



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 10 • March 17, 2011

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

Candidates take first foray into the issues



Candidates presented their cases to Fairhaven voters at the first of three candidate nights on March 8 at the Senior Center. The event was recorded by the local government access station and will run periodically on channels 18 and 9 until the election on April 4.

ABOVE, L-R: Candidates Charles Murphy, Selectboard (incumbent); Jeannine Lopes, Board of Health (incumbent); Brian Monroe, School Committee; Lisa Plante, School Committee; Colin Veitch, School Committee (incumbent); Richard Brodeur, Board of Public Works; Geoffrey Haworth, BPW (incumbent).

LEFT, L-R: Candidates Kathleen Sturtevant, BPW (incumbent); Jaime DeSousa, Planning Board; Rene Fleurent, Planning Board. See page 16 for story.

Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com.

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Oh, wow have we got a jam-packed issue for you this week. We've got candidate stuff, and more candidate stuff. Our cover story is about the first of three candidate nights Fairhaven holds each year (page 16). This one was the government access event that is running on channels 18 and 9 now. The next one happened the night before this paper gets delivered, so it will be in next week's issue. I get to be a panelist on that one. Wish I had managed to find time to get my hair cut.

Ah well.

The third is the West Island one and you still have time to make that one, which is not as structured as the others. At West Island, the public is allowed to ask questions directly to candidates and candidates can engage with each other. It can be lots of fun. And it happens on 3/30, the Wednesday night before the election. That means it's past deadline for us, since the election is the following Monday, so I get to go and watch without actually working.

We also have candidate statements in this issue on pages 28 & 29. We'll have the rest of them in next week's issue. This is a good way to get to know what the candidates stand for. After you read their little blurbs, you can ask them questions and make an informed decision.

Don't forget, Monday, April 4, is election day.

We have lots of meeting coverage for you this week, too. On page 12 you'll find selectboard; on page 20 Finance Committee; and on page 26 School Committee.

There's other stuff in here, of course, including our happenings pages. Things are starting to pick up in and around town, so be sure to grab the Neighb News each week and check out pages 6, 7, and 8 for fun stuff to do with the whole family.

On page three you'll find a short piece about Ayako Rooney, who traveled to Japan, touching down in Tokyo just as the earthquake hit. She and her group are okay, and our sister city, Tosashimizu, was not affected by the earthquake and resulting tsunami.

We are grateful that she is okay and that our friends and acquaintances in Tosashimizu are okay, too. Undoubtedly, though, there will be people we know, or who have traveled to our little burg for the Manjiro festivities, who did not make it. The devastation in Japan is beyond anything we've seen from a natural disaster. The spectacular videos of the water rushing six miles inland, taking whole buildings and all the people on the ground with it is frightening, especially to those of us who live so close to the great blue-gray beast that is the Atlantic Ocean.

Our hearts go out to the people of Japan. They have a strong and noble history, and their strength and resilience is shining through the muck and craziness. Their biggest heroes must be the nuclear power plant workers who know they are exposing themselves to near-lethal doses of radiation, but stay on to save the rest of the population.

We keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Until next week then,

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS

In our Selectboard story last week, we mistakenly identified Harbormaster David Darmofal as accepting funds for the Bicentennial Committee. Mr. Darmofal, acting in his capacity as chairperson of the board of the Southeastern Mass Credit Union, was presenting the check, with CEO Dan Waltz, to the committee on behalf of SMCU. We apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

In our story last week on the commissioning of the solar arrays, we spelled the Nexamp Project Manager's name wrong. He is Peter Michals.

In our Finance Committee article, we spelled the name of a Fairhaven Park incorrectly. It is Livesey Park in North Fairhaven.

Ayako Rooney in Kyoto, returning early

By Beth David
Editor

Ayako Rooney is safe in Japan, but will be heading back a couple of days early, according to an email from her husband Gerry Rooney. The two are best known for their work with the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship House and Museum in Fairhaven.

Ayako was leading a small tour group in Japan. They landed at the Tokyo airport as the earthquake struck and were stranded for at least a day.

They traveled to sister-city Tosashimizu and stayed for a few days. At press time, they were in Kyoto and planning to return to the US, instead of spending time in Tokyo as originally planned.

The sister-city of Tosashimizu is significantly south of the tsunami's epicenter. It is farther away from Sendai than Tokyo is. Tosashimizu, in Kochi Prefecture in the southwestern part of the country, faces the Pacific Ocean, but did not experience any tsunamis or earthquake damage, according to Mr. Rooney.

"Everyone is concerned now about radiation," wrote Mr. Rooney. "But we

have been told that the levels are quite low except near those reactors."

The Rooneys travel frequently to Japan and often host visitors.

The WMFH commemorates the friendship between Fairhaven whaling Captain William Whitfield and Manjiro Nakahama, a 14-year-old fishing castaway the captain rescued in 1841. Young Manjiro returned to Fairhaven to live with the Captain and his family becoming the first Japanese person to live in the United States. Japan was a closed society at the time, it was a crime to leave the country. Manjiro risked death by returning home, and became instrumental in opening Japan to the west. He became a national hero.

The museum is in the house that he lived in with Captain Whitfield. The two families have forged generations-long ties and periodically return to Fairhaven for events.

The Manjiro Festival is held on alternating years between Fairhaven and Tosashimizu. This year it will be in Fairhaven. For more information on the WMFH visit <http://manjiro1.tripod.com/> •••

Fire damages trailer

Fairhaven Fire Dept. Press Release

Fairhaven firefighters responded to an early morning fire at a residential trailer at 207R New Boston Road on Saturday morning, 3/12.

Firefighters were alerted to the fire by the home's occupant at 1:12 a.m. when he smelled smoke. Looking outside, he saw his 2001 Ford Excursion on fire, very close to the home.

Two engines responded from the Fairhaven Station. The truck fire had just started to burn into the siding of the home as firefighters arrived. It was extinguished within minutes but firefighters remained on scene for about 1 1/2 hours for overhaul and investigation of the circumstances behind the fire.

Fire appears to have started in the vehicle and extended into the residence. The exterior of the building sustained damage to a portion of the siding and smoke damage in the interior. There were no injuries reported and damage was estimated at \$15,000. Owner of the property is listed as Richard Costa Jr

The residence will not be livable until repairs are made. N-Star Electric disconnected power to the building.

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Planning board approves changes for Bridge Street fixes

By John Garcia

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Planning Board approved the Pasta House's Special Permit request for an addition to their parking lot as well as the rezoning of two addresses on Bridge Street at their meeting on Tuesday, March 8th.

The Pasta House had previously given some of its land to the town for use in redesigning the intersection of Alden Road and Bridge Street. In exchange, it received land from the discontinued Sherwood Street.

"This is part of a larger project," Town Planner Bill Roth said.

The extension to the parking lot would be on the Sherwood land, and would establish a more formal layout for the employee parking section of the lot. In addition, the Pasta House sought a waiver to a regulation requiring the addition of a storm water facility.

Bob Rogers, an engineer representing the Pasta House, told the Board that no changes would be made to the building.

Mr. Roth noted that there was a condition on the request requiring

that an "Exit Only" sign be placed on the Bridge Street exit to the lot.

"I want people on Bridge Street to realize that's not an entrance," he said.

Board member Gary Staffon stated that he didn't agree with the addition of that sign. Mr. Roth asked if he would approve of a sign that read "Employees only," which would prevent customers from turning into that entrance, but still allow employees to use it. Mr. Staffon accepted the compromise.

An additional change was made to a condition requiring that a Form A be completed before a Building Permit could be issued. The Form A is still required, but will not need to be turned in before the Permit is issued. The Form A will combine the Sherwood land with the the current Pasta House property.

Board member Peter Nopper stated that he approved of the proposed lot design.

"I think it looks pretty good for a tight space," he said.

All members present and eligible to vote were in favor of approving the Special Permit. Chairperson Wayne

Hayward is related to a Pasta House Employee, and, therefore, left the room for the hearing. Board member Raymond Fleurent was absent.

A Public Hearing was also held on the possibility of rezoning lots 82B and 83 along 122 and 126 Bridge Street from Business to Residential. The 126 Bridge Street property is owned by Board member Joe Morra, who left the room for the Hearing. That property contains the Bridge Street entrance to Full Throttle, a business which operates out of a building Mr. Morra owns at 34 Holcomb Street.

Board member Albert Borges asked about whether the rezoning would affect restrictions on Full Throttle's use of the property's Bridge Street driveway. Mr. Roth replied that the restrictions would remain the same.

Mr. Hayward stated that Mr. Morra had indicated to him that both he and an abutter to the property supported the rezoning. He added that they would be able to voice any concerns they had at Town Meeting, which will

PLAN: cont'd on page 22

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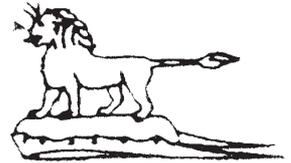


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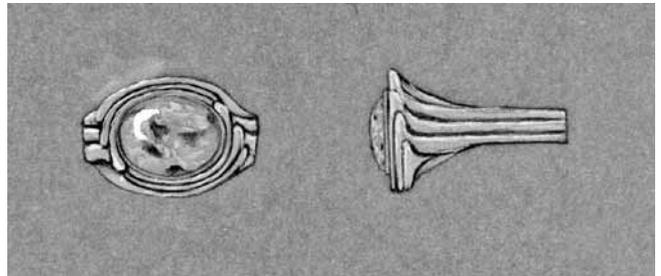
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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

BDTV Telethon

The 3rd annual BD-TV (Blue Devil-TV) Telethon will be held on **Friday, March 18th from noon to 6 p.m. on Comcast's Channel 9 in Fairhaven and also on the Internet** for anyone to see. Through a grant from the FHS Alumni for updated software, students will also be able to stream the telethon through the internet at bdtv.us.to. Viewers can also find it through fairhavenps.org, FHS, BDTV, and Telethon.

