next generation of clean energy leaders and continue to accelerate the Commonwealth's clean energy economy."

Atudents are now able to post resumes and cover letters at www.cleanenergyeducation.org. Clean energy companies will review applications in which they are interested and that meet the company's internship needs. Companies will contact applicants directly for interviews. There is no deadline for applications, but students are strongly encouraged to submit resumes and cover letters as soon as possible. Stipends will be committed to eligible clean energy companies on a first come-first serve basis as summer internship offers are made to suitable candidates.

Created by the Green Jobs Act of 2008, MassCEC's mission is to foster the growth of the Massachusetts clean energy industry by providing seed grants to companies, universities, and nonprofit organizations; funding job training and workforce development programs; and, as home

of the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, supporting the installation of renewable energy projects throughout the state.

The New England Clean Energy Council's mission is to accelerate New England's clean energy economy to global leadership by building an active community of stakeholders and a world-class cluster of clean energy companies. The Council represents close to 200 member organizations, including clean energy companies, venture investors, major financial institutions, universities, industry associations, utilities, labor and large commercial end-users. The Council's ranks now include clean energy CEOs, representatives from most of the region's top 10 law firms, and partners from most of the top New England venture capital firms (with a total of over \$8 billion under management).

Working with its stakeholders, the Council develops and executes a wide array of programs in five key focus areas: Innovation, Growth, Education, Adoption, & Policy. The Council believes that our future depends upon a foundation of sound regional, national, and global energy policy that encourages clean energy innovation and technology commercialization. With such a foundation in place, it is the Council's goal to help the New England region, with its considerable innovation assets, leverage the power of free markets to become a leading provider of clean energy solutions to the global marketplace. The Council firmly believes that this emerging sector can and will become a powerful economic engine for New England, capable of generating tens of thousands of new jobs in the coming decade and beyond. •••



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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

Last Friday's Stormy Weather closes the Hurricane Barrier

The wind peaked at West Island to 55 MPH and rainfall filled the buckets up to 1.75". The barometer bottomed out to 29.15 at 330PM Friday afternoon 2/25. The temperature reached 47F from the mild late winter storm system. There were isolated reports of wires and large tree branches down in the area, but overall it was relatively quiet.

If this was an all snow event, the water/moisture equivalent could have delivered over a foot and a half of the white stuff. The active weather pattern almost assures a few more snow storm events before this winter is over.

Another mild storm passed through a few days later on Monday. The wind gusted to 51 MPH at West Island and a half inch of rain.

Forecast

Friday: Hi: 39°Lo: 30° Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Lows around 30. **Friday Night:** Lo: 30° Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Lows around 30.

Saturday: Hi: 49° Mostly cloudy. Not as cool with highs in the upper 40s. **Saturday Night:** Lo: 35° Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday: Hi: 45° Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the mid 40s. **Sunday Night:** Cloudy Lows in the mid 30s

Monday: Clear. High: 27° **Monday Night:** Clear. Low: 20°

Tuesday: Mostly Cloudy. High: 32° **Tuesday Night:** Light Rain. Low: 31°

Wednesday: Mostly Cloudy. High: 46° **Wednesday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 30° **Thursday:** Overcast. High: 30° **Thursday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 25°

The island's ocean temperature is 37 F. Countdown to Spring: 17 Days. The clocks change next Sunday (Mar 13) ahead 1 hour.

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Bring in a strong southerly wind that coincides with high tide and you could get stuck outside the dike if you're a fisherman or mariner returning to New Bedford Harbor. These huge steel gates weighing in at 440 tons each, close up to a dozen times a year with storms meeting that criteria. The closures protect the inner harbor from potential flooding and tidal surges. This photo was taken on Friday, 2/25/11 at around 3 p.m. as the gates to the hurricane barrier in New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor were being re-opened. Special thanks to Adam Katz who alerted our fearless photographer that the hurricane barrier was being closed. Photo by Heidi Winnett See photos in color at www.NeighbNews.com

Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on March 14, 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 Paul & Shirley Cadogan Location 350 New Boston Road Plot 40 Lots 21 & 28B Purpose repair septic system within the 100' buffer zone to BWV and within the NRB.
- Request for Determination Applicant George Correia Location Judson Drive Plot 31A Lot 9C Purpose construct 24' x 24' garage and 10' x 18' mudroom within the

- 100' buffer zone to BWV.
- Notice Of Intent Applicant Donald & Hildy Nolan Location 36 Reservation Road Plot 29A Lot 234 Purpose construct 6' x 32' addition, extend decks front and rear, and install an 8' x 10' shed all within a coastal beach and VE flood zone.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Jones, Chairman
Fairhaven Conservation Commission



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When I play with my cat,
who knows whether I do
not make her more sport
than she makes me?

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Health

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

Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/10, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Thurs., 3/17, 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

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

Mattapoissett River Valley Advisory Committee

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

Mattapoissett River Valley Water District

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

TIDE TABLE

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

	March 2011	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	3	0701	1914	0018	1235
Friday	4	0738	1949	0053*	1304*
Saturday	5	0813	2023	0130*	1337*
Sunday	6	0846	2056	0206*	1410*
Monday	7	0920	2129	0241*	1443*
Tuesday	8	0955	2204	0316*	1517*
Wednesday	9	1033	2241	0350	1551
Thursday	10	1115	2324	0425	1627
Friday	11	----	1202	0506	1710
Saturday	12	0014	1255	0600	1805
Sunday	13	0110	1454	0822	2016
Monday	14	0315	1559	0959	2136

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

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

Fast from carbon during Lent

From materials found on the website of the The New England Regional Environmental Ministries

We invite you to join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent. Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity. Each daily email will also have a section suggesting a weekly focus for the congregation.

This invitation is being emailed to

clergy all over the country, in making this Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast a broadly experienced ecumenical spiritual practice. Our hope is that Christians the world over from every denomination might participate in this carbon fast.

Congregations that participate are encouraged to gather weekly to share their experiences, support one another, share resources and pray.

God is calling us to be the change we long to see. Let us engage this spiritual discipline, grateful for all God has entrusted to us, and trusting that with God all things are possible.

To have your email added to the list, visit www.scnuc.org/voices/?p=1279 and find "click here to participate" in the letter.

This fast is adapted from materials created by the following organizations, whom we gratefully acknowledge: Tearfund; the Brattleboro Area Interfaith Initiative; The Environmental Outreach Committee of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC; Washington Interfaith Power & Light; United Church of Chapel Hill; Rock Spring Congregational UCC; Alternatives for Simple Living; CLR(NSW) Social Justice Committee; Buzzle.co

Solar arrays “commissioned,” should be online any day now

By Beth David
Editor

Two of the three solar array projects by the town of Fairhaven are ready to get hooked up to the grid. The arrays on the West Island Treatment Plant and the sludge building on Arsene Street have been “commissioned” and are ready to go. The one on the Public Works Building is waiting for a replacement part, according to Superintendent of Public Works Bill Fitzgerald.

The commissioning is basically a thorough check of all equipment and connections to make sure everything is working. Peter Michaels, Project Manager at Nexamp, and Jared McGrath conducted the check at West Island on Feb. 14.

“It’s a complete post construction analysis of the entire system,” said

Mr. Michaels. “From top to bottom.”

The next step is for NSTAR to conduct a “witness test” to make sure it all works right.

The photovoltaic panels are attached to the roof, where they capture energy from the sun’s light. Wiring attached to the panels is fed into the building. The power created is DC (direct current), like in batteries. The DC current is fed by wires through an inverter which turns it into AC (alternating current) power, which is what is used in buildings for lighting, etc. The wiring then goes from the inverter to a production meter, and finally to the NSTAR meter which sends it to the power grid.

NSTAR will have to install a different meter, one that can send power to the grid (instead of only from the grid to the building) and credit

the town for the power that the array creates. That credit will then be used to pay the town’s electric bill. Any excess production will be “banked” for use on days when the array does not create enough electricity.

