



# 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 11 • March 24, 2011

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

## Candidates on the spot at NFIA event



The North Fairhaven Improvement Association held its annual candidates night on Wednesday, 3/16, at the Hastings Middle School. A media panel asked questions of their own and questions provided by the public to candidates in contested races. ABOVE: Four School Committee candidates vying for two seats, L-R, incumbent Colin Veitch, incumbent Pamela Kuechler, newcomers Brian Monroe and Lisa Schroder-Plante. See page 6 for story. Photo by Heidi Winnett. See it in color at [www.NeighNews.com](http://www.NeighNews.com).

### Also Inside:

- **Board of Public Works**, page 12
- **Finance Committee**, page 20
- **Letters**, page 26
- **Candidate statements**, page 28

## From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.

It's candidate season, folks, and things have heated up in Fairhaven. The BPW race is hot, the School Committee race is hot. The candidates for the contested Planning Board seat, however didn't even show up.

Our cover story is the North

Fairhaven Improvement Association's candidate night, when your favorite wild-haired editor gets to question the candidates on TV. Yup, on TV. What fun! My colleague at the conglomerate on the wrong side of the river, Beth Perdue, joined me to create "The Media Panel." See page 16 for story.

We also have the rest of the candidate statements on page 28. See what the school committee candidates have to say. Three of the four responded to our free offer of a statement and picture.

We've got some letters to the editor, too. Two of the three focus on the School Building Committee's decision to abandon the Rogers School, knock down the Wood School, and build one school for both student populations. See page 26 for those.

We had a rare and wonderful moon this week. I tried to get a picture of it, but just didn't have the patience for a night shot. ML Baron got a great one, though. See page 21 for that.

We have some meeting coverage in this week's issue, too. See page 12 for Board of Public Works and page 20 for Finance Committee.

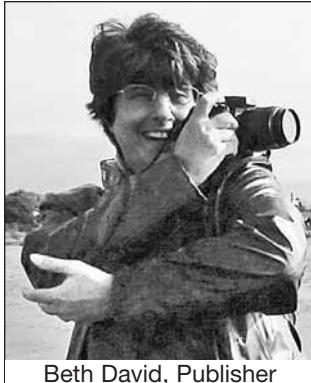
On page 3 you'll find an announcement about fund-raising efforts for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As most of you know by now, Fairhaven has a special relationship to the people of Japan. Our little burg is downright famous there for the rescue of Manjiro Nakahama, a 14-year-old who got shipwrecked on a fishing trip. Manjiro was rescued by whaling captain William Whitfield, who brought the youngster to Fairhaven, making Manjiro the first Japanese person to live in the US. Japan was a closed society back then, so it was a big deal, especially when Manjiro risked death to return to Japan. He was instrumental in helping Japan initiate contact with the U.S. and other western nations. He became famous, and a hero in Japan. Fairhaven has many Japanese visitors each year because of the friendship between Manjiro and Captain Whitfield.

Ayako Rooney landed in Tokyo just minutes after the earthquake struck. She and her group managed to get to sister city Tosashimizu which was not affected by the earthquake or tsunami. We are grateful that she and her group are okay.

The devastation in Japan, though, is overwhelming. The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society has started collecting funds to help. See page three for details.

And, welcome back Ayako.  
We'll see you around town.

Until next week then...



Beth David, Publisher

## Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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### CORRECTIONS

In last week's story on the Finance Committee meeting, we made an error reporting on the street repair votes. No vote was taken on Dogwood Street at that time. Also, the Finance Committee is still considering Article 23, remodel/install fencing at Macomber Field. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

# Whitfield-Manjiro Society collecting earthquake relief funds

## Press Release

The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society has established a relief fund for the survivors of the massive 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami, which killed untold thousands and destroyed many coastal communities in northern Japan on March 10, 2011.

Checks of any amount will be accepted, made payable to "WMFS" with the memo "Earthquake Relief" and mailed to: Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, 11 Cherry Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

"In the spirit of Captain Whitfield and John Manjiro, we are compelled to respond to this emergency in whatever small way we can, in solidarity with our Japanese friends," said Gerry Rooney, the Society's president. "All proceeds will be sent to the Society's sister city of Tosashimizu, Japan, in order to reassure them that we share their loss and join their efforts during this trying time. We will call upon their judgment to forward the donations to the most appropriate agency."

Tosashimizu is located in southern Japan on the island of Shikoku and

was not impacted by the earthquake and tsunami.

Contributions are tax-deductible. The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.

The WMFS, formerly the Fairhaven/New Bedford-Tosashimizu Sister City Committee, Inc., has been active in promoting U.S.-Japan relationships for more than 24 years. It was formed with mandates from the Town of Fairhaven and the City of New Bedford, Mass., to establish and promote a sister-city relationship with the city of Tosashimizu, Kochi Prefecture, Japan. It is the goal of the committees in both countries to promote international cooperation, friendship and peace.

The WMFS represents the oldest and longest standing friendship between the two countries. It began in 1841 when Capt. William Whitfield of the whale ship John Howland, rescued five shipwrecked Japanese fishermen. The youngest, Manjiro, stayed with the ship at the invitation of the Captain and lived with the Whitfield family in Fairhaven, where he was also educated. Eventually, Manjiro returned to sea and finally

found his way back to Japan after many adventures. He served an invaluable role as a teacher and interpreter during the initiation of relations between Japan and the U.S.

The Society operates the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship House Museum, located in the home where Manjiro became the first Japanese person to reside in the USA. It was restored with funding provided in the most part by the Japanese people.

## Open House

In conjunction with these fund-raising efforts, there will be an open house at the Society's museum at 11 Cherry Street, Fairhaven, on Sunday, March 27 from noon to 6:00 PM. Visitors will be welcome to take tours of the museum for whatever donation they wish to make. Those wishing just to make donations are also welcome to share their concerns and spirit.

If the bonds of friendship strengthen with time, ours must be one of the strongest given that it was initiated by Captain Whitfield when he offered an opportunity to Manjiro to live here and acquire some education 170 years ago.

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# Moriarty's clerk robbed at knife point

Fairhaven Police Dept. Press Release

At clerk at the Moriarty Liquor Store located at 101 Middle Street in Fairhaven was robbed at knife point Saturday, 3/12. Two masked men entered the store just after 8 p.m., one of whom was brandishing a knife approximately 6 to 8 inches long. They demanded money from the clerk, and then robbed the store of an undisclosed amount of cash and several packs of cigarettes.

The male brandishing the knife is described as a white male with a medium build, approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, wearing a white bandana over his face, a grey hooded sweatshirt, dark pants and sneakers. The second robber is described as a white male, approximately 6 feet 2 inches tall, with a skinny build, wearing a white jacket, dark pants and white sneakers. The white jacket was worn over a sweatshirt that contained a hood that converted into a mask resembling a human skull that was used to conceal his identity.

After the men robbed the store, they fled on foot eastbound on Bridge

Street where they entered a parked vehicle that sped away, turning northbound on Main Street. The vehicle is described as a white, older model Ford Explorer. A wide, dark colored racing stripe is painted down the centerline of the hood and roof of the Explorer and runs the entire length of the vehicle.

The vehicle used in the robbery has been identified by Fairhaven Police Detectives and was processed by crime scene services earlier this week. The investigation is ongoing and any information pertaining to processing of the vehicle is not being released.

This robbery bears similarities to the robbery of the 7-11 Convenience Store that was held up at knife-point in New Bedford Monday night.

Fairhaven Police Detectives are actively investigating the robbery and following up on all leads. If anyone has information pertaining to this case, they are asked and encouraged to contact Fairhaven Detectives at 508-997-7421. Callers can remain anonymous.

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Public Works on Monday, April 4



Former BPW Superintendent  
**Fred Raphael** endorses Kathy Bouley Sturtevant.

- Lifelong resident of Fairhaven
- Founding member of Sconticut Neck Sewer Study Committee
- Former member Conservation Commission
- Town Meeting Member for 16 years

*Kathy Believes in:*

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Japan Fundraiser

See page 3

## Candidate Night

The West Island Improvement Association will hold its annual Candidates' Night on **Wednesday, March 30, at 7 p.m. at the Community House, Top O' The Hill, 40 Causeway Road, Fairhaven.**

Candidates have been invited to participate and share their views regarding the upcoming town election to be held on Monday, April 4. All are welcome to come and meet the candidates and get their questions answered. Refreshments will be provided immediately following the presentation.