Produced by the Fairhaven High School students in the media classes, the telethon covers many aspects of Fairhaven High School and the community.

Students are hoping to surpass the \$1,400 raised last year through donations from area businesses. Students are raising money for equipment for the media program such as video cameras, tripods, and updated software.

BD-TV will be taking live patron donations of any amount through the web site or email at bdtv@fairhavenps.org that they will update throughout the telethon on their boards. The donations can be sent to Fairhaven High School, c/o BDTV Telethon, 12 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Students welcome any businesses to email them at bdtv@fairhavenps.org with a contact name and number or call 508-979-4051, ext. 0 and ask for the TV Studio.

Chowdah & Fritters

The Fairhaven Varsity Club, 9 Adams Street, Fairhave, is holding a chowder and fritters fund-raiser on **Friday, March 25, from 5-8 p.m.** Tickets are available from members and at the door: \$7 per person. Partially accessible.

The Varsity Club supports youth sports in Fairhaven and surrounding areas. Call Pat Souza for more information, 774-263-6741

Local GOP Meeting

Fairhaven Republican Town Committee will meet Tuesday March 22 at 630 p.m., at 1 Bryant Lane, Fairhaven, MA. Enter side entrance of police station. New members welcome. Accessible.

Come and join the lively discus-

sion. For more info contact Fairhaven GOP@Comcast.net, 508-654 071

Fish & Chips

Fish & Chips dinner from Our Lady's Haven kitchen, 71 Center St., Fairhaven, on Fridays: 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15. From 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., TAKE-OUT ONLY, \$6/ plate. Tickets must be purchased in advance, 508-999-4561. Accessible. Proceeds benefit OLH residents.

Thrift Shop Sale

Heavenly Treasures Thrift Shop is having a \$3 a bag BAG SALE in March to make room for spring and summer attire. Located at the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, corner of Center and William Streets, Fairhaven. Open Wednesday and Friday 10-1 pm. Accessible.

Business Workshops

The Fairhaven Office of Tourism invites Fairhaven business owners or managers whose businesses might benefit from the tourist trade to attend one of the two workshops scheduled for **Tuesday, March 22, at the Town Hall auditorium, 40 Center Street**. Accessible. For the convenience of business participants, one may attend either the session held at 10:00 a.m. or the session at 1:00 p.m. It is expected the meeting will last about an hour.

"We want to invite Fairhaven businesses to come in for two reasons," said Tourism Director Christopher Richard. "First, I will outline the services that are provided free of charge by the Office of Tourism. Many businesses in town can take advantage of these promotional opportunities. After that presentation, the members of the business community may offer their input, comments and suggestions."

Contact information will also be exchanged so that better communication can be maintained between the Office of Tourism and the Fairhaven businesses.

While many people think first of hotels, restaurants and retail shops as being the businesses that benefit from tourism promotion, visitors to an area spend money on other services as well "Certainly gas stations make money from tourists,

even from those just visiting for a day," said Mr. Richard. "When it comes to multiple-day stays, cottage rentals and stops by people on boats in marinas, then a wider array of services and supplies are consumed — people might need car rentals, groceries, liquor, personal services like haircuts — and the list goes on. Just think about all of the things that you spend money on when you are traveling yourself."

As the workshop sessions conclude, it will be decided if participants would like to continue meeting together on a regular basis.

For more information, call 508-979-4085 or email FairhavenTours@aol.com. The Fairhaven Office of Tourism is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dollar-A-Bag Books

The Oxford Book Haven & Cafe, located at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 357 Main St., No. Fairhaven, will be having a Dollar-A-Bag-Book Sale on **Thursday, March 24 and March 31, from 10am-2pm**. Homemade soup, stuffed quahogs, hot dogs and desserts available at reasonable prices. Not accessible. For more information, call 508-992-2281, or email: deaton17@yahoo.com

Meditation

Tuesday, March 22, at the Unitarian Memorial Church parish house, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Accessible.

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. **Free**. For more information, call Ann Fox at 508-992-7081 or email RevAnnFox@aol.com.

Book Discussion

Monday, March 28, at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, Walnut St. entrance, at 7:00 p.m. Accessible.

The book "Lit" by Mary Karr will be the topic of discussion. Free. For more information, call 508-992-5342 or visit <http://millicentlibrary.org>

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Half Marathon

New Bedford's famous half marathon, the 34th annual, is this Sunday, 3/20, in Downtown New Bedford. Starting time 11:00 AM Sharp

Entry fee is \$40. Online registration is now closed. You may register in person on Saturday, March 19, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at YMCA, New Bedford, 25 S. Water Street.

For more information about the race visit

Register online at <http://newbedfordhalfmarathon.com/>

Explore Series

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park continues its Exploration Series on **Sat., March 19 at the Corson Learning Center, 33 William St., New Bedford. Free. Accessible.**

Lee Blake, President of the New Bedford Historical Society, will talk about the Underground Railroad in New Bedford. Ms. Blake has been involved with the Historical Society for eleven years and has been teaching African-American history since 1975.

The Exploration Series is an opportunity for the public to delve into New Bedford's fascinating history and its people. Most 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.

Whaling Women

In honor of Women's History Month, the Dock-U-Mentaries Film Series continues on **Friday, March 18th with Shipping Out: The Story of America's Seafaring Women** (56 minutes), a film by Maria Brooks. 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 7:00 PM in the theater of the **Corson Maritime Learning Center, located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible.** All programs are open to the public and presented free of charge.

Filmed on board merchant ships in coastal waters from Alaska to New York, *Shipping Out* looks at the little known history of women and seafaring in America. Featured in the program are women who hold jobs in commercial shipping. We meet them working as engineers, bar pilots, tug boat captains, mates and deckhands. The film will be followed by a discussion with several women who work on the New Bedford waterfront.

Public Access TV Workshop

New Bedford's Public Access Studio is pleased to announce a free public workshop for all non-profit organizations designed to teach non-profit organizations how to utilize Public Access resources to promote their organization at no expense. Participants will learn the value and importance of no-cost Public Service Announcements, talk shows and a presence on the network's Bulletin Board. **Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 10:00 am at the New Bedford Public Access Studio, 918 South Rodney French Boulevard. Advance registration is suggested. Accessible.** Free parking, refreshments.

To register or more information, contact Claudia Kirk at 508-994-9625 ext. 13 or Tom Sexton at the Public Access Studio at 508-979-1744.

Spaghetti Supper

To benefit the Veteran's Transition House. Spaghetti Supper on **Sunday, March 20 at the United Fisherman's Club, 639 Orchard Street, New Bedford from 4-8 pm. Accessible.**

Will feature "Video DJ Rick," Raffles and a Silent Auction. Tickets are \$10. for adults and \$5. for kids.

For tickets call Walter Baiardi, 508-982-0350 or "One Legged" Larry Soares, 508-241-7446.

Tickets also available at the Fairhaven Police Department and at Molly's Variety, and will be available at the door.

You can say you support Veterans or you can show it. Come and eat, drink, and dance.

Sailor Series

Commander Andrew J. Norris, USCG, will examine modern piracy in the next Sailors' Series lecture on

Tuesday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cook Memorial Theater, New Bedford Whaling Museum, 17 Johnny Cake Hill. Accessible.

In his presentation CDR Norris will include statistics on piracy, problem areas, the international response and the U.S. response, and review self-defense rules that apply to U.S.-flag merchant vessels.

Sailors' Series admission: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. To reserve tickets, please call 508-997-0046 ext. 100. A pre-lecture reception at 6:30 p.m. will be held in the Jacobs Family Gallery.

Sailors' Series lectures are sponsored by C.E. Beckman Co. and Citizens-Union Savings Bank.

Meat Pie Dinner

John's Famous Meat Pie Dinner, March 23, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Home, 359 Summer Street, New Bedford.

French Meat Pie, whipped potatoes, vegetable, roll, dessert, coffee. Get tickets at the switchboard: \$8/ adults, \$6/seniors, \$4/kids/ residents.

GIRLS Talk

The Ocean Explorium welcomes Gina Cerrito as this week's speaker in the series Girls Interested in Real Life Science (GIRLS). Ms. Cerrito is a Marine Educator with the New England Aquarium in Boston.

As the coordinator of the Women in Science program, Ms. Cerrito has been able to introduce a new generation to a wide variety of marine careers.

The series continues on March 24 with Faith Ball, Engineer with Lockheed Martin Sippican and March 31 with Rhonda Moniz, Dive Safety Instructor, Entrepreneur

Doors open at 5:00 pm each Thursday in March for refreshments and mingling in the Ocean Explorium before the talks begin at 5:30 pm. This series is free and open to the public thanks to the support of the Women's Fund.

The Ocean Explorium is located at 174 Union Street in downtown New Bedford and is wheelchair accessible via the rear entrance.

Contact Abbey Spargo at aspargo@oceanexplorium.org or 508.994.5400, or visit the Ocean Explorium website at www.oceanexplorium.org.

Orthopedic Seminar

Southcoast Hospitals Group will be holding a series of orthopedic treatment seminars on a monthly basis across the South Coast region. The first in the series will be held on **Thursday, March 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Charlton Memorial Hospital, Mooney Auditorium, 363 Highland Ave., Fall River.** Refreshments will be served. No registration is necessary.