The meter will, literally, run backwards when the system is creating electricity.

“It’s safer this way,” said Mr. Michaels. “They all go to the grid,” instead of directly powering the buildings.

The panels have been carefully placed to catch the best sun all year. One misconception is that the sun’s heat is used for electricity. Mr. Michaels said it is the light that holds the energy, not the heat. Just as it is possible to get a suntan on a cloudy day, the panels can pull energy on a cloudy day. As long as there is light.



LEFT: The solar panels on the roof of the West Island Treatment Plant. RIGHT: Peter Michaels explains how the inverter converts the sun’s energy into electricity, then sends it to the production meter and out to the power grid. Mr. Michaels, from Nexamp, “commissioned” two of Fairhaven’s three solar arrays, which means they have been inspected and are ready to produce electricity and get tied into the power grid. In addition to West Island, the town has solar panels scheduled to go online at the BPW building and the sludge plant, both on Arsene Street. The sludge plant system needs a replacement part. The next step is a “witness test” by NSTAR, which will then make the final connection to the power grid. Electricity will go to the grid and be credited to the town and taken off the electric bill. The arrays are set to save the town tens of thousands of dollars per year in electric costs. *Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

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ConCom continues Olde North Wharf

By John Garcia

Neighb News Correspondent

The Conservation Commission approved a Notice of Intent and granted two Requests For Determination at their meeting on Monday, February 28th.

The ConCom continued a hearing regarding Olde North Wharf Fisheries' After the Fact Notice of Intent for their property on 4 Washington Street. The fishery had replaced a collapsed bulkhead.

Applicant Sal Ingrande told the Commission that the project's engineers had submitted incorrect plans, which made it look like the work had disturbed the shellfish habitat in the area. He showed a series of photos which he said demonstrated that the work had actually increased the amount of water.

"If there is a plus minus here it is in my favor," he said.

Mr. Ingrande stated that he would be willing to make a donation to the town's shellfish propagation fund. ConCom Chairperson Andrew Jones replied that the Commission would not require that if the habitat had not been damaged.

"If there is no net loss, then there would be no need to do that," he said.

Both Shellfish Warden Timothy Cox and Conservation Agent Wayne Fostin confirmed that there was no net habitat loss.

All members present and eligible to vote were in favor of approving the plans as presented. Vice Chairperson Carol Tyson was absent, while member Susan Morris abstained from the vote, and would not give a reason for her abstention when asked. The Commission will issue a Certificate of Compliance once Mr. Ingrande submits an As-Built drawing.

Following the hearing, Mr. Cox appeared before the Commission to discuss the potential opening of Senior Beach and Round Beach for shellfishing. He noted that there was no easy way for people to reach the beaches by going through public land. Last year the new owners of Bella Vista Island fenced off the two lots that are directly in front of the coves, which people had been using for decades.

Mr. Cox added that the Ristuccia family had offered to allow those fishing to cross through a section of

their land in order to walk to the beaches. This area is covered in marsh. Mr. Cox stated that he wanted to find the least invasive method of providing access to the beach.

"I'm just trying to make it the easiest and neatest way possible," he said.

Chairperson Andrew Jones noted that there were potential legal issues that could occur as a result of people crossing through private property. Among these was the possibility that Mr. Ristuccia could be held liable for any problems that occur.

"He's being a nice guy, but there's the potential that he gets screwed there big time," said Mr. Jones.

Ms. Morris told Mr. Cox that a possible way to resolve the situation would be to contact the Select Board and have them discuss the matter with the Ristuccia family. Mr. Jones added that Mr. Ristuccia could donate land to the town if he wanted it to be used for beach access but did not want to face any potential liability.

In another matter, Public Works Superintendent Bill Fitzgerald presented a Request For Determination regarding work the BPW intended to perform at 46 Balsam Street. The work included the restoration of a blocked drain outlet, and will also involve the addition of a catch basin.