## Lions Club Breakfast

The Fairhaven Lions Club recently donated \$3,500.00 to Lions International to go towards their cause of "Eye Research." This donation was presented at the Lions International Mid-Winter Conference held in Plymouth, MA.

As part of their continuing fund raising projects, the Fairhaven Lions Club will be holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, April 3rd at St. Mary's Hall on Main Street in No. Fairhaven, from 8 a.m.-12 noon. Tickets are \$5.00** and can be purchased by calling Vic Oliveira at 508-992-1775 or they can be purchased at the door.

## 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

## Fish & Chips

Fish & Chips dinner from Our Lady's Haven kitchen, 71 Center St., Fairhaven, on **Fridays: 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. Benefits OLH residents.

## 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 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

## 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>

## Historical Society

The Fairhaven Historical Society will host an event focusing on the history of East Fairhaven on April 1, at 7 p.m. at the Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street. Light refreshments. Free, donations accepted. Wheelchair accessible through Walnut Street entrance.

Natalie Hemingway has written two books about East Fairhaven, and is working on a third. She will talk about the history of East Fairhaven and answer questions. People who have pictures or stories about East Fairhaven are encouraged to attend and share their stories. Mrs. Hemingway may include them in her next book.

For more details, call Barbara Acksen, President, 509-993-0317

## Blood Drive

On March 28, 2011, a community blood drive will be held at the Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Accessible.

This blood drive is a cooperative effort between the American Red Cross, George H. Taber Masonic Lodge, and the Unitarian Memorial Church in Fairhaven to collect blood for those in need of transfusions. Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood and each pint that is donated could save up to

three lives. In return for donating a pint of blood, donors will receive a coupon for a free lunch from Cumberland Farms.

For additional information, please contact Blood Drive Chairperson Richard C. Brodeur at 774 263 5019, or [brodeur.richard@gmail.com](mailto:brodeur.richard@gmail.com). The need is constant the satisfaction immediate. Please consider giving the

## Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde

The Fairhaven High School Drama Club will be staging the Broadway musical theater phenomenon Jekyll and Hyde on **Thursday March 31st through Saturday April 2nd at 7:30 pm and Sunday April 3rd at 2 pm.** The show will take place in the performing arts center at Fairhaven High School.

*Jekyll and Hyde* is an evocative tale of the epic battle between good and evil. *Jekyll and Hyde* is based on the Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story about a brilliant doctor whose experiments with human personality create a murderous counterpart. Convinced the cure for his father's mental illness lies in the separation from man's evil nature from his good, Dr. Henry Jekyll unwittingly unleashes his own dark side, wreaking havoc in the streets of the late 19th century London as the suave maniacal Edward Hyde.

The musical is being produced by Rick Brejcha, directed by Sarah Martins and choreographed by Brandon Carreiro. Doug Braley will be featured in the dual role of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Amelia Katan will star in the role of Lucy Harris and Sylvia Pacheco will star in the role of Emma Carew.

Other cast members include Christian DuBois as Sir Danvers Carew and Cameron Souza as John Utterson, as well as 25 other cast and crew members.

Tickets are on sale now and the high school box office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening from 6 to 8 pm. The box office is in the rear of the school. You may also order your tickets by phone; the number is 508-979-4051 Ext. 5411. Please leave your name and number and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## Explore Series

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park continues its Exploration Series on **Fri., March 25 at the Vistor Center, 33 William St., New Bedford. Free. Accessible.**

Lisa Bergson, Executive Director of the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) will be the featured speaker. Bergson will offer a brief illustrated history of this New Bedford organization that has, for decades, recognized historic buildings and has saved them from neglect and demolition.

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.

## Lasagna Dinner

Help raise money to help homeless animals. The Coalition for Animals is having a Lasagna Dinner on Wedn., March 30th from 5-8pm at The Skyroom, 651 Orchard Street, New Bedford. Accessible. Dinner includes meat and vegetarian options, bread, salad, coffee and dessert. There will be a cash bar and also an auction with great items!

Tickets are \$10 Adult, \$6 Senior or Child under 12. Buy Tickets at Mellisa's Pet Depot, 83A Faunce Corner Mall Road, Dartmouth or reserve tickets by calling New Bedford Animal Control 508-991-6366. Limited Tickets will be sold at the door of the event, so reserve your tickets!

## Low-Cost Rabies Clinics

Two low-cost rabies clinics will be held for pet owners in New Bedford and surrounding communities on Saturday, April 2, from 10 am.-Noon. Fee: \$10 per pet. New Bedford dog licenses will also be available.

### TWO LOCATIONS

South end: Fire Station #11, Brock Ave./Mott Street.

North end: Fire Station #9, Tarkiln Hill Road/Ashley Blvd.

All animals must be properly

restrained. All dog licenses must be renewed every year; 2010 dog license expired in December.

## Whale Educator Workshop

Schooling With Whales," a Professional Development Workshop at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, will be offered on the first weekend in April – **Saturday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday April 3 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Accessible. This ten-hour professional development course will introduce teachers of grades 3-8 to whale/cetacean related topics which can be used to teach concepts prescribed by state science and mathematics frameworks.

Whales may not travel in schools, but they can be used within a school setting as a teaching tool. Topics include anatomy, food chains, geography, mapping, taxonomy and unit conversions. Teachers will leave with a packet of activities, links to useful web sites and a greater appreciation for whales and their kin.

Tuition for the course is \$50. Completion of the course provides ten (10) Professional Development Points (PDPs). In addition, one (1) graduate credit is available through Cambridge College. Graduate credit cost is an additional \$50. To register, please contact the course instructor: Robert Rocha, Science Programs Manager, New Bedford Whaling Museum at [rrocha@whalingmuseum.org](mailto:rrocha@whalingmuseum.org). Direct line: 508-717-6849.

## GIRLS Series/Free

The Ocean Explorium welcomes Faith Ball as this week's speaker in the series Girls Interested in Real Life Science (GIRLS), **Thursday, 3/24.** Ms. Ball is the Engineering Senior Manager at Lockheed Martin Sippican in Marion, where they design and build countermeasures, underwater vehicles and Sea/Air sensors.

Ms. Ball has participated in the design and production of a diverse list of products including the B2 stealth Bomber, underwater vehicles and sensors, Radar systems test equipment and support services and fiber optic gyros.

**Doors open at 5:00 pm** for refresh-

ments and mingling in the Ocean Explorium before the talks begin at 5:30 p.m., 174 Union Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible via the rear entrance. Call 508.994.5400 for after-hours access.

Free and open to the public thanks to the support of the Women's Fund. Contact Abbey Spargo at [aspargo@oceaneplorium.org](mailto:aspargo@oceaneplorium.org) or 508.994.5400, or visit the Ocean Explorium website at [www.oceaneplorium.org](http://www.oceaneplorium.org) for info.

The series continues on March 31 with Rhonda Moniz, Dive Safety Instructor, Entrepreneur

## Seamen's Bethel F-R

The Committee to Restore the Seamen's Bethel will host the final program in its three-concert series at 3 p.m. April 3.

In cooperation with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, Héloïse Degrugillier, recorder, and Paul Cienniwa, harpsichord, will perform a concert of 17th- and 18th-century French baroque music to welcome spring. The New Bedford Port Society and its Ladies' Branch are presenting the concerts to raise funds for urgently needed repairs to the historic house of worship.

A tea will follow, with the national park's "Ruth" and "Abby," who portray 19th-century whaler's wives, serving as hostesses.

The 1831 Seamen's Bethel, renowned as the Whalemens Chapel in Melville's "Moby-Dick," is suffering from water and insect damage, and costly rehabilitation is required. Thanks to the sponsorship of Isaksen Fishing Corp., New Bedford Ship Supply and the Ladies' Branch., 100 percent of the proceeds will go to the restoration fund.

Tickets, priced at \$20 each, are available online at <http://seamensbethel.eventbrite.com>, from EURO/Phoenix in Fairhaven, Baker Books in Dartmouth, or from Peter Haley, director of the Seamen's Bethel and Mariners' Home, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays by calling 508-992-3295.

All tax-deductible donations for the project are welcome. Checks can be made out to the Port Society, 15 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740 and marked Building Restoration Fund.

For more information, visit [www.portsociety.org](http://portsociety.org) or call (508) 992-3295.

## HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

### 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](http://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.

### Murder Mystery

Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson will be among the celebrities taking part in a Murder Mystery at The Southworth Library, 732 Dartmouth St., Dartmouth, on Friday, March 25. Accessible. It is the Foundation's largest single fundraiser of the year.

Sheriff Hodgson will play Inspector Sam Slade, the chief investigator in the play. Joining him will be Select Board member Shawn McDonald as Dell Doubleday, Assistant School Superintendent Ana Riley as Agatha Mystery, and Acting Library Director Lynne Antunes as Lotta Books.

Rounding out the cast will be Evelyn Bettencourt, the owner of Fay's Restaurant, as Page Turner; Rachel Stronach, Education Director for the Lloyd Center for the Environment, as JLo Bennifer; UMass professor and Charter Review Committee chair Doug Roscoe as Dalton B. Walden; and Town Moderator Steve Sharek as The Governorator.

Every year, the Foundation holds a Murder Mystery to support the Dartmouth library system. During the play, a local celebrity is "murdered" in the Library and audience members attempt to solve the case. The person with the best solution to the mystery gets a prize, donated by Baker Books.

The event begins with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar of beer, wine and soda, is provided by CV Liquors.

The play itself starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Tickets are available at The Southworth Library, the North Dartmouth Branch Library, and at Baker Books on State Road.

A buffet and dessert are provided by Fay's Restaurant and Ma Raffa's

Italian Restaurant.

The event will include a silent auction and raffle. Auction items collected to date include numerous restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, professional services, health club memberships, hotel/resort stays, theater tickets, etc.

The Dartmouth Library Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information about assisting with the upcoming Murder Mystery, please contact Mrs. Sharek at 508-991-7222 or dsharek@comcast.net.

### Arab Author

The Center for Arabic Culture is hosting a talk and book signing by James Zogby of the Arab American Institute on March 26 at 4pm. Dr. Zogby will be discussing his latest book, *Arab Voices: What They are Saying to us and Why it Matters*. Copies of the book will be available for sale. The Talk is Free and Open to the Public, Saturday March 26, 4 p.m., MIT, 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA. Parking is available at 139 Mass. Avenue in Cambridge.

### Free Music Class

South Coast Music Together is offering a free demonstration class on **Saturday, March 26, at 10:00 AM, in Dartmouth.** All South Coast Music Together classes are for children ages birth to five, and beyond, and their parents or caregivers.

For the older child there is the South Coast Children's Singing Circle, where age appropriate play continues, while exploring music ideas and terminology. This class too may be previewed, with a free demonstration on Thursday, April 14, at 4:00 PM, in New Bedford.

For more information, or to visit a free demonstration class, please visit: [www.southcoastmt.com](http://www.southcoastmt.com), or call 508-367-426. South Coast Music Together serves the families of the Greater SouthCoast.

### 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](http://www.Gottschallcenter.com) for conference information and online registration.

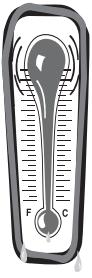
### women4women

women4women, a non-profit women's networking group, will hold its second networking event of the year on Monday, March, 28, from 5:30-8:00 pm at Sippican Café, located at 167 Spring Street in Marion. Accessible.

All women interested in leveraging the power and presence of women to promote each other's professional, business and community service endeavors are invited to join like-minded women for a casual evening of connecting.

Special guest speaker, Paige Roth, CFA and founder of Pine Haven Investment Counsel, will lead a discussion on "Women and Finances." Complimentary hors d'oeuvres for attendees and a cash bar will be provided by Sippican Café.

Attendees are encouraged to RSVP online at: <http://www.socializr.com/event/251354499>



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# Recipe of the Week

## Susan's Chicken pot pie

1/3 cup butter  
1/3 cup flour  
1/3 cup onions chopped  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1 3/4 cup chicken broth—low salt if you want  
2/3 cup of milk  
2 cups chopped chicken (baked)  
1 12 oz pkg of frozen peas and carrots  
1 frozen puff pastry  
Bake chicken undercooked  
Heat butter and onion until melted — add flour and salt and paper and whisk until smooth.  
Remove from heat and stir in broth and milk. Heat to boiling and boil for one minute. Stir in chicken, veggies.  
Put in baking dish and cover with crust.  
Cook at 425 for 30-35 minutes (until golden). Very yummy with mashed potatoes on a cold night!

By Sarah Thomas

## To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to [neighbnews@comcast.net](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net)

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# A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

## Special to the Neighb News

### BIG Neighb News Final Four Basketball March Madness Contest

Pick the winner by Friday April 1st, and total points in case of a tie.

Favorites are Duke, Ohio State, Kansas, and Connecticut, or your choice.

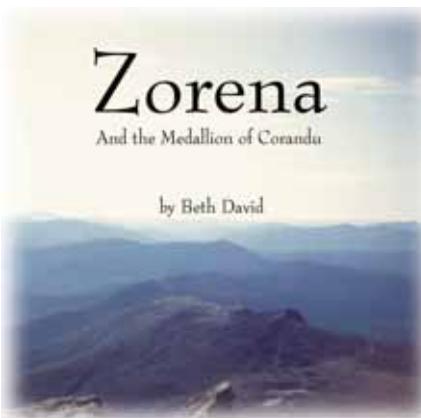
National Championship Game will be on Monday April 4th, in Houston.

Winner will receive a Gift Certificate to the Courtyard Restaurant.

All entries must be in by April 1st.

E-mail [neighbnews@comcast.net](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net) or mail to Fairhaven Neighborhood News Sports, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax, 508-991-5580.

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Kahlua 750 .....	\$19 <sup>99</sup>
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Foxhorn Wines 1.5. All Varietals .....	\$7 <sup>99</sup>

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# BPW moves forward on hiring process for new Superintendent

By Joyce Rowley

NeighbNews Correspondent

Residents Ann Richard, Robert Espindola, and Nate Bekemeier appealed to the Fairhaven Board of Public Works to retain Superintendent William Fitzgerald, at their March 14, meeting. This sparked a continuation of the debate as to whether Mr. Fitzgerald's leaving is best for the Town.

Ms. Richard pressed hard for the Board to retain Mr. Fitzgerald. In addition to the grants, awards and praise, she said, Fairhaven owes its standing as a leader in green energy and cost savings to Mr. Fitzgerald.

Reading from an article on the groundbreaking ceremony for the anaerobic digester, she quoted then-Selectboard Chairperson Brian Bowcock as saying "This is a proud moment for Fairhaven."

"I owed it to Bill to speak on his behalf," said Robert Espinnola. He said from the energy audit at the high school to the millions of dollars in savings, Mr. Fitzgerald had worked diligently for the Town. He also said Mr. Fitzgerald was extremely cooperative in working with others.

Nate Bekemeier said he was not speaking on behalf of the Sustainability Committee, but he got involved because he felt the work Mr. Fitzgerald did was beneficial to the future of the Town.

"When I heard he wasn't going to be retained, I was shocked, frankly, shocked...I find it tragic we're losing him," he said. "I personally want to thank him for what he's done."

BPW member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he had attempted to get reconsideration two or three times. He agreed Mr. Fitzgerald did a good job.

But BPW member Kathleen Sturtevant said she was on the other side of the vote. She agreed about the green record but said there were other obligations as well. She said she did what she felt was right for the Town.

BPW member Steven Riley said the Board worked with Mr. Fitzgerald on issues, but he could not share his reasoning as personnel matters were discussed during executive session.

"I stand by my decision as I did in January," Mr. Riley said.

Chairperson Geoffrey Haworth

said he appreciated the residents' appearance at the meeting to voice their concerns. He had hoped Mr. Fitzgerald would be allowed to stay another year to complete some of the projects he started.

"At the end of the day, it's a five-member board," said Mr. Haworth. "The vote is a 2-3 vote. It's important that we do move forward and that we put someone in place as soon as possible."

Later in the meeting, the board discussed whether to advertise for the position, and the debate resumed. Mr. Riley moved to advertise in three free publications, to accept applications and to interview but not hire before April 30, 2011. After the motion was seconded, Mr. Riley said he did not want to waste valuable time by waiting up to four weeks to advertise.

April 30, 2011.

In other business, the board unanimously renewed the ABC Disposal contract, with one member, Dan Freitas, absent. The proposed contract was for a 0% increase in FY2012 for \$439,000, then 3% per year for the next two years. Chairperson Geoffrey Haworth said it was an improvement over the initial ABC Disposal offer of 5% the first year.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted the Board of Health had ratified the contract as well, and kept recycling with the same contractor.