Guest speaker James Worthington, MD, Orthopedic surgeon of Coastal Orthopaedics in Fall River will present, "Where does it hurt? New orthopedic treatments to get you back in action." The free seminar will outline both medical and surgical treatments for arthritis, sports injuries, total joint replacement and other common orthopedic problems.

Southcoast Hospitals Group is the leading provider of orthopedic surgery in the region performing more than 950 surgeries annually between its three hospitals. Visit www.southcoast.org/orthopedics or attend one of our free upcoming monthly orthopedic lecture series.

Author Events/B&N

At Barnes & Noble, 392 State Rd., Dartmouth Towne Center. Wheelchair accessible. 508-997-0701.

Thursday, March 17, 5-7 pm: Meet children's author/illustrator Nancy Cote who will read "The Leprechaun Who Lost His Rainbow"; craft. Help celebrate literacy with Swansea Public Library 4-8 pm.

Saturday, March 19, 11:00 am: Special Saturday Eric Carle Storytime featuring "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Activities and snack.

Saturday, March 19, 1:00 pm: Meet local author S.A. Silver who will be available to discuss and sign her debut book, "The Legend of Sleepers Forest," a unique blend of thrilling survival adventure, coming-of-age story, and Native American Mythology.

Buddy Cianci

Rogue? Or a tough, no-nonsense politician who got things done? Guy who pushed the envelope? Or a Mayor who pushed his dying city to reach for the stars? Vincent "Buddy" Cianci had little gray area in his

career as Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island. Those who loved him worshipped the ground he walked on. Those who loathed him, well... neither will want to miss this unique opportunity to catch the debut of the candid, laugh-out-loud funny political memoir from one of the nation's most talked-about — and most effective — mayors in history, when Buddy Cianci visits **Baker Books on Wed., March 23rd at 7:30 PM**, 69 State Rd, Dartmouth. Accessible. Visit www.bakerbooks.net or call 508-997-6700.

Framing the Innocent

Crimes Under Color of Law at the Massachusetts US Attorney's Office

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m., Where: Northeastern University School of Law, 240 Dockser Hall (65 Forsyth St., Boston)

Featuring: Chuck Turner—Five-term Boston City Councilor representing Roxbury and Dorchester, and a lifetime activist for social justice, recently targeted by the FBI and the Massachusetts US Attorney; Bob Boyle—Attorney representing many activists and political prisoners targeted by the FBI's infamous Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO); Laila Murad—Organizer from the Tarek Mehanna Support Committee; Michael Avery—Professor of Law, Suffolk Law School, won a landmark civil suit against the Boston FBI on behalf of four men wrongfully convicted of murder

Over the past few years, an atrocious history of government misconduct at the Massachusetts US Attorney's office has emerged in the court record, but few people have heard about it.

Come participate in a public discussion about the Massachusetts US Attorney's Office and what we can do to hold it accountable to our concerns.

For more information, contact usattywatch@hushmail.com

Sponsored by The Northeastern School of Law Chapters of the NLG (National Lawyers Guild), EPIC (Ending the Prison Industrial Complex), and BLSA (Black Law Student Association) and by Community Church of Boston, Boston ABC, Black and Pink

For more information visit <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/usa>

ttorneywatch

Spring Fling FR

7th annual Spring Fling fundraiser for children with cancer on **Friday March 25, 2011, 6:00 p.m., Whites of Westport, 66 State Road, Westport, MA. Call 508-636-7369 for tickets, \$45, or register at www.mydevin.org.**

Gourmet meal and famous local comedian-spiritual medium Maureen Hancock.

Benefits the Devin Laubi Foundation which provides financial assistance for families of children stricken with cancer throughout Southeastern Massachusetts, New England and across the United States.

Autism Conference

The Gottschall Autism Center will host an autism conference, "When the Belly is the Beast: How Intestinal Health Impacts Brain and Behavior," on **April 1st at Rachel's Lakeside in Dartmouth.** Features nationally-known experts who will address the nutritional and biomedical approaches used in the treatment of autism.

Dr. Martha Herbert, Pediatric Neurologist at Mass. General Hospital, will present "Autism as a Chronic Whole Body Treatable Environmental Illness." "Gluten, Leaky Gut, and the Autism Spectrum Disorder: How to Connect the Dots," will be the topic of a workshop led by Dr. Alessio Fasano, Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Physiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Pamela Ferro, RN, President of the Gottschall Autism Center will present "Gastrointestinal Pathology and the Use of the Specific Carbohydrate Diet in Autism."

Additional workshops will be held on finding resources, legal basics for parents, safety and wandering, and transition to adulthood.

Hosted by Wendy Fournier, President of the National Autism Association. Ms. Fournier is the parent of a child with autism, a Gottschall Autism Center board member and a frequent lecturer at local and national autism conferences.

Registration: \$65, includes continental breakfast, lunch, conference program booklet and an Autism Resource Guide. Please visit www.Gottschallcenter.com for conference information and online registration.



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Recipe of the Week

Frosty Paws Dog Ice Cream Recipe

32 oz. plain yogurt
1 mashed banana
2 T peanut butter
2 T honey

It's true dairy products aren't good for dogs, but yoghurt contains much less lactose than regular milk, and the live cultures are great for your dog's digestive system. This dog ice cream recipe is delicious and good for your pet!

1. Mix all these ingredients in your blender, then dump into ice cube trays, paper cups, or even a kong toy to freeze and serve.

2. If you want to go all out for your mutt, you can freeze these homemade frosty paws just like you would homemade ice cream. A salt-less automatic ice cream maker makes this as easy as using any other appliance in your home and the frosty paws will be ready to serve in 10 minutes.

For the ultimate treat, appropriate for dessert at a doggy birthday party, follow steps one and two, then take the mostly frozen dog ice cream product of number two and spread it 1" to 1½" thick on wax paper. Freeze for five minutes and then remove from freezer.

Next, use a paw shaped cookie cutter to cut a paw shaped "frosty paws," remove ice cream around edges, and return paw shapes to the freezer to freeze solid.

By Leilah Moses Silveira

Reader challenges candidates

What I have in mind is both a request and a challenge to the school board candidates.

I would like to have them state what their qualifications and experience are, what their work experience is whether or not they ever owned a business, had any management or leadership responsibilities, worked in a factory: in other words, what their work experience is in the private sector, which is where you have to compete and you either succeed or fail depending your work ethics and skills.

From my standpoint the primary purpose of schools is to prepare the students to enter the job market with the skills and education that are required in the job market. I would like to have the teachers and the counselors emphasize if they want to succeed and have a good future they need the skills and education to be able to do it. I believe manufacturing is the backbone of our economy.

Now, I'm not dreaming to think that we can bring back manufacturing the way it was. I believe our best option is high tech manufacturing. Why not

consider.

- Emphasize math, science, chemistry, and CAD drawing, the skills that are required in high tech manufacturing.
- Lengthen the school year to 200 days accelerate graduation for advanced students, summer school for students who need it, also for those who want to advance. Why do our students have to go to other towns for make-up work like my granddaughter did last summer? Why are our schools shut down for two months during the summer?
- A teacher evaluation and merit system where good teachers get the pay and promotions they deserve

A final point, no disrespect intended for teachers, they have a difficult and important task, but let's be mindful of who pays them. One only has to consider the present state of our economy with all the homes up for sale and who knows how many in foreclosure. I say they are well paid with their salaries, benefits and pensions.

That's the challenge It will be interesting if any will reply.

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Neighbors ask Selectboard to intervene on Wayne Street paving

By John Garcia

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard voted to support appropriating funds to chip seal Wayne Street at their meeting on Tuesday, March 14th.

Wayne Street, a dirt road, is filled with potholes, according to several residents of the street who were present to tell the Board that this created unsafe conditions for their families. Among them was Kathy Fitzgerald, who told Board members that she and her neighbors had been trying for some time to get the street paved, but had not seen any progress.

"Everything is putting us off another year, another year," she said.

She said that she would be willing to accept the cheapest solution available, a sentiment shared by neighbor Henrique Caetano.

"Just gravel would be better than what we have right now," he said.

Executive Secretary Jeff Osuch told Ms. Fitzgerald that Wayne Street had not been recommended as a street in need of paving to Town Meeting. He told her that she could submit a request to Town Meeting and speak on its behalf. He noted that this would not guarantee the project would be funded, as there is not enough money in the town's budget to fix every road in need of work.

"There are many streets the public would like to see paved," he said. "Unfortunately, choices have to be made."

He added that the residents could also ask the Board of Public Works to put the street in their budget. Ms. Fitzgerald responded that she had already seen the BPW vote to approve the project.

"We assumed we were all set," she said.

Mr. Osuch replied that the BPW had not put Wayne Street on its list of the top three streets recommend to receive work. That list includes Dogwood Street, Lafayette Street, and Oxford Street.

Mr. Caetano demanded that the Board do something to help Wayne Street.

"We ask for a solution," he said.

Later, during a discussion of the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, Chairperson Charles Murphy noted that last year's Town Meeting had appropriated money from Chapter 90 State Aid Highway funds to test the chip seal

paving process on Potter Street, which only has one house. That project had yet to take place.

He suggested using the funds to chip seal Wayne Street instead. The Board voted unanimously in favor of recommending this to Town Meeting.

The work on Potter Street, however has already begun, the *Neighb News* learned in a phone interview with Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, a member of the Board of Public Works who lives on Bayberry, which is only accessible by Potter Street. He said the chip seal processing plant does not open until April, so the street will be finished then, before town meeting. He said there are 15-20 houses that can only be reached by using Potter Street.