"We'll get some improvement on what's there now," Mr. Fitzgerald said.

All members present voted in favor of granting a Determination of Negative Two. This signifies that the work performed is in an area covered by the Wetlands Protection Act, but will not alter the area, and will therefore not require a Notice of Intent to be filed.

Paula Desrosiers of 92 Long Road made a Request For Determination regarding the installation of an in-ground swimming pool and the foundation for a pool cabana on her property, which is within the 100 foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The pool would be placed in the same location as an above ground pool currently located on the property.

All members present voted in favor of granting a Determination of Negative Three, which signifies that the work performed is within a buffer zone, but will not affect the area, and

CONCOM: cont'd on page 26

Kindergarten Registration 2011 Fairhaven Public Schools Registration Information 2011-2012 Academic Year

Children who are expected to enter Kindergarten or First Grade in the Fairhaven Public Schools next September must be registered at their neighborhood school during the week of March 7th - 11th, 2011. Registration will be from 9:00-11:30 and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Registration forms are available at each of the schools.

*Please note that students north of Route 6, south of North St, and west of Hastings Middle School may attend either Rogers or Wood School dependent on enrollment numbers at each school. Kindergarten registration for students living in this area will be at the Administration Building located at 128 Washington Street. Determination of final placement will be contingent upon class size at Rogers and Wood School.

Entrance age Kindergarten: Any child, resident of Fairhaven, who turns age five (5) on or before August 31, 2011 is eligible to register for Kindergarten.

Entrance age First Grade: Any child, resident of Fairhaven, who is six (6) years of age on or before August 31, 2011 is eligible for first grade.

Children already attending Kindergarten in the Fairhaven Public Schools need not register for first grade.

Items that must be provided at the time of registration are: Birth Certificate, Immunization records, Proof of Residency

The Fairhaven Public Schools offers all programs, activities and employment opportunities without regard to gender, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, disability, religion, homelessness, or national origin.

Questions can be answered by contacting your neighborhood school: East Fairhaven School, 508-979-4058; Rogers School, 508-979-4075; Wood School, 508-979-4073; Administration Building, 508-979-4000

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NB Voc-Tech students win awards

Press Release

Some of the top ninth-grade students at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School were honored recently for academic excellence. In all, 215 students were recognized for earning spots on the Dean's List for the second quarter of the school year.

The list includes 27 GNB Voc-Tech students who reside in Fairhaven.

Residents of Fairhaven who earned Dean's List awards included Andrew Eusebio and Corey Pietraszek, Jr., majoring in Automotive Technology; Olivia Major, Cosmetology; Samantha Letton and Victor Miller, Culinary Arts; Kenneth Bowers and Adam Oliveira, Electrical Technology; Caitlyn Botelho, Hannah Charbonneau, Raegen Docca, and Lindsay

Pires, Early Childhood Education; and Jake Arruda, Brianne Bindas, Katelynn Couto, and Nathan Jones, Engineering Technology.

Also earning spots in the Dean's List were Fairhaven residents Kylie Serpa, majoring in Nurse Assisting/ Health Assisting; Natasha Almeida, Tatyana Mosby, Danielle Pinto, Shain Ramos, Medical Assisting; Kylee Acevedo, Media Technology; Gabriel Sylvia, Metal Fabrication and Joining; John Burke, Steam Engineering; and Coral Azevedo, Deanna Dang, Alyssa Murphy, and Marisa Tsonis, Visual Design.

Awards were distributed by Assistant Principal/Dean of Freshmen James L. O'Brien.

To earn a place on the Dean's List at GNB Voc-Tech, students must achieve at least an 85 average in

academics, achieve at least an 85 average in their career and technical area, have no failed subject areas, and receive no disciplinary suspensions during the term. The purpose of the Dean's List is to encourage student achievement and recognize successful students who have contributed to GNB Voc-Tech in a positive way.