Gerald "Gerry" Payette and John Medeiros of the Fairhaven Bicentennial Committee requested permission to use Cushman Park over the July 4th, 2012, weekend for the Vietnam Moving Wall. He said it was the best spot in Fairhaven due to its size, parking area, lighting, and central location. The Bicentennial Committee would fund the event.

Mr. Payette said he expected very little damage to the park but support braces may leave holes in the ground after the five-day usage. Mr. Riley suggested they speak to Recreation Director Warren Rensenhausen who schedules activities for the fields.

Mr. Medeiros was then joined by Victor Oliveira to request the BPW accept two more "gold shovels" to list all of the Town's superintendents from 1969 to present.

In other business the BPW:

- Heard a presentation from Kenneth Ferreira to extend a 2" low-pressure sewer line from Shirley Street at Route 6 by LukOil to a sewer/water access hole at the entrance in front of the Hampton Inn. Only three properties would be tied in. The Board voted unanimously to approve the extension conditioned upon a \$5,000 fee and a pre-construction meeting being held.
- Voted unanimously to approve articles for Town Meeting in excess of \$1,323,665. These included the skid steer loader for the bike path, homecoming expenses, West Island Beach restroom, Taber Street pump station rehab, and debt from the design phase of the digester and West Island sewer plant. Salaries, NPDES, and inflow/infiltration will be recommended at Town Meeting.
- Voted unanimously to invite Mr.

BPW: cont'd on page 27

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When I heard he wasn't  
going to be retained, I  
was shocked, frankly,  
shocked...I find it tragic  
we're losing him  
[Nate Bekemeier]

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Mr. Hobson said he the BPW should wait until April 4, 2011. He said the position couldn't be filled until July 1st, and it might be a waste of time depending on the election.

Ms. Sturtevant said she thought the process would have started when the original vote was taken in January. Since then, regardless of the election, the position should be advertised.

Mr. Haworth said applications could be accepted as publication was free. Ms. Sturtevant was away for a month, and so no vote was taken except on reconsideration—which was 2-2, twice. He said he still supports Mr. Fitzgerald staying, but said he had to respect the majority vote.

Mr. Riley modified his motion to accommodate the potential for an election upset. The Board voted to advertise but not interview until after

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Friday, April 15th 7:30pm  
Cost \$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 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

# Fairhaven Senior Center

Visit our new website at:  
[http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index)

### MALL TRIP:

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

### ENTERTAINMENT:

**Mar. 29, Tues: Music with Rod at 12:30  
Mar. 30, Wed: DJ Joe at 1:00  
Every Thurs. dancing w/the COA Band**

### MALL TRIPS: APRIL 2011

4/6: Swansea Mall & Seekonk Plaza  
4/13: Providence Place Mall and Whole Foods  
4/20: Silver City Galleria, Kohls and Target  
4/27: South Shore Plaza

## Ongoing Programs

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## Upcoming Trips

### With Nancy

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

**Sept. 11: Duck Boat Tours.** Boston 4-DAY TRIP: Mon.-Thurs., Sept. 19-22. **Lancaster Show Trip & the Dutch Country.** Includes 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners. "JOSEPH" Show at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre. A guided tour of Lancaster

including Amish country. A visit to Charming Kitchen Kettle Village and Landis Valley Museum & Village.

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

### With George

**Monday, March 28, Foxwoods.** Bus leaves Fairhaven Senior Center at 7:15 a.m. and returns 4:00 p.m.

**NEXT TRIP TO FOXWOODS:** 4/25  
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George Arruda @ 508.996.6538.*

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# Fairhaven candidates answer questions from media panel

By Joyce Rowley

**NeighbNews Correspondent**

Photos by Heidi Winnett. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association held its annual candidates' night at Hastings Middle School Wednesday, March 16. Candidates briefly presented their platforms and then a media panel asked questions of candidates in the two contested races for which the candidates showed up: School Committee and Board of Public Works.

Jeff Lucas and Jaime DeSousa, who are both vying for an unexpired term on the Planning Board left vacant by a resignation, were also slated to be asked questions, but neither attended.

In other races, incumbent Charles Murphy is running unopposed for Selectboard; incumbent Jeannine Lopes is running unopposed for Board of Health; incumbent Wayne Hayward is running unopposed for Planning Board; Rene Fleurent is running unopposed for Planning Board; Kenneth Nelsen is running unopposed for an unexpired term on the Fairhaven Housing Authority.

A seat on the Trust Fund Commission has no candidate. Those interested in a write-in campaign should call the Fairhaven town clerk at 508-979-4025 for how to proceed.

Beth David, from the Fairhaven Neighborhood News and Beth Perdue, Standard Times reporter, comprised the Media Panel. Questions were anonymously submitted by the public, and also prepared by the panel.

Ms. Perdue asked School Committee incumbent Colin Veitch why there was a policy prohibiting public comment on an issue during SC meetings unless that issue was on the agenda.

Mr. Veitch replied that public comment is a powerful tool to influence a decision. The comment period was

moved from the end of the meeting to the beginning so it would be more meaningful. Mr. Veitch also said that if anyone wanted to discuss a teacher or student issue, they should call or email him to discuss it privately first. He said the person might be referred to a professional, and that it might be better than discussing it in front of the whole town.

Following up on that question, Ms. David asked if perhaps that was the purpose of bringing it up at a Committee meeting, as it might be something the person wanted aired.

"It's just not how it's done," Mr. Veitch responded. He said it could be put on the agenda if it was important.

Ms. David then asked incumbent Pamela Kuechler how she felt the comment period should be handled.

Ms. Kuechler said she had been frustrated that the comment period



Incumbent Colin Veitch is running for re-election to School Committee.

was at the end of the meeting; by then, agenda items were already voted on. Public comment is now at the beginning of the meeting and occasionally the Committee will invite someone present to discuss an agenda item if they have expertise on a topic.

Ms. David then asked challenger Brian Monroe whether he felt only agenda items should be open to public comment.

Mr. Monroe said he felt the current policy was inadequate because the agendas are too vague and general. He said that Westport allows comment prior to and at the end of the meeting. However, he felt time for comment should be limited and comment should not be allowed to get too emotional. If the public isn't allowed to comment, he said, it's not a partnership with them.

When posed the same question, Challenger Lisa Schroeder-Plante said that it was important for the commu-



Incumbent Pamela Kuechler is running for re-election to School Committee.

nity, taxpayers and parents to be allowed to speak. She agreed that comment be limited, but felt ongoing discussions should also be opened up for public comment. Otherwise, she said, the comment might be lost in the fray.

Ms. David then asked Mr. Veitch about a Neighb News editorial topic regarding the School Committee meeting at which Mr. Veitch recessed to discuss something with vice-chair Louis Kruger. She asked whether he felt it met the spirit of the open meeting law.

Mr. Veitch said that he should have asked for a vote to recess. Mr. Kruger wanted to run an idea past him first to see if it made sense to discuss goals in the evaluation. Mr. Veitch said it was a small mistake, it had come as a surprise to him, and in hindsight he should have asked for a vote. He said he would in the future.

Ms. Perdue asked Ms. Schroeder-Plante a question from the public. Last year, when she was angry about Wood School, she posted negative messages around her car. The questioner wanted to know why she now supported Wood School.

Ms. Schroeder-Plante responded that she was always a Wood School supporter. Her problem was with a PTO activity that excluded half the school. When Ms. Schroeder-Plante was unable to get a response from the PTO, she put "exclusion hurts" on her van. The message got through, and there has not been an exclusive event since.

As for the Wood School re-building issue, she said she felt that jumping into an issue without taking into account all the impacts will be a mistake in the long run.

Ms. David directed the next question to Ms. Kuechler, asking why

**CANDIDATES: cont'd next page**



Challenger Brian Monroe is making his first bid for Fairhaven School Committee.

## CANDIDATES: cont'd from previous page



Challenger Lisa Schroeder-Plante is making her first bid for School Committee.

she rarely spoke while seated on the Committee when she had been elected in a landslide over the previous chairperson on a slate that she would change things.

Ms. Kuechler said she didn't feel the need to chime in if she agreed with other Committee members. She thought her position was evident from her vote but that if that was how people saw her, she would speak up more. She also said her time on the Committee was not just at meetings, but also at events, working with the Superintendent, and working on a budget.