According to BPW chair Geoffrey Haworth, the chip seal process costs about one third of asphalt. The board

There are many streets
the public would like to
see paved. Unfortunately,
choices have to be made.

[Jeff Osuch]

decided last year to try it on Potter Street. If it "holds up" the board will use it on other streets.

"It's not used for high traffic roads. It's for low use streets," said Mr. Haworth, adding it might be good for a lot of streets on West Island. "It prevents the potholes and the dust. It eliminates a lot of those issues."

Both Mr. Hobson Mr. Haworth said the Selectboard should stay out of the business of deciding which streets get paved. The Finance Committee generally tells the BPW how much money is available for paving and then the BPW chooses the streets. The article is forwarded to Town Meeting and members vote on it.

"Just tell us how much money we have and let us do our job," said Mr. Haworth. "Let us to what we were elected to do. We will do the right thing. If not, vote us out."

Mr. Haworth also said that Wayne Street was on their list to get done.

Last year a study was conducted to make sure the water structure under the road can handle the pavement. He said it can and the road is on the list to get voted on at Town Meeting this year. In any case, only town meeting can change a town meeting vote. The BOS does not have the authority to take the money from Potter Street and use it on another street.

"They're all after me because I'm telling everyone to vote for Brodeur and Haworth to get Bill Fitzgerald's job back," said Mr. Hobson, referring to the vote to terminate the contract of the Public Works Superintendent.

"It's all just to get back at me. You can trust the mafia more than you can trust them," said Mr. Hobson. "If they can't control you, they're going to screw you."

He said he will hire an attorney if necessary, but it probably will not be.

In a phone interview with Mr. Murphy, he said he will ask the board to reconsider the vote at its next meeting.

"We cannot take over a thing that happend at town meeting," said Mr. Murphy. "I'll admit, I was very eager because I had the passion of the people in front of me."

Wayne Street was recommended by the BPW to be paved this year, but the Selectboard has not voted on its recommendation yet.

"I still think there is enough funding that they can get Wayne Street," said Mr. Murphy.

In another matter, Mr. Osuch told the Board that planning the budget could be complicated when Massachusetts releases its local aid figures. He noted that cuts to local aid might be larger than initially anticipated.

The Board approved several budgets, including those for the Town Collector's and Town Clerk's offices, but held off on approving figures for the Police Department, Fire Department, Building Department, BPW, School Department, and Conservation Commission, the latter of which could face budget reductions.

Town Planner Bill Roth was present to discuss two projects with the Board. One of these was the Riverwalk, a proposed waterfront recreation area which would include trails for walking and biking as well as a boardwalk. It would extend through New Bedford and Acushnet.

SELECT: cont'd on page 24

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

Deadline to register is Tuesday, April 12th.

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

Tiny Pros Flag Football

This program will be led by local Pop Warner coaches. Two weeks of instruction followed by non-competitive play. Game T-shirts will be provided.

April 9th-May 14th (Saturdays), 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$50 member/\$70 Non-member

Pitch, Hit & Run

National skills competition for ages 7-14. Boys and Girls compete separately and in 4 age groups. Free event. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED by April 15th. Date: April 16.

Fairhaven Senior Center

Visit our new website at:
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MALL TRIP:

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ENTERTAINMENT:

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Mar. 23, Wed: Presentation by
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Volunteers Needed at the Senior Center

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With Nancy

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June 13, 2011 - The Hamptons & Montauk Point, Long Island. Seating is limited. Lunch at Gurney's Inn

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Political hopefuls appear at first of three candidate nights

Text and photos by Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven's political hopefuls and shoe-in alike appeared at the first of three candidate nights last Tuesday, 3/8, at the Senior Center. Candidates are also invited to participate in the North Fairhaven Improvement Association's candidate night on 3/16, and the West Island candidate night, 3/31.

Last Tuesday's event was recorded by the government access channel and will run periodically on channels 18 and 9 until the election on April 4.

Each candidate made a statement, with no time limitations. Those running in contested races were also asked one question by a three-member panel: Marc Scanlon, Dorothy Cox and Bryan Wood.

The School Committee has two seats up for re-election and four candidates vying for the three-year terms. Incumbent Pam Kuechler sent her apologies. She had intended to attend the event, but her mother, Peggy Rogers, became hospitalized.

SC chairperson Colin Veitch is running for his third term.

"Working to create independent, productive and successful children," said Mr. Veitch, explaining it was taken from the district's Mission Statement, and the spirit of collaboration and community involvement by the people who created it is the same that has driven the decisions of the current school committee.

"Our committee's strength is its diversity and mutual respect that allows us to see many sides of an issue and come to a strong consensus," said Mr. Veitch, adding that the SC has been successful during the "financial stresses" of the last few years because of the other boards in town.

"We do the right things for the town as a whole when we work together," said Mr. Veitch.

He said his vision as chair has been to encourage other viewpoints and that the committee's job is to create an environment that allows staff and students to excel.



Colin Veitch is running for re-election to the school committee and said we do the right things for the town when we work together.

"It is a complex equation, yes, but simple to execute if you base every decision you make on the welfare and education of our 2,000 students," he said.

Mr. Veitch said the district was rated "very poor" in leadership, governance and community support when he was first elected. Now, he said, it is obvious that "even though we might have our issues, leadership and community support are no longer on that list. I am proud to have been a part of that dramatic change."

Mr. Wood asked all school committee candidates what they thought about the current evaluation process for teachers.

"I'm not a big fan that once you become professional status you are untouchable," said Mr. Veitch. "I prefer measurable goals," like in the private sector.

Brian Monroe is making his first attempt at a seat on the School Committee. He and his wife, lifelong resident Keri Ste. Marie, have three children, two of school age and



Brian Monroe is running for school committee, not against anyone, but for his children.

in Fairhaven schools. He said he is running because he loves his children and wants all Fairhaven students to get a quality education.

"With the current atmosphere in which we live, before asking for more money, we should ask ourselves, 'Are we using the money we have as efficiently as possible?'"

He said identifying and eliminating duplicate spending and overspending, streamlining administrative processes, and other measures could save significantly. Something as simple as using printers that can print on both sides of the page could save money.

Mr. Monroe also said he supported the decision to close the Rogers School and build a new elementary school for both Rogers and Wood School students.

"In an ideal world, Oxford School would have never been closed and we would have a school in each section of Fairhaven... Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world and difficult decisions must be



Lisa Schroeder-Plante is running for school committee and said she wants to be "the one who listens."

made," he said.

He also quoted from the SC policy on openness and communication.

"If elected, I will fight for the rights of all members of this community to be heard," he said. "Shutting people off before they have a chance to express their thought isn't right and it should not happen."

When asked about the teacher evaluation process, Mr. Monroe acknowledged that teaching has changed, but said in the private sector, results matter.

"If we don't do our job, we don't get a good raise," he said, but in this bad economy, even the highest rating is not resulting in raises. "I don't think anyone should be immune to that."

He said people should not get raises "just because they're there for 40 years."

Lisa Schroeder-Plante is also running for School Committee, saying she has three children in Fairhaven schools. She said she does not have a degree in education, "but I care about the children."

She said she is running "to make sure you get the best education for your tax dollars."

She said she will print no signs or handouts because of her financial situation, not a lack of commitment.

"I never was, or will be a yes man," she said.

Ms. Schroeder-Plante said she disagreed with the School Building Committee's decision on the new school and that the SBC did not make information available to taxpayers. She said the new school will be too small and students will be crowded.

She said the Wood School is a "small school. It works," and that small schools foster community, safety.

"I support small class sizes," she said, adding teachers can do their jobs better in small classes. She said the "best educational program is small classes."

"I will listen to the public, I want to be the one who listens," said Ms. Schroeder-Plante. "My concern is decisions are being

CANDIDATES: cont'd next page

Candidates: cont'd from previous page



BPW incumbent Geoffrey Haworth said he was voted chair of the committee because "they know they can count on me."

made without the public having access to unbiased facts."

When asked about the teacher evaluations, Ms. Schroeder-Plante said, "teachers work hard. They mold and give the lessons needed to grow and become good citizens. Teachers deserve every cent they make and then some."

The Board of Public Works has two positions up for election and three candidates.

BPW chairperson Geoffrey Haworth started by saying he has not missed a "single meeting" since being elected.

He reflected on the last three years, saying 2008 was the beginning of the economic decline.

"Budgets were being cut, employees laid off and services abolished," he said. "Hard decisions had to be made and some were not very popular."

He said the board made changes that resulted in significant savings for the town. Mr. Haworth reminded residents that the town received millions of dollars in grants for multiple projects that will save the town money in energy costs in the future.

He also said he kept his campaign promise from the last election and got the sewer tie-in fee reduced.

"We have many important issues facing the BPW that require the hard work and dedication I'm known for," said Mr. Haworth. "I have been a consistent and fair voice for the resident, not the politically known. I have voted on each issue after careful consideration and an evaluation of the merits of the issue, not the name of the person the issue involves."

Mr. Scanlon asked each BPW candidate for his or her strongest quality and the biggest challenge facing the public works department.

Mr. Haworth said his strongest quality was leadership.

"I make a decision based on the merits of a situation," said Mr. Haworth. "Whatever the job demands of me, I will give."

He said he was voted in as chair because "they know they can count on me."

The biggest challenge facing the department will be finding a new superintendent. Bill Fitzgerald's contract was terminated by the board earlier this year. Mr. Haworth voted to retain him.

He said the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant was the next biggest challenge. The state almost revoked Fairhaven's permit because of new rules on nitrogen deposits into estuaries.