GNB Voc-Tech serves the City of New Bedford and Towns of Dartmouth and Fairhaven. It provides academic instruction as well as career and technical education in more than two dozen fields ranging from Fashion Design and Medical Assisting to Electro-mechanical Drafting and Plumbing.

Last year, 76% of the members of the graduating class said they planned to go to college or advanced technical schools. ●●●

CONCOM: cont'd from page 24

will not require a Notice of Intent to be filed. The Commission added a condition to the Request stating that any concrete truck washout must occur out of the resource area.

Kricor Melikian made a Request For Determination regarding work he intends to perform on his house at 2 Alcobia Drive, which is located within a buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and within a VE (high velocity) flood zone. The work would include the building of an addition and the repair of the structure's foundation.

Mr. Fostin noted that the property's wetland line was an old one, and would need to be examined.

All members present voted in favor of continuing the hearing until March 14th. They will perform a site visit on March 13th.

The Commission had been scheduled to continue a hearing on a Abbreviated Notice of Intent request by Sara and Bradley Schipper to verify a wetland line on their property at Doane Street. However, following a site visit, the consensus among Commission members was that a further look needed to be taken. As a result, project engineer Rick Charon wrote a letter requesting the hearing be postponed. All members present voted in favor of continuing the hearing until March 14th. ●●●

POTTER'S: cont'd from page 17

would not know the difference between a Black Krim and a Cherokee Purple.

It was time to write a letter to the editor. But not to the Potter's Point Press. Not to the Hope Falls Daily-Crier. Maggie Boggs was going all the way to the top. A letter to the editor of Organic Gardening.

That's the Report from Potter's Point for this month. Hope to see you soon!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The imaginary town of Potter's Point is located in the southeastern part of Massachusetts, on the shore of Butler's Bay. Its primary industries are cranberry growing, boat building and quahogging.

The Report From Potter's Point, Copyright 2011 by Christopher J. Richard. All Rights Reserved.

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

cuts last year have really hurt operations, he said. Residents have complained about roadside mowing not getting done, and when crews are sent out to plow streets during snow storms, it leaves only one mechanic working in the garage.

"One guy working alone in the garage is a safety issue," he said.

Mr. Osuch questioned why personnel who fill in for absent superintendents are paid the equivalent of that superintendent's salary, and was displeased to hear that it has been a contractual clause for several years, according to highway superintendent John Charbonneau.

In other business the board:

- Approved a common victualer's license for A-Kitchen, and a request submitted by the Bicentennial Committee to use the town seal to create a bicentennial

commemorative coin to be sold as a fund raiser for the upcoming celebrations.

- Accepted a complaint submitted by residents who contend that an individual at 17 Burchill Street is running an unlicensed auto repair business on his property with cars arriving at all hours, including late at night, in spite of repeated complaints to the police, the selectboard and the building inspector. The board agreed to continue investigating the matter and to request the building inspector to submit a written report.
- Approved a request submitted by the Footlights Repertory Company for the use of the town hall auditorium to stage a production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" from April 11-17, contingent on fees for custodial services, police detail

and hall rental.

- Voted to respond to a request from the Town of Orleans, to meet and discuss the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts and their economic impact on towns.
- Mr. Silvia recused himself twice for discussions relating to the Fairhaven Improvement Association, as the board voted to approve the Homecoming Day Fair for June 25th, and reminded the public of the association's annual award banquet honoring the public service of Dr. Bowcock and police detective Pam Bourgault on March 5th.
- Reconvened in executive session to discuss personnel issues with the Council on Aging Director, police and dispatcher union negotiations, and New Bedford sewer and water departments.

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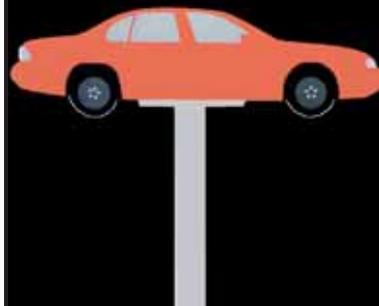
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