On the topic of administration raises, Ms. Perdue asked Mr. Veitch why the two highest paid administrators should get raises when the teachers were not getting a raise this year, and whether teachers had a good contract in light of the administrators' raises.

Mr. Veitch said the Superintendent was in year three of a five-year contract, and was making less than superintendents in comparable districts. He also said the administration took no raises last year. He said comparing the two was not valid since half the teachers get 5% because of step increases and so will get 6% this year with the 1% raise.

Ms. Perdue asked whether the teachers' three-year contracts deflated that percentage.

Mr. Veitch said compared to adding 1% to \$12 million, giving a \$126,000 salary a 3% raise was not much.

Ms. Kuechler, when asked the same question, said it was comparing different types of contracts. Since the principals' contracts were not completely negotiated, she could not discuss them. The administration is getting "0% based on merit" raises, she said.

Ms. David asked Mr. Monroe if he

would compare that to private sector companies.

Mr. Monroe said that in the private sector, if the company doesn't have money, employees don't get a raise. He said teachers should be evaluated based on goals, classroom observation, student growth in the classroom, and student test scores, after which raises would be determined. He felt that raises should be performance-based for administrators, too.

Ms. Schroeder-Plante said that the teachers took a 0% raise this year and that the administration should have done the same. She felt that no group's contract was more important than the others. Her concern was that rating a teacher without factoring class size would not be fair.

For Board of Public Works candidates, Ms. Perdue began by asking incumbent Kathleen Sturtevant whether getting rid of the Superintendent was the correct thing



Incumbent Geoffrey Haworth is running for re-election to the Board of Public Works.

to do in the current economic climate.

Ms. Sturtevant answered that she was one of the three against renewing the Superintendent's contract. Her concerns centered on his absenteeism, his day-to-day performance, and lack of cross training in the department. She also claimed he was a procrastinator, his decision-making was questionable, and he was overwhelmed with projects.

As a follow-up question, Ms. Perdue asked how many absences the Superintendent had over the past year.

Ms. Sturtevant said he was out 18 days and she felt it affected his job performance. She said there were additional issues but that those were in his personnel file.

Ms. David asked BPW incumbent Geoffrey Haworth why he voted for the Superintendent to stay if he knew

everything that Ms. Sturtevant did. And as a second part, what he would look for in a new Superintendent.

Mr. Haworth replied that the Superintendent was very successful in other areas, and that three major projects are near completion.

Mr. Haworth said he voted for a one-year extension of the contract for the Superintendent, not a three-year contract, to keep the person who knew all aspects of the projects. But since the vote, Mr. Haworth had tried to learn as much as he could about the projects underway. Mr. Haworth felt that the Superintendent had done more in four years than some superintendents had done in 10 years, and cited the \$8 million digester and Howland Road projects.

As for a new superintendent, he said he would look for someone who had strong management skills, who knows Fairhaven, who can write grants, and who knows their own limitations.

Ms. David asked Ms. Sturtevant to answer the second part of the question. Ms. Sturtevant said that management skills, organizational skills, working with the highway, water and sewer superintendents, the community and other departments were important qualifications for the position.

The panelists were asked about the recent property encroachments on Cushman Park and the conflicting maps of the property. Ms. Perdue asked Mr. Haworth whether the BPW was the correct department to bring this to and if not, who would be responsible for it.

Mr. Haworth said that the original issue was a matter of a fence encroachment. For any other property encroachments, the BPW will look into it. If need be, since the maps are all different, a survey may

CANDIDATES: cont'd on page 27



Kathleen Sturtevant is running for re-election to the Board of Public Works.



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# FinCom questions professional fees expenses

By Joyce Rowley

## Neighb News Correspondent

Jane Bettencourt, Administrative Assistant to the Fairhaven Board of Assessors, withdrew her department's request for a department motor vehicle at the March 17 Finance Committee meeting. Without the capital outlay and gasoline budgets, the Assessor's budget of \$172,897 as presented was \$3,750 less than last year's \$176,647.

Supplies, repair and maintenance, telephone and postage were level funded or decreased. Newly hired staff at a lower starting salary offset increases in salaries due to sick leave, longevity, step increases and sick leave buy-back. Other items, such as tax map adjustments were down due to a lack of new subdivisions, according to Ms. Bettencourt.

The only bone of contention was the \$2,000 dues and professional budget item, which FinCom Chairperson John Roderiques questioned. Ms. Bettencourt said that a new Board of Assessor member needed to take a State-mandated course that will be offered at UMass Amherst campus at a cost of \$750. The balance would be used for the progressive coursework for the BOA's chairperson and workshops for staff to stay on top of new laws and regulations. The budget item includes \$220 in professional dues.

Mr. Roderiques questioned whether the coursework could be taken locally, rather than in Amherst. Ms. Bettencourt said that it was offered in Natick, but at a time when the new member could not attend. She said it would also strain her mileage budget.

Mr. Roderiques said that he was going to propose cutting any professional dues and travel after the first \$1,000 for all departments, to which Ms. Bettencourt strenuously objected.

"We don't have a full-time assessor anymore," she said, adding that she had cut her other budget items by \$1,700 so she would have enough for this item.

"We didn't come here with what we wanted. We came here with what we needed," said BOA Chairperson Ronald Manzone. He said he was trying to ensure his board ran effectively and efficiently. Training was necessary so staff would avoid costly mistakes.

FinCom Member Dan DeNardis asked how much the coursework would cost and how many were going to it. Ms. Bettencourt said it cost \$1,100 for the new part-time assessor's course, including travel. She cited Department of Revenue changes that necessitated the coursework for other staff.

Mr. Roderiques said that all of the departments made similar arguments, but the Town was faced with a severe budget shortfall. He also said that if there was money to be cut, it should have been cut anyway. However, it can always be argued at Town Meeting.

FinCom had the same advice for Planning Director William Roth when he presented his budgets. As he presented the Planning Board and the Department of Planning & Development budgets, FinCom member Scott Fernandez questioned how many

opposed to sharing vehicles. Mr. Roderiques said he long supported a town car pool.

Mr. Roth asked FinCom to let him know if they were going to cut a percentage or \$1,000. He said he preferred to make the cut himself and resubmit his budget to FinCom.

"That's not the argument to make, that you have room to cut," Mr. Roderiques said, adding that if Mr. Roth's budget could be cut, he should have cut it.

Member Ted Silva asked why salaries increased \$2,500. Mr. Roth said it was due to sick leave, step increases, sick leave buyback and longevity.

Mr. Roth also presented the Community Preservation Committee's eight items for Article 9 on the Town Meeting Warrant.

FinCom Member Ronald Quinton asked about the Town's share of the Wolf Island acquisition by the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. Mr. Roth said that the Town's share will be a conservation easement over approximately 66 acres and that the Town will act as water commissioner for that part of the property for \$79,000. The area is in the Town's well-field protection area.

Ken Pottel of the Fairhaven Tennis Association was present for Article 31, Cushman Park tennis court repair. He said that the tennis association would provide a \$7,500 match to the article's \$7,500 for repairs. Mr. DeNardis offered to recuse himself as he was a tennis player and used the courts. Mr. Roderiques said that was not necessarily a conflict of interest. However Mr. DeNardis did not vote on the article when the matter was voted on and passed.

In other business, Finance Director John Nunes provided FinCom with information on the Millicent Library's request for an \$18,000 emergency reserve fund transfer request for its entryway. Mr. Roderiques requested that the library make the request in person and with a firm estimate by an architect.

Mr. Roderiques noted he had received an anonymous email with data in it. However, he would not share the email because it was anonymous. He said he felt that if people making statements should identify themselves.

**FINCOM: cont'd on page 21**

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**That's not the argument  
to make, that you have  
room to cut  
[John Roderiques]**

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people travel to the Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD) workshops. Mr. Roth said that eight people attend SRPEDD workshops.

Mr. Fernandez asked about the recording secretary's fees as she works for Conservation Commission as well. Mr. Roth said she was shared between the two boards. He said he had inherited that part of the budget ten years ago and it had seen modest 1% to 2% increases over time.

Member Kim Hyland asked Mr. Roth if his dues and gatherings budget could take a 20% cut.

Although that item was less than \$1,000, Mr. Roderiques said he did have a problem with departments that charged several professional organizations' dues to the Town. Mr. Roth said he belonged to just one.