"It's 30 to 40 million dollars the town can't afford," said Mr. Haworth. "I understand protecting the environment is important, but we have to make sure we are fiscally responsible as well as environmentally responsible."

Kathleen Sturtevant is also running for re-election to the BPW. She said perseverance, dedication, and independent thinking were her most important



BPW incumbent Kathleen Sturtevant said she is an independent thinker who will not be swayed by others.

attributes.

She said she was instrumental in getting sewer to Sciticut Neck, despite many obstacles.

"I work well with others and I have a great love for this town," said Ms. Sturtevant, adding she will make decisions based on what is best for town residents. "I will not be swayed by others."

She said the digester project has been and will continue to be a big focus of the board and that she represented the board in highway contract negotiations and on the parks committee.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board," said Ms. Sturtevant. "If elected, I will continue to work hard."

She, too, answered the question by Mr. Scanlon, saying that her strength "is being an independent person, and not being swayed by other people's votes."

She said it took 10 years to get sewer on Sciticut Neck. They told her it could not be done.

"We can put a road through mountains," she said, so we can put sewer on the neck.

She agreed that the department's biggest challenge would be to choose a new superintendent, but also said that communication between boards and between department heads was a top priority of hers. She would like to see more cross training in the department, so when one person leaves a post, there is someone to take his place.

Richard Brodeur served 17 years on the Fairhaven BPW, and was defeated last year.

"I am a leader, not a follower," he said, and stressed his years of service on the board and his related job experience, as well as numerous certifications and more than 25 seminars in related fields, and his work with various community organizations.

"I will not follow and vote with the crowd or agree with anybody because it is the easy thing to do," said Mr. Brodeur. "That's not leadership. I will bring my experience to the table and vote for what is good for Fairhaven and its citizens. We need leaders on the board, not followers."

Mr. Brodeur reminded everyone that the public works department is not just the water and sewer departments.

"It's a bigger department than people realize," he said.

"I bring back the willingness to listen and the knowledge to work for Fairhaven's citizens, not a clique or machine politics as usual," said Mr. Brodeur. "I am willing to work with both the employees and management to get results for a better department and a better town."

He answered Mr. Scanlon's question saying his greatest strengths were his education and experience, including 40 years in public works and 30 years in construction.

He said the department's biggest challenge was "getting a superintendent and keeping a superintendent."

He said the sewer permit with the state was a big issue that would not be easy to solve.

CANDIDATES: cont'd on page 24



BPW candidate Richard Brodeur seeks to recapture a seat he lost last year. He said he has the most experience for the job.

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FinCom warns of huge shortfall in 2013

By Joyce Rowley

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Finance Committee began voting the FY2012 budget as presented at their March 10 meeting. Before any vote was cast, the Committee had a lengthy discussion on how to structure the budget relative to long-term debt.

Chairperson John Roderiques began by saying that significant cuts have to be made. In order to maintain the current level of service, the Town will need to cut items presented in articles.

"I'll tell you point blank," said Mr. Roderiques. "If we spend every available dollar and made a few appropriate cuts, we can get through this year. The problem is next year. Some think that we should hold back some for next year. I do not believe in using FY12 to offset FY13 unless you make it clear at the Town Meeting."

He added that he believed tax money should be used in the year it is levied.

In particular, he said he believed the overlay account, an account set aside to handle challenged tax assessments, abatements and exemptions, should be declared each year before Town Meeting. If it is not declared, as has happened in the past, it reverts to the overlay surplus fund for the following year. The tax overlay account has accumulated about \$850,000.

Mr. Roderiques said that historically, the tax assessor has withheld abatements and exemptions at higher levels than needed. Looking at the overlay account as a percentage of general funds, Fairhaven's overlay account is 14th highest in the state. But Fairhaven is at the bottom third in the state relative to income.

Mr. Roderiques's concern was that the decision should be in the hands of Town Meeting members. He said he believed that they had been denied that decision.

FinCom member Theodore "Ted" Silva asked if FinCom dedicates funds for the overlay account. Mr. Roderiques asked that it be part of the motion to approve the budget.

Member Antonio Daniel DiNardis asked what the anticipated shortfall was for FY2013.

Without any articles requested,

and with a level service budget, a \$1 million to \$1.2 million shortfall could be expected.

Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch said that the estimate came from anticipated increases in retirement, health insurance, FICA contributions, and an anticipated \$600,000 in the School Department.

"If you fund everything at the same level, make cuts in articles, then there's no place to go other than in the operating budget. You need to look at this year and plan for next year being worse. I don't want to see massive layoffs," said Mr. Osuch. "If you lay off people, you have to budget for more unemployment insurance."

Mr. Osuch proposed deeper cuts this year so that next year's starting base would be lower. To place all of the cuts on next year, the Town would

You need to look at this year and plan for next year being worse. I don't want to see massive layoffs. If you lay off people, you have to budget for more unemployment insurance. [Jeff Osuch]

have to cut deeper into department budgets, and that would mean layoffs.

He referred to the \$1.6 million in cuts to FY2012 budget he presented to the Selectboard March 7, 2011. There was still \$160,000 to be made up through the overlay account and free cash.

FinCom Member Jennifer Bishop said that spending it all may create expectations for the next year.

Mr. DiNardis pointed out that if there is a \$1.9 million shortage this year, and an anticipated \$1.2 million shortage next year, the residents need to have the figures at Town Meeting. He questioned whether FinCom should be looking at an across the board cut of two percent of the entire \$46 million budget to make up the shortfall.

Mr. Silva suggested that with an \$1.838 million shortfall, the overlay

account could easily reduce it to \$1.4 million before cuts.

Mr. Roderiques noted cuts could be made in the articles. He suggested that they begin reviewing what articles should be funded, and then go back and see if there were additional cuts to be made. An example was the Recreation Center floor replacement article. He recommended against depleting every fund to the minimum.

Article 5, Renovation of Fairhaven High School's historic entrances was recommended as approved at \$90,000 instead of the \$180,000 requested. Mr. Roderiques noted that the estimate was \$111,000 to \$177,000, and a firm estimate was needed. He suggested that the school department could bid two entrances with add-alternates for the other two entrances. Depending on the actual bids, the other two entrances could be funded, the school could come back for a second article, or could use the Rogers Trust fund. Member Kathleen Carter suggested that if the tiles were an imminent threat of falling, that they be removed.

Member Kim Hyland recused himself from discussion on Article 8, roadwork due to his proximity to Dogwood Street, one of seven streets in the article. By a vote of 10-0, with one abstention, FinCom recommended approval of Lafayette Street, Oxford Street, and West Street as presented, and Dogwood Street reduced to \$54,750.

Article 9, Community Preservation Committee funds, was put on hold until William Roth, Town Planner, could present the \$441,600 in projects.

Article 22, Acceptance of Statute Chapter 32B Section 20, would require the Town to adopt a law creating an account to fund the Town's health insurance long-term debt liability. At issue is the need to fund some amount of the Town's estimated \$38 million unfunded liability for health insurance payments to retired Town employees over the next 20 years.

According to Mr. Roderiques, the question is how much the Town should put into the account initially. Finance Director John Nunes said he believed the bonding companies

FINCOM: cont'd on page 23

Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on March 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 Applicant Judy Bond Gonsalves Location 35 Bayview Avenue Plot 28A Lot 471 Purpose replace existing so tubes with big footings within 10' of a beach and within a VE flood zone.
- Notice of Intent Applicant Paula Almeida Location Huttleston Avenue Plot 30B Lot 142 Purpose construct single family dwelling within the 100' buffer zone to BVW.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Jones, Chairman

Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the

following petitions:

1. Lawrence D. Gillis 45 Alder Street Plat 43A, Lot 54 Certificate #20808
198-18 Short 10' on the north side and 6' on the south side of the required 20' side setback, short 9' of the required 30' front setback and 4% over the maximum allowed lot coverage of 15% all within a RR District.
2. Nancy P. Antin 91 Balsam Street Plat 43A, Lot 134 Certificate #19722
198-18 Short 10' on the north and south sides of the required 20' side setback, short 10' of the required 30' front setback and 2% over the maximum allowed lot coverage of 15% all within a RR District.
3. Michael Holbrook 9 Phoenix Street Plat 3, Lot 137 Book 9172, Page 0015
198-18 Short 2' of the required 10' south side setback and 5% over the maximum allowed lot coverage of 30% all within a RA District.
4. Donald & Hildy Nolan 36 Reservation Road Plat 29A, Lot 234

Book 7832, Page 32

198-18 Short 17' on the north side and 11' on the south side of the required 20' side setback, short 18' of the required 30' front setback and 22% over the maximum allowed lot coverage of 15% in a RR District.

198-22 Accessory Buildings Short 4' of the required 5' property line setback.

5. John A. & Jessica Amarello 8 Tecumseh Avenue Plat 42A, Lot 120-121 Book 9667, Page 344
198-18 Short 19' of the required 20' side setback, short 28' of the required 30' rear setback, 11% over the maximum allowed building coverage of 15% and 9% over the maximum allowed lot coverage of 25% all within a RR District.
6. Michael Ristuccia 156 Cottonwood Street Plat 43A, Lot 79 Certificate #17030
198-18 Short 6' of the required 30' rear setback and short 10' of the required 20' side setback in a RR District.

Very Truly, Peter DeTerra, Cairman

ML's Eye on the Weather



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

Spring season is tick season

Spring arrives Sunday and that rings the dinner bell for hungry deer ticks. Next to Weather, Ticks and Lyme Disease Info Rank High on westislandweather.com Web Site

Although they are still about year-round, Spring, Summer and Fall are the most active for ticks. As most New England towns boast of their history and benefactors, the Town of Lyme, CT, gets the negative credit for the origination of "Lyme" Disease," a hideous, elusive tick-borne illness that is difficult to diagnose and

extremely complicated to treat. From flu-like symptoms to insomnia, the effects vary from patient to patient. In rare cases, this bacteria-based infection can result in death. I've heard of patients going from doctor to doctor; one for eight years before being properly diagnosed with the illness.