However, FinCom member Jennifer Bishop questioned why each department needed its own mileage as

# ML's Eye on the Weather



A weekly weather report from ML Baron of the West Island Weather Station: [westislandweather.com](http://westislandweather.com)

## Forecast

**Friday:** Hi: 39 Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 30s. **Friday Night:** Lo: 25 Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s.

**Saturday:** Hi: 39 Lo: 25 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. **Saturday Night:** Cloudy Lows in the mid 20s.

**Sunday:** Hi: 39 Lo: 25 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. **Sunday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

**Monday:** Partly Cloudy. High: 34 **Monday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 24

**Tuesday:** Partly Cloudy With Flurries Possible. High: 34 **Tuesday Night:** Mostly Cloudy. Low: 30

**Wednesday:** Partly Cloudy. High: 32 **Wednesday Night:** Partly Cloudy.

Low: 28

**Thursday:** Partly Cloudy. High: 34

**Thurs. Night:** Mostly Cloudy. Low: 32

**Friday:** Partly Cloudy. High: 37

**Friday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 35

The island's ocean temperature is 43 degrees. And we have a new countdown. First day of Summer: 89 days. I know that seems like it's far away, but we have to start somewhere.

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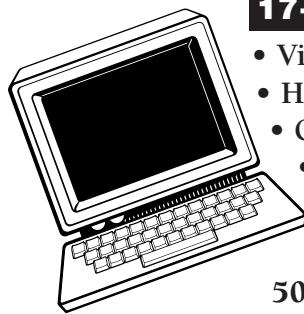
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FINCOM: cont'd from page 201

FinCom voted to recommend the following actions on the Articles as presented:

- Article 8: Indefinitely postpone Bluepoint Road from the article (Mr. Hyland recused himself from the vote)
- Article 9: Approve CPC funding
- Article 29: Fire pagers, voted to recommend
- Article 30: Approve replacement of Hastings Middle School windows
- Article 31: Recommend tennis court repairs at Cushman Park
- Article 37: Approve senior workoff program funding
- Article 40 & : Yield to petitioners on adopting special legislation-Griddles and A Kitchen
- Article 42: Approve the BPW fueling station

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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

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### CANDIDATES: cont'd from page 17

be required.

As a follow-up question, Ms. David asked whether the BPW would take a request to Town Meeting for a survey of the park.

Mr. Haworth said that it had come up in February after the time for putting articles onto Town Meeting had ended.

Ms. Sturtevant also answered that such matters should be dealt with by the BPW.

Ms. Perdue then asked Ms. Sturtevant what her attendance record was at BPW meetings last year.

Ms. Sturtevant said she had missed three meetings — two while she was on vacation.

Given the Wayne Street decision at the March 14 Selectboard meeting, Ms. David asked the panelists whether they felt the Selectboard was stepping into the BPW's territory.

Ms. Sturtevant said it was the first

## Fairhaven Meetings

### Board of Appeals

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

### Board of Health

Mon., 4/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Public Works

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

### Community Preservation

Thurs., 3/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Economic Study Comm

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

### Economic Study Comm

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

### Fairhaven Election

April 4, polls open 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Call Town Clerk's office for polling places: 508-979-4025

### School Committee

Wed., 4/13, 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.

she had heard of it.

Mr. Haworth said that the BPW votes on which streets are to be resurfaced. He said that he felt the BPW should be given a fixed amount each year to repair streets and that it should not fall to the Selectboard.

Ms. David asked if people were telling the sitting BPW members how to vote, since both candidates talked about how they were independent thinkers and not swayed by pressure.

Ms. Sturtevant said that some people tried to pressure her about the superintendent vote, but that she would not change her vote.

Mr. Haworth said that he will listen to the public, to the Selectboard members, to employees, to residents. But in the end, he said he will make his decision based on the merit of the situation.

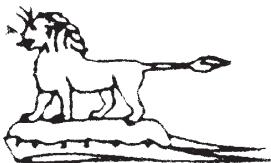
BPW candidate Richard Brodeur did not attend the event.\*\*\*

*Caroline D. Percy*

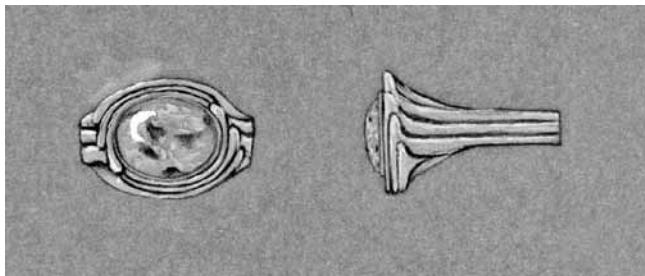
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# Atria welcomes sisters Scout get pins at Blue & Gold Banquet



Atria Senior Living welcomes our first siblings to live here. Meet Lauretta Plaud and her sister Georgette Denault. Born and raised most of their lives in New Bedford, they have recently come to live at Atria. Lauretta moved here in July of 2010. Georgette came to live at Atria in December 2010. This does not happen very often, so we feel it is very special to have these two wonderful sisters with us, together again. Submitted photo. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)



Selectboard chairperson Charles Murphy and School Committee Member Pam Keuchler with Troop/Pack 52 at their Blue and Gold Banquet on Sunday, February 6, 2011. Mr. Murphy presented each scout with a pin that states "Building together again. Submitted photo. See it in color at [Communities, Bridging Continents.](http://www.NeighbNews.com)" Photo provided by Pauline Parker, troop committee chair for troop 52.

## SMCU donates to Bicentennial Committee

### Press Release

At the March 7, 2011, Fairhaven Board of Selectmen meeting Southern Mass Credit Union (SMCU) Board Chairman, David Darmofal and President/CEO, Daniel Waltz, presented the Fairhaven Bicentennial Committee a \$1,000 donation toward their fundraising efforts for the 2012 Fairhaven Bicentennial Celebration. Representing the Bicentennial Committee were Angela Dawicki, Fundraising Committee Chairman and

Wayne Oliveira, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee. "This generous donation shows that the Southern Mass Credit Union is not just located in Fairhaven but it is truly part of our community. We look forward to working with our community partners in celebrating our Towns 200th birthday this coming year," stated Mr. Oliveira. As Fairhaven's hometown financial institution, we are pleased to make this donation to Fairhaven's

Bicentennial Committee. Southern Mass Credit Union prides itself in its involvement in and support of community activities and events, said Mr. Waltz. In addition to celebrating Fairhaven's 200th birthday in 2012, Southern Mass will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. We look forward to celebrating both events and being actively involved in next years festivities and activities marking the founding of Fairhaven and the founding of our credit union, continued Mr. Waltz.

Southern Mass Credit Union, headquartered at 123 Alden Road in Fairhaven, is a full service community credit union with approximately \$187 million in assets, 3 offices and 9,664 members. SMCU offers a variety of competitive savings, checking, auto loans, mortgage loans and equity lines of credit to anyone who lives, works or attends school in Bristol, Barnstable and Plymouth counties. For more information on credit union membership, services or products, contact SMCU at 508-994-9971. •••



Southern Mass Credit Union donated \$1,000 to Fairhaven's Bicentennial Committee during the Selectboard meeting on 3/7. L-R: David Darmofal, SMCU Board Chair; Wayne Oliveira, Bicentennial Committee Chair; Angela Dawicki, Bicentennial Fundraising Committee Chair; Daniel Waltz, SMCU President/CEO. Submitted photo. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

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## Letters from our readers

### Reader Supports Sturtevant

Sometimes the best man for the job is a woman. The voters of Fairhaven have a unique opportunity on Election Day to re-elect Kathy Bouley Sturtevant to the Board of Public Works.

Kathy has been a lifetime resident of Fairhaven and she was the moving force developing a sewer system to Sconticut Neck.

Kathy has served on the Conservation Commission for many years and now is an incumbent for re-election to the Board of Public Works.

Kathy is the candidate who brings honesty, integrity and more important, common sense to the Board of Public Works.

Please join me in voting on Monday, April 4, 2001, for Kathy Sturtevant, so that we may keep the Board of Public Works moving in a positive direction.

Jeannine Lopes, Fairhaven

### One school option is easy way out, not best way

I am writing about the silent concerns that many taxpayers of Fairhaven have regarding the Elementary School project. I do not support the one school option that the taxpayers will be voting on at Town Meeting. My husband and I moved to Fairhaven eight years ago because of the school system and neighborhood schools.