It's a matter of being cognizant when going for that walk on the trail, especially if you take your pets. The opportunistic deer tick (and regular ticks) patiently await its host in tall grass and leaves, which are among their favorite sites. I would hazard a guess that those who have pets or live in wooded areas are more alert for ticks than those in dense urban areas. You can reside in the "big-city" and still get bitten by a deer tick.

When venturing out on the trails or doing yard work, a simple bug-insect repellent and proper clothing is an excellent deterrent. Faithfully check your animals at least twice a day. A young deer dick is only the size of a sesame seed. For more info and links to Deer Ticks and Lyme Disease: <http://www.westislandweather.com/tickslimedisease.htm/>

The West Island State Reservation, and other wooded areas have a tick advisory posted by the Fairhaven Board of Health.

(Note: M.L. Baron's father came down with Lyme Disease from a tick bite while doing yard work in 2006. This otherwise healthy man eventually couldn't walk and was suffering from pain night and day. After several doctor visits over a period of months, he was finally diagnosed with Lyme Disease and was successfully treated at The Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA. Today in his early 80's, he leads a healthy life, rides his bike and walks his dog every day.)

Forecast

Saturday: Hi: 51° Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. **Saturday Night:** Cloudy. Low in the 40s

Sunday: Partly Cloudy. High: 37° **Sunday Night:** Mostly Cloudy With Occasional Flurries. Low: 34°

Monday: Cloudy With Rain. High: 41° **Mon. Night:** Overcast. Low: 39°

The island's ocean temperature is 42 degrees. Countdown to Spring: 3 days. The final Full "Worm" Moon for winter peaks Saturday. The are many different names for the full moon, depending on a certain Indian tribe, or part of the world. For more on the many moon names given to our closest natural satellite, visit Moon Names, <http://home.hiwaay.net/~krcool/Astro/moon/moonnames.htm>

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Yoshida Shoin

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 4/5, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health

Mon., 3/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 3/14, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Study Comm

Thurs., 3/24, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/17, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Thurs., 3/24, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 3/23, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Mon., 3/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Mattapoisett River Valley Advisory Committee

Tues., 4/12, Arsene St., 3:30 p.m.

Mattapoisett River Valley Water District

Tues., 4/12, Arsene St., 4:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	March 2011	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	17	0631	1858	----	1231*
Friday	18	0724	1949	0045*	1315*
Saturday	19	0814	2038	0139**	1359**
Sunday	20	0903	2127	0232**	1442**
Monday	21	0952	2218	0322**	1526*
Tuesday	22	1043	2310	0411*	1609*
Wednesday	23	1136	----	0459*	1653*
Thursday	24	0005	1231	0550*	1740*
Friday	25	0102	1329	0652	1834
Saturday	26	0201	1429	0844	1948
Sunday	27	0304	1532	1007	2213
Monday	28	0410	1636	1059	2315
Tuesday	29	0514	1735	1135	2356
Wednesday	30	0609	1825	----	1200
Thursday	31	0654	1907	0028	1224

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

PLAN: cont'd from page 4

have to approve the rezoning. All members present and eligible voted in favor.

The Board continued a discussion on the potential release of three lots from the Torrington Road subdivision. The lots had been sold despite the fact that no sale was supposed to take place before they were released. All members present voted in favor of releasing the lots.

The meeting was originally supposed to include Public Hearings on proposed bylaws regulating wind and solar energy. However, the Select Board wanted to review the bylaws with Town Counsel before a Public Hearing took place. The Hearings will be postponed until the proposals are reviewed, which will not leave enough time to put the bylaws on the agenda for Town Meeting.

The Board had been scheduled to

continue a discussion on a resolution that Voices For A Healthy South Coast wanted them to sign. However, Voices had yet to turn in an updated version of the resolution, leading the discussion to be postponed.

The meeting, which was the last before Fairhaven's election, marked the end of Mr. Fleurent's 48-year-long presence on the Board. Mr. Hayward praised Mr. Fleurent for providing the Board with an informed perspective.

FINCOM: cont'd from page 20

would look for the adoption of the statute and only a token amount to start the fund.

The Town pays 60%, and retirees pay 40%. Because of the amount of liability, Mr. Nuns said he did not believe that \$50,000 a year would accrue enough to meet the obligation.

Mr. Osuch told the board that Fairhaven was the only community with two recent upgrades. But with a new school and a major capital expense at the waste water treatment plant, failure to obtain a good rating could cost the Town when it went to bond in the fall.

Bond ratings are based on the Stabilization fund, where the Town invests, free cash, position at the table and logic.

"Having been at the table twice with Moody to raise the [Town's bond] rating, I think \$5,000 to \$10,000 is not enough," said Mr. Osuch.

He proposed a \$50,000 appropriation from the Stabilization fund to meet the new statute.

The vote was postponed to the next meeting.

The board also discussed, but did not vote on Article 27, Recreation

Center gymnasium floor replacement. Ms. Szala questioned whether the Town could afford a Recreation Center that was losing money. She said they should compare what it is receiving per year versus what it was costing the town, in light of its usage by residents from surrounding communities.

She also questioned whether paying for a new floor when next year there could be layoffs of Town employees. She said it was like the middle school — pay to change all the windows and then find that a new middle school was needed.

Mr. Roderiques countered that Town Meeting had voted to allow the Recreation Center to keep an offset account. FinCom voted to keep funding the Recreation Center although it was running a \$40,000 to \$50,000 deficit last year. He noted that all members pay to use the facility.

The board also voted to recommend approval of the following articles:

- 1, Measure of wood and bark
- Article 2, Town Report publication
- Article 3, Salaries of town officers with a hold on the Town Clerk 1% increase
- Article 6, State Aid to highways as an authorization and acceptance of the State figure

- Article 7, Acceptance of land on Buist Avenue, to yield to petitioner
- Article 10, Government access programming
- Article 11, Shellfish propagation
- Article 13, Non-mandated school transportation
- Article 14, Historical Commission with the exception of \$750 for the fire museum
- Article 15, Special needs early childhood revolving fund
- Article 16, Cultural Council at the reduced amount of \$1,000 from \$2,000
- Article 18, Non-mandated student activities revolving
- Article 19, Hoppy's Landing revolving account
- Article 21, Social day care program
- Article 24, Street signs at a reduced amount of \$3,000 from \$5,000
- Article 25, Fire Department ambulance equipment
- Article 26, Town Hall repairs
- Article 4, Town charges was not discussed.

The board also voted for indefinite postponement of:

- Article 12, Street lights, \$6,000
- Article 17, Phoenix Trail Bike Path rail replacement, \$17,000
- Article 20, Bicentennial Committee, \$2,000, with a vote of 10-0, with one abstention. Ms. Bishop recused herself from the vote and left the room.
- Article 23, Remodel/Install fencing at Macomber Field, \$14,171.

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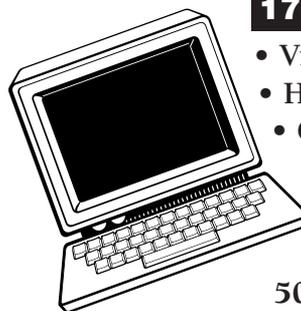
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CANDIDATES: cont'd from page 17

The last contested race is for Planning Board, which will have two separate slots on the ballot. One is for the two positions scheduled for election this year, with incumbent Wayne Hayward and newcomer Rene Fleurent running unopposed for those seats. The other is an unexpired term made vacant by the resignation of Marinus Vanderpol. Jeffrey Lucas, who was appointed to the position, and Jaime DeSousa are running for that position.

Mr. DeSousa said he would be a "refreshing choice."

"I will look at things fairly and openly. I bring no strings attached with me running for the position," said Mr. DeSousa, adding his experience bringing groups together will bring "common sense participation to the planning board."

His work experience includes construction, development and real estate.

"I cannot promise to change the world...But I will listen to both my colleagues and the citizens that approach me with concerns," said Mr. DeSousa. "If you want someone in town government who is approachable, level headed, brings common sense when making decisions then I respectfully ask for your vote."

Ms. Cox, of Dorothy Cox's Chocolates, asked both planning board candidates how they would treat business in Fairhaven.

"Businesses are essential to any town or city," said Mr. DeSousa. "You have to look at each individual business," adding that businesses are a source of revenue and important for the future of the town.

He said it is bad for the town when

businesses close and nothing replaces them. He mentioned the new Internet sweepstakes cafe and how people do not know how to respond.

"I will listen," he said, adding that in his work he has had to deal with some towns that were "not very friendly. You have to treat everyone fairly."

Mr. Lucas stressed his 8+ years on the board before he lost the election last year. He said he brings "my independent view of projects in front of us," and not if a project is "connected to any political group."

He said the upcoming discussions on the Mass. Stretch Code, which includes stricter energy efficiency standards for buildings, is something every town will have to deal with.

Mr. Lucas said development in East Fairhaven and North Fairhaven will also be an important issue before the board, along with protection of water resources, the waterfront, and the aquifer.

"I promise to keep informed with current events and how they affect" the



Jaime DeSousa said his experience in construction, development and real estate make him a good fit for Planning Board.



Jeff Lucas was appointed to fill a vacancy and running to retain his seat on the Planning Board.

board, said Mr. Lucas.

He answered Ms. Cox's question by saying that "we have to treat businesses fairly" and that people who buy commercial property have a right to start a business.

"Any concessions we make, we have to be able to justify," said Mr. Lucas. "We don't just dictate. They do have a right to conform to our bylaws and to develop a business."

He said he will be an independent vote.

"You can't say 'well it affects my friend's business or this or that,'" said Mr. Lucas, only if it conforms to the bylaws.

Three candidates running in uncontested races were also present and made statements: Charles Murphy, Sr., is running for re-election to the Selectboard; Jeannine Lopes is running for re-election to the Board of Health; Rene Fleurent is running for Planning Board, a seat vacated by his uncle who retired. A seat on the Trust Fund Commission has no candidate.

•••

SELECT: cont'd from page 12

Mr. Roth requested that the Board sign a contract with New Bedford and Acushnet to apply for transportation enhancement funding for the project. He stated that although the project would take a very long time to complete, it would prove beneficial in the long run.

"We're planning for the future," he said.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of signing the contract.

Mr. Roth also spoke on behalf of the Community Preservation Committee's request to purchase a conservation restriction on 28.5 acres at the Wolf Island Well site. He stated that the BPW had received a \$30,506 grant for the project, a detail which drew praise from Dr. Bowcock.

"I'm glad to see we're getting our grant money," he said.

The CPC would have to pay \$74,000 for the restriction and an additional

\$5000 for other costs such as recording and surveying. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the project.

The Board discussed Leo's Place, an "internet cafe" on Sconticut Neck that allows patrons to play online games for cash prizes. Dr. Bowcock stated that Police Chief Michael Myers had been trying to determine whether those activities constituted gambling, a decision that could not be made until Attorney General Martha Coakley's office made a ruling.

"We're waiting to hear from the attorney general," he said.

The Board also discussed a request by the Footlights Repertory Company to change the dates of and waive rental fees for its production of "Jesus Christ Superstar," which will be held in the Town Hall. They had originally booked the facility from April 11th to April 17th, but discovered that another organization

had also reserved the space on April 17th. Therefore, they requested that their reservation be moved to April 25th through May 1st.

Mr. Osuch stated that although Footlights Theatre was a nonprofit organization, he felt the rental fees should not be completely waived.

"I always feel there should be at least a nominal fee," he said.

The Board voted in favor of allowing the dates to be changed. A fee will be applied to the show's performance days, but not its rehearsals.

In other business, the Board:

- Voted to remove 97.790 acres of land North of New Boston Road from Chapter 61 status (a program that gives preferential tax treatment to homeowners who maintain their property as open space for the purposes of timber production, agriculture, or recreation).

Beth David contributed to this story.

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Teacher of 30 years losing benefits over 7-day mistake

By Joyce Rowley

NeighbNews Correspondent

In an unusual move at their March 8 meeting, the Fairhaven School Committee allowed public comment on an item that was not on the agenda. Pamela Correll, of Enfield, CT, spoke on behalf of her twin sister Penelope "Penney" Harvey. Ms. Harvey is fighting to get her full pension after learning that her paperwork showed she was short seven days.

Ms. Harvey, a 30-year veteran teacher of Fairhaven High School, developed paraneoplastic Stiff Person Syndrome in her last year of teaching. Although she completed her last year, she was on medical leave when she retired September 15, 2010.

In a letter dated March 5, 2011, to Dr. Robert Baldwin, Superintendent of Schools, and to Colin Veitch, School Committee Chairperson, Ms. Correll explained that her sister developed a companion medical problem —paraneoplastic limbic encephalitis. Throughout the summer of 2010, she "lapsed in and out of lucidity."

Although Ms. Harvey is now stabilized, it may recur. She said her sister was also diagnosed with cancer.

"On the last day of school in June 2010, Penny went to work, returned home, went to bed, and has not functioned normally since," Ms. Correll read in a prepared statement to the committee. "In the intervening nine months Massachusetts General Hospital has become Penny's main home."

Ms. Correll stated she had not involved herself in the retirement matter, as she never expected it would go so far. She stated there would be no financial cost to the Town of Fairhaven if seven days of unpaid leave could be granted to make up for uncreditable time from early in Ms. Harvey's 30-year service to the Town.

About fifty teachers attended the School Committee meeting. A petition of support signed by 123 Fairhaven Educators Association (FEA) members and colleagues was given to the Committee. It states that the signers support granting Ms. Harvey seven days of unpaid leave so she

may maximize her retirement benefits.

"We fervently believe that this is the right and just thing to do and hereby show our support by signing this petition," it states.

Reading from a prepared statement, Mr. Veitch responded that on September 15, 2010 Ms. Harvey voluntarily retired, and that it was a date she had chosen four years prior in June 2006. He said the School District was grateful for Ms. Harvey's years of service, however, "she is no longer an employee of the district and is no longer represented by the FEA."

Granting the seven-day unpaid leave now would be a misrepresentation of fact, and would result in perjury, he told the crowd.

Mr. Veitch said they had discussed the matter with the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) legal service that afternoon. He also said the district was willing to engage in ways to work the issue out.

"The district and the Superintendent are sympathetic to Ms. Harvey's current situation, but its hands are tied regarding the FEA's request," Mr. Veitch said.

Dr. Baldwin said that as a superintendent, he has to make a lot of difficult decisions.

"If it were that easy, it would be done," he said.

He said his only role in the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Service (MTRS) is to sign a certification for the date of separation. While he had not received any official notification from MTRS about the ability to grant retroactive unpaid leave, he had a copy of an email. MTRS had indicated there were other occasions this had happened, but did not specify when.

After consulting with counsel, he

learned that it would be tantamount to perjury to change the date now. Dr. Baldwin had also run it by the State Attorney General, but had not yet received a response. He said he had posed the question at a superintendent conference the day of the School Committee meeting. None of the 16 other superintendents present had heard of an instance where a separation date was changed retroactively.

"It's not that I can't because I won't. It's that I can't do it because I can't," said Dr. Baldwin, adding that he would not and could not change a separation date for the sole purpose of enhancing an individual's retirement benefit.

Expressing sympathy to Ms. Harvey, he said if there were a legal and ethical way to do so, he would. He recommended they appeal to the MTRS, which is allowed by State law.

Reading from notes, Dr. Baldwin said Ms. Harvey had until September 15, 2010 to modify her separation date. However, she is no longer an employee and so cannot be granted leave.

Mr. Veitch said they had discussed the matter with the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) legal service that afternoon. He also said the district was willing to engage in ways to work the issue out.

In an interview later, David Correll said Ms. Harvey had been in and out of the hospital between July and October 2010. She was admitted again to MGH after Thanksgiving and did not get out again until January 4, 2011. He said during the time, when she normally would have been filing for retirement and discovering the problem, she was very ill. Mrs. Correll has been medical proxy for her sister since June 2010. The Corrells just recently obtained power of attorney for Ms. Harvey, Mr. Correll said.

Shortly after she filed for retirement in September 2010, the Corrells and Ms. Harvey discovered she did not have the full 30 years of creditable service. When she began teaching in 1980, she started a week after the school year began. Therefore Ms. Harvey would only receive 62% of her retirement benefits instead of 75% as

SCHOOLS: cont'd next page

SCHOOLS: cont'd from previous page

she had planned. The difference is roughly \$8,000 per year.

Mr. Richardson, FEA President, said he was happy to hear Mr. Veitch say he would continue to engage in dialogue, and was willing to in a manner that solves the issue for everyone.

The School District provided the Neighb News with a letter dated March 9, 2011, which was written to Mr. Richardson from Attorney Laurie R. Houle of the MTA Division of Legal Services. It notes FEA was not asking the Superintendent to misrepresent facts or commit fraud, and would not be a party to that.

The letter states "It seems clear that had Ms. Harvey requested additional leave in September 2010 she would have been entitled to it."

Noting the laws on retirement are complex, Ms. Houle's letter stated that she hoped the School District would keep an open mind that a lawful and ethical solution to Ms. Harvey's problem exists.

In other business, the School Committee rated Dr. Baldwin's performance an evaluation. The

evaluation form, approved at second reading on February 16, 2011, includes ten categories. The first five are reflective of his administrative skills, and the second five are interpersonal skills. Overall, the Committee gave the Superintendent high marks in all categories. Each of the five members present selected a number from 1-5, with 5 being "exemplary." The scores were then averaged.

Dr. Baldwin scored 5 in the elementary school building process, collective bargaining, communication, and decision-making categories; 4.9 in district and school leadership, educational leadership, and relationship with the School Committee; 4.7 for community relations and teaching and learning, and 3.9 for implementing "Safe School Initiative," the State's anti-bullying law.

On the elementary school building process, School Committee member Louis Kruger commended Dr. Baldwin for going into it without bias and keeping an open mind.

Member Stasia Powers noted his calm during the collective bargaining process, and said she appreciated his keeping the district informed, and reducing the number of grievances. Mr. Veitch noted that the principals were present, an indication of Dr. Baldwin's leadership in choosing and retaining good leaders.

On rating him

for the teaching and learning category, Bernard Roderick said of him "You don't see too many people dedicated to the business of education as Dr. Baldwin."

The consensus on the Safe School Initiative was that he had designed and implemented an innovative program in a very short time to meet State law. Four members gave him a 4 for his efforts, and Ms. Powers rated his performance as a 3. Ms. Powers said she would like to see follow-up on the program and more active dissemination, but agreed it had been performed with a quick turnaround.