Our oldest of three children is in Kindergarten. Over the past few weeks I have heard that many people feel the same as I do. I have attended all but two of the School Building Committee meetings and never spoke because it was evident that the School Building Committee did not value the opinion of the audience of parents and of the children they represent because it seemed that the presentation was more of a formality rather than reaching out to us, the stakeholders, for input into the decision making process. This is why it is important to bring some concerns to the public through this letter.

In a 2009 memo to the School Committee about class size, Superintendent Robert Baldwin wrote: "A core value of the Fairhaven Public Schools is to ensure high level learning for all children. A goal to accomplish this within our District Improvement Plan is to reduce class size to obtain an optimum learning environment,

especially at the K-3 level."

Combining the two schools will mean an increase in classroom size for ALL of our elementary schools! Our current kindergarten classroom size at both Rogers and Wood Schools is above the guidelines set by the superintendent and School Committee. What will happen when enrollment goes up?

Building a new school sounds simple, but don't we owe it to the taxpayers and children of Fairhaven to invest more time in creating a more thought out, fully explored plan? Do the taxpayers realize that the proposed one school project is planned for 370 students and our current enrollment between Rogers and Wood is approximately 460?

In 2005, referencing the closing of the Oxford School\*, Superintendent Baldwin spoke to the fact that the elimination of six elementary teaching positions had a "significant increase in class size at the elementary level, which in turn does affect student learning." Does that not make the one school proposal contradictory?

The School Building Committee did not closely scrutinize the cost savings opportunities for a renovation of our two neighborhood schools. On the evening that they voted down the two-school option, they did not have reimbursement rate estimates for a reasonable and equitable two-school, two classroom per grade level renovation project.

They never attempted to draft the "educationally sound programming" for the two school option that Massachusetts School Building Authority requires for reimbursement purposes. If they did so, it was not shared with the public.

They never fully disclosed anticipated increased costs to the town for busing & utilities. The current electricity cost of both Wood and Rogers Schools combined is less than that of East Fairhaven Elementary, which is the model school they propose building. It is a fact that traffic congestion at the Wood School is already a serious problem. A potential solution mentioned at the last School Building Committee Meeting was to widen Sconticut Neck Road. The cost of such a project was never provided to the public.

If that's the solution to the

projected worsening of traffic congestion with the busing and parent drop of an additional 230 students shouldn't we know how much that will cost? How can the voters confidently say the School Building Committee exercised due diligence when these crucial cost analyses never were explored or presented?

We don't have all the facts because they have yet to be given to the voters and taxpayers.

We need to make sure that we will be making the right choice not only for now but also for future generations. Renovating Rogers and Wood School may not be as simple as building new, but with careful thought and planning, renovating our schools and maintaining them might be a better choice, and more fiscally responsible in the long run for our town.

Voters should know this is not a done deal!! Fairhaven residents need to speak out and be heard, save our neighborhood schools!! Visit [www.FairhavenSOS.org](http://www.FairhavenSOS.org) to find out more.

"Your spark can become a flame and change everything" E.D. Nixon.

\*Document available at the  
Millicent Library  
Mary-Elizabeth Boucher, Fairhaven

### Reader says one school option is no bargain

I am concerned about the recent decision regarding Fairhaven elementary schools. It seems like people assume that moving to one larger elementary school on the Wood School site will provide the town savings in operational costs.

I don't see any operational cost savings in a large school option at all. There may be some cost savings in heating only one gym and cafeteria, but that would be offset with the extra cost of busing students who currently walk. The cost of busing increases every year and the pollution and traffic associated with this one school option is a real problem.

There will also be costs associated with fixing/renovating the Rogers school. If we're going to fix it, why not just continue to use it as a school? The two school option that the town currently pays for works!

A reasonable renovation might be a quicker and a less costly option for the town to take a better look at.

LETTERS: cont'd next page

## LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

The taxpayers of Fairhaven need to know all of the information to make an informed decision. The taxpayers need to know the reimbursement rate from the state for a renovation project, not just a new school.

Is it educationally, socially and fiscally better to take kids out of their neighborhoods where friendships and feelings of community are cultivated, or is it better to put them on a bus, unsupervised for an additional hour each way when there really is not additional operational costs asso-

ciated with neighborhood schools?

Our children would be displaced during this transition and suffer academically and socially, and larger class sizes and a less nurturing, close-knit school setting will be the result.

I understand that sometimes sacrifices have to be made, but only when the sacrifice is to create something better for the children and the taxpayers. I don't believe this project is a good investment for our town's families.

Let's vote no. We will still have time to look at a viable two school plan, without losing state funds to fix Rogers School. Nikki Cuocco, Wood School Parent

BPW: cont'd from page 12

Rensenhausen to discuss hiring and management of the beach lifeguards at West Island Beach, to approve the use of Cushman Park amphitheater by Victory Baptist church on July 30, 2011, and to approve the use of Fort Phoenix Park by the Interchurch Council of New Bedford to hold a sunrise service on April 24, at 5:51 a.m.

- Voted unanimously to approve a bill from West Construction for \$199,017.95, to approve a \$15,000 contract with Gallagher-HydroQual to be brought before the Board for signature at their next meeting, and to approve the Water and the Sewer union contracts after reviewing them in executive session.
- Reconvened in executive session to discuss union contracts, personnel issues, and the City of New Bedford Intermunicipal Agreement •••



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# Candidate statements: School Committee



**Pam  
Kuechler**

*Re Elect Pam  
Kuechler for  
School  
Committee  
Building our  
Community's  
success through*

**excellence in education.** This core belief is what led me to run for my first term on the school committee. It has been a tremendous learning experience and a great honor to be able to serve the children of our community in this capacity over the last three years. From the beginning, I believed that our district had what was needed to move the education we provided our children from good to great. I can say with certainty that we are well on our way.

The things we have accomplished during my first term could only be done if the district is working as a team to make them happen. My experience working closely with state education agencies and lawmakers, overseeing budgets, and leading a state professional network and agency staff is the contribution I bring to the work of the School Committee.

As a committee, it is our responsibility to oversee the budget, hire and evaluate the superintendent, hire the business manager, and special education director, and set policies. I take that job very seriously, and have used my expertise when it's been needed to make suggestions, offer up ideas, and look at alternatives.

My belief that a group can work together productively, being respectful of differing opinions and offering various ideas has played out in the Committee's ability to accomplish the work of moving many new policies forward and supporting budgets that have given the staff and administration the tools needed to move forward with the alignment of curriculum, setting goals to develop programming that provides opportunities for students to be ready for the 21st Century world, prepared to be productive and successful.

We have developed a vision for 21st Century schools with 21st Century academic and social and civic expectations for all students. Exciting new offerings are available at

**KUECHLER: cont'd next page**



**Colin  
Veitch**

Working to create Independent, Productive and Successful Children. That is the tag line I used for my recent ad,

which is almost entirely stolen from our district's Mission Statement. Six years ago thirty people gathered from both the school community and the community of parents to create a Mission Statement and Goals that declared what was important to us and to provide guidance for everything we would accomplish in the coming years. It is that spirit of collaboration and community involvement that has driven our decisions and discussions as we have tried to provide leadership and guidance to our system.

In my last two terms on the committee I have been honored to work with people that have taught me about education in the 21st century, shown me different ways of considering the issues and helped me grow as an individual. 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 that offers the guidance and governance that an elected body of people is expected to provide as the voice of Fairhaven.

My personal vision as chairman for the last few years has been to encourage an atmosphere that allows all of us to voice our opinions, but also listen and contemplate diverse viewpoints. I believe that accomplishing the work of the district does not have to involve conflict and anger, but rather passion and respect. Our job as a committee is to create an environment that enables our administration and staff to excel in their jobs and our students to excel in theirs.

In the years since I joined our system as a member of the committee I have seen progress in every area that matters in a school system. Our finances, maintenance of our facilities and most importantly in the quality of education and opportunities offered to our children. A few examples are: successful votes at Town Meeting for operating budgets and capital

**VEITCH: cont'd next page**



**Brian  
Monroe**

I have been a resident of Fairhaven for the past 11 years and reside in North Fairhaven with my wife Keri (Ste.

Marie) and our three children. Two of our children attend Wood School.