The School Committee also heard a presentation by University of Massachusetts Dartmouth students who built a wind turbine from recycled materials to be placed at the Wood School Town garden site. As part of their senior project, five UMD electrical engineering seniors designed and built a 30 foot-tall wind turbine. The turbine is designed to last two years.

The School Committee also:

- Received school district enrollment numbers: current at 1,994 students as of March 1, 2011.
- Approved travel for Sonia Beausoleil's 7th grade class to the New England Aquarium; approved travel to Boston for Ms. Camera's 5th grade class; and approved Ms. Kim Dwyers's kindergarten class to the Children's Museum in Providence, RI.
- The Committee also voted to approve surplus auction of desks from the Oxford School and a 1993 GMC Sierra Pickup at the police auction on March 12, 2011.

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Candidate statements: Board of Public Works



**Geoffrey
Haworth**

My name is Geoff Haworth and I'm running for re election to the Board of Public Works. I'm a lifelong Fairhaven resident. I belong to many organizations, including the Board of Directors for the Fairhaven Little League, The East Fairhaven Improvement Association and the Free Masons. I hold a MA Construction Supervisors License and own a contracting company, Haworths LLC. I have had the pleasure of serving you, the residents of Fairhaven, on the Board of Public Works for the past 3 years, the last two as chairman. I have not missed a single BPW meeting since being elected to the board.

I want to take a moment to reflect on these past three years and some of the challenges the board and I have faced. When elected to the board in 2008, it was just after the economic decline began. Budgets were being cut, employees laid off and services abolished. It was not the good times of years prior. Cash wasn't there to be spending recklessly and we had to act to protect the town. Hard decisions had to be made and some were not very popular. I spent countless hours researching and working on ideas to keep our services, levels and staff while working to reduce operating expenses. Some of the ideas included eliminating some over-time and saving \$10,000, working to come up with a fee structure that kept the recycling center and town beach functioning, yet still affordable to the residents and negotiating on behalf of the board with our trash hauling company and reducing our trash costs by well over \$100,000!

With the help of the superintendent we have received millions of dollars in grants and we have multiple projects underway. We are currently under construction with an anaerobic digester at the waste water treatment plant that we received over 8 million dollars in federal stimulus money to build. This project alone is projected to reduce

HAWORTH: cont'd next page



**Kathleen
Sturtevant**

My name is Kathy Bouley Sturtevant and I am an incumbent for re-election to the Board of Public Works. I am a lifelong resident of the town of Fairhaven and a graduate of Fairhaven High School. I reside on Scoticut Neck with my husband Bruce.

I am presently a town meeting member and have been for 16 years. Before I joined the Board of Public Works I was the driving force behind the Scoticut Neck Sewer Project. Many told me that this project would never happen. Through hard work and dedication the project finally came to fruition. I know that my perseverance and my ability to work with others helped achieve this important goal.

Having been a member of the Board of Public Works for the last two years we have produced many accomplishments. I would like to list the following as some of the achievements.

- A new Digester System which will bring economic savings and environmental benefits.
- Upgrades were made to the West Island treatment plant so it functions properly.
- A new boiler was installed for the sewer treatment plant, which will be more energy efficient. As a result, energy saving credits were obtained.
- Solar panels have been added to the sewer treatment plant and West Island treatment plant to save energy and give our residents cost savings.
- The repair and resurfacing of many roads. Some of the roads that were completed this year were Cottonwood, Baxter, Orchard, Grove, Elm and Laurel.

However, the most important issues in this election are what our plans and goals will be for the future of Fairhaven. Some of the projects I would like to work for are as follows:

- To help obtain grants and the possibility of raising money through private charities to

STURTEVANT: cont'd on page 30



**Richard
Brodeur**

Richard Brodeur will not be deterred by his loss last April, he is proud to announce his intention to run for 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 about

BRODEUR: cont'd next page

Candidate Statements: Planning Board



Jaime DeSousa, Jr.

Jaime C. DeSousa Jr., is 34 years old and married to the former Teresa Arruda. He and his wife own a home in Fairhaven and are proud parents of three boys: Justin, 12, Jadin, 7, and Jacob, 2.

Mr. DeSousa is running for Planning Board to bring a refreshing choice to Town government. He will look at things fairly and openly.

Mr. DeSousa will bring no strings attached with

him running for the position. The ability to communicate with others and experience working to bring groups together and facilitate conversations will bring common sense participation to the planning board.

The majority of Mr. DeSousa's adult life has been in the field of construction and real estate, learning the construction business from the ground up, holding positions in the field from apprentice to lead carpenter, project foreman and superintendent — all while attending night and weekend classes at Bristol Community College and Wentworth to further his construction management and business skills. He later transferred this knowledge to the office in the role of estimator and project manager for a commercial General Contracting company.

Mr. DeSousa holds a real estate and construction supervisor's license along with an OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety & Health and Healthcare Engineering Construction Certification.

HAWORTH: cont'd from previous page

the sewer operation cost by over \$150,000 a year once online. Solar panels have been placed on three DPW buildings with grant money and will soon go online reducing our electrical cost while generating green energy. Design is pretty much completed and soon you will see the intersection of Alden and Bridge being reconstructed with grant money, once again from the state. We have been working hard and finding funding sources, other than the general fund, to pay for these projects.

Three years ago when I was elected, I assured you I would work to make the sewer tie in fee a fair charge. Within months of being elected to the board I worked with the board and the sewer tie-in fee was reduced to a rate that was fair to the residents and funded the sewer enterprise account for system upgrades. We have many important issues facing the BPW that require the hard work and dedication I'm known for. I have been a consistent and fair voice for the resident, not the politically known. I have voted on each issue after careful consideration and an evaluation of the merits of the issue, not the name of the person the issue involves. I'm running for this position to continue to be a voice for you. If elected I will continue to work for you to keep Fairhaven a fair and affordable place to raise a family. I ask for your vote for me Geoffrey Haworth on Monday April 4th.

Jeffrey Lucas

Hello, my name is Jeffrey Lucas and I am running for a seat on the Fairhaven Planning Board. I grew up in New Bedford and attended the University of Mass. Dartmouth, earning a B.A. degree in Sociology.

I have lived in Fairhaven for the past 20 years and have been active in the community the entire time. I have been a town meeting

member for 20 years, the chairman of the Community Preservation Committee from its inception to the present, a member of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association, and a member of the Fairhaven Militia.

I have previously spent 8-plus years as a member of the Planning Board and am currently on the Planning Board, having been selected to fill an unexpired term. I feel that my previous experience as a board member allows for a seamless transition into the affairs of the board.

I promise to bring an independent, analytical and critical analysis to each and every development, project or proposal brought before the board. I feel that it is important to approach each matter with a blank slate without any preconceptions or prejudices and vote based on the merits of the proposal. All applicants, speakers and spectators will be treated fairly, considerately and with the respect they deserve. Any vote that I take will represent the best interests of the Town of Fairhaven.

A few major issues that will soon affect Fairhaven are the Mass. Green Communities Act of 2008 and the Mass. Stretch Energy Code. These are both driven by energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources, primarily wind and solar power. Being a green community can have economic as well as quality of life benefits, however we must be proactive and develop well thought out bylaws that benefit and protect the Town of Fairhaven and its residents. Other issues that are still relevant but less visible due to the economic downturn are the protection of aquifers and water resources, future development in East Fairhaven, maintaining the village-like character in town, and the balance of commercial and recreational uses of the waterfront.

In closing I ask for your vote on April 4th and I urge each of you to keep informed on the issues and participate in meetings. Thank you for your support.



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West Island fire causes \$50,000 in damage

Fairhaven Fire Dept. press release

Fairhaven firefighters responded to a reported house fire at 2:11 p.m. on Sunday, 3/13, when a passerby reported smoke coming from the roof of the home at 36 Balsam Street. Two Engines responded. When they arrived, smoke was coming from the

roof of the one-story summer cottage. The home sustained moderate damage to the rear of the home with smoke and water damage throughout. There were no injuries and no one was living in the home at the time of the fire. Damage is estimated to be approximately \$50,000.

Crews were on scene for approximately two hours overhauling and investigating the cause of the blaze which is reported to be electrical in nature.

Jess Perry from E. Providence is listed as the owner of the property.



LEFT: Fairhaven Firefighters stand at a hole in the living room wall and amid the debris after a fire at 36 Balsam Street on West Island. The fire in the unoccupied home was probably electrical. RIGHT: Pieces of insulation hang off the ceiling fan in the devastated living room while a nautical painting hangs, seemingly undisturbed. Damages are estimated at approximately \$50,000. No one was hurt in the fire. Photos by Heidi Winnett. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com



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STURTEVANT: cont'd from page 28

improve the infrastructure and safety of our numerous parks so our children will have a healthy and fun environment to play in.

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- To exhaust every possible idea to make The Fairhaven Board of Public Works a more green and cost efficient department.

In conclusion, I consider myself an independent thinker and, while open-minded, I will not be swayed by others if in my heart I know my decision on an issue is the right thing to do for the taxpayer. I will use logic as the basis for every decision I make and treat every resident who will come before our board with the dignity and respect they deserve. Finally, I would submit that my idea of good government is treating all residents fair and equally while maintaining that my most important goal is to work for the greater good of Fairhaven.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy (Bouley) Sturtevant

BRODEUR: cont'd from page 28

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/>

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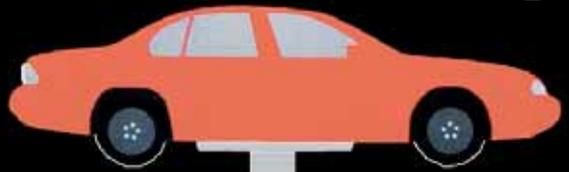
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