My background includes:

- BS Computer Science, UMass Dartmouth
- Employed by General Dynamics as a Senior Systems Engineer
- Fairhaven Little League coach for 3 years
- Church youth/Sunday school teacher for 6 years

If given the opportunity to serve you as a member of the School Committee, there are many issues we face:

## *Budget/Finance*

As a town, we are not immune to the economic downturn that has gripped the country and our state. It is important that we execute a sound fiscal policy when addressing the needs of the school system. We must ask ourselves, "Are we using the money we have as efficiently as possible?" We must look within and analyze all spending and administrative processes to find inefficiencies and savings opportunities. This type of thinking will enable us to balance providing essential services with maintaining a solid commitment to the taxpayer.

## *Quality of Education*

In order to achieve standards of excellence, we must hold students, teachers and parents accountable. The education of our children does not begin and end at the classroom door. It must continue at home and be a partnership between teachers and parents. Teachers cannot do it alone. Recently, the third grade at Wood School scored 100 percent proficient in math on the states MCAS exam. We need to keep moving and make news like this a reality across all schools and grade levels.

## *Facilities*

There are many reasons to be proud of our school facilities. East Fairhaven School was designated as a model school by the MSBA and the high school addition brought the

**MONROE: cont'd next page**

# Candidate Statements: cont'd from previous page

KUECHLER: cont'd next page

the high school level, including college coursework, and internships in partnership with community businesses and programs. Our middle school has worked to provide opportunities for students to experience a variety of classes and activities to help develop interests and keep them engaged. Our elementary schools have done well academically and provide many volunteer led activities to provide children a wide range of experiences. Family activity nights encourage the critical connections that need to be made between our schools and the families we serve.

Maintenance of our physical plants has moved to a more proactive approach vs. reactive, and projects are being done that will help protect our buildings, making them more efficient and environmentally responsible as well as preserving the historic treasures we have.

These types of programs and activities would not be possible without the dedication of our staff and administration, and a Committee that has shown a level of commitment and confidence in the work they do.

We have grown into a great team, setting goals that are realistic, understandable, and executed well, leading us to expect nothing less across the board. As with any group, there is always room for us to grow and learn from each other by continuing on the path of collaborative interaction, listening to each other and to our constituents, and doing what each of us believes is in the best interest of our children when we make our decisions.

This has guided me through these last three years, and I hope to continue that work to help our district maintain the strides we have made and work toward the goals we have set to be the excellent foundation our children deserve. Please consider supporting my reelection on April 4.

VEITCH: cont'd next page

improvement projects, clarity and accuracy in the budget process, vastly improved purchasing of goods and services, newly defined and consistent curriculum throughout the district, wellness programs, a bullying awareness and intervention plan, elementary schools that rank among the top in the state in achievement, FHS setting the tone in our region for 21st Century Education, a Hastings Middle School that parents and students now look forward to attending, and too many projects to list in infrastructure improvements including roofing, windows, and energy efficiency.

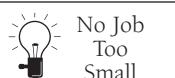
My first year on the committee our district was rated "very poor" in Leadership and Governance as a result of a poor relationship between the school committee and the superintendent. It also noted the lack of community support due to the same issues. Judging by the subsequent Town Meetings, word of mouth and obvious changes around our district, I am happy to say 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 in how the Fairhaven School System works and interacts with the town and parents and I am hoping to continue in that mission for another term on the committee.

Please vote for me on Monday, April 4th and have a happy and healthy Spring. Thank you.

The mind is always the  
dupe of the heart.

Francois Duc de la Rochefoucauld

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MONROE: cont'd from previous page

building into modern times. However, while we have reasons to be proud, we also have reasons for concern. Rogers School is in poor condition and one could say the oldest part of the building is unsafe. Wood School also has issues making it inadequate to serve the needs of the children who walk its halls. Our children deserve better and, as a community, we need to support the construction of another "model" school.

## Openness/Transparency

School Committee policy states, "...no member of the community will be denied the right to bring their complaints to the Committee." While order must be kept, the public should be allowed to express their thoughts during public comment. Restricting discussion topics to items on the evening's agenda limits the free exchange of ideas and information. The committee should maintain a partnership with parents, teachers and all members of the community. Their voices must be heard. Anything less is not a partnership, but more suggestive of something else.

If elected, I will be a voice for all members of this community. In this race, I am not running against anyone. I am running FOR Gabriel, Adin and Elaine Monroe. I am running FOR you and your children. It would be my privilege to serve the residents and children of Fairhaven as a member of the School Committee and I ask you to vote for me, Brian Monroe, on April 4th.

## Fairhaven Residents

# Keep Bill Fitzgerald

If you want the Fairhaven Board of Public Works to reconsider their termination of Superintendent Bill Fitzgerald vote for **incumbent Geoffrey Haworth,\*** who voted against terminating the contract, and **Richard Brodeur,\*** who has said he will vote to overturn the termination.

Since 2007, during his time as Fairhaven's Superintendent of Public Works, Bill Fitzgerald has obtained nearly \$13.5 million in grant money for public works projects, including a federal stimulus grant for \$7.86 million to build an anaerobic digester at the wastewater treatment plant, and solar panels for three town buildings.

### Green Technology Projects

- The anaerobic digester will reduce Fairhaven's sewer sludge and create methane gas which will be burned to create electricity, saving the town up to \$300,000 in reduced sludge removal costs and heat and electricity generation
- Solar panels on the sludge building, public works building and West Island Treatment Plant will produce approximately 100,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year

### Traffic Safety and Road Work

- When Bill started working in Fairhaven, there were seven intersections listed in the 100 most dangerous intersections in Southeastern Mass. (2002-2004 list by SRPDEDD). As of next year, five of those and one other will have been reconstructed. The intersections on the list were Bridge and 240 (which has been started and taken over by the state for completion); Bridge and Alden, which will be started this year; Howland Road and Main Street; Route 6 and Main; Route 6 and Adams. The Route 6 project will also include reconstruction of Green and Middle Streets. Not only will \$5 million in construction be paid for by grants, but Fairhaven became the only community in Southeastern Mass. where the state paid design costs, saving another \$300,000.
- Preliminary studies have been done for the intersection of Route 6 and Bridge Street, Route 6 and Sconticut Neck Road, and Route 6 and Alden.
- Bill helped to negotiate approximately \$900,000 in water, sewer and roadway improvements with the Southcoast Hospitals Group in connection with their Mill Road project

### Other projects

- Bill has also obtained \$566,500 for stormwater testing and management. The town was recognized by the state and others as a leader in cleaning up stormwater; and received five grants
- West Island Culvert: Fairhaven negotiated to get the federal government to pay for the replacement of the culvert to the West Island Town Beach, saving about \$250,000

*These are just some of the projects that Bill has worked on for the good of Fairhaven.*

*Please vote to get people on the Board of Public Works  
who will reconsider the vote to terminate his contract:*

*We urge you to vote for incumbent Geoffrey Haworth, who voted to retain Bill,  
and Richard Brodeur, who has indicated he will vote to overturn the termination.*

**VOTE in the Fairhaven elections on Monday, April 4  
Polls open 10 a.m.–8 p.m.**

Paid for by H. Lemieux and other concerned taxpayers

\*Haworth and Brodeur were not consulted in the creation of this ad.

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**02 BMW 525i:**  
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**05 Ford Escape XLT:**  
 4x4. Loaded. Leather. Moon roof \$10,500



**03 Chevy Silverado 2500:**  
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 Regular cab. 4x4. Hemi. 8 Ft plow. 2 yd sander. Must see! \$14,000



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**02 Ford F150 XLT:**

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## Local Bands

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#### LIVE BANDS, 9 P.M.

3/25: Broke Since Tuesday • 3/26: Josh Deadly Band  
 4/1: "Jolly Mon" George Hubert, 5-8; Backroads Band, 9-1  
 4/1 is Country Western Night. Prizes for outfits.  
 (See website for details)  
 4/2: Shovel Head

Thurs., Trivia Buff: 7:30 p.m. • Weekly prizes  
 Tues., Pitch League: Ask at the bar for details



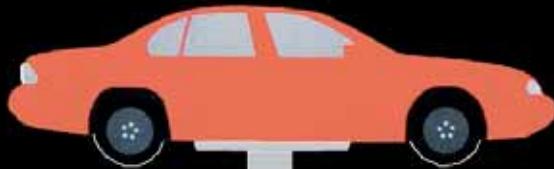
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