



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 12 • March 31, 2011

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

Manjiro group raises funds for Japanese



Ayako Rooney (left) thanks Veronica Bernier for her donation to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 10. Veronica put a can out at her parents' store, Bourassa Hardware, and asked for donations. She presented more than \$100.00 to the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, which has created a fund for victims. The WMFS operates the museum located in the house that Captain William Whitfield and Manjiro Nakahama lived in after the Captain rescued the 14-year-old shipwrecked Manjiro. He became the first Japanese person to live in the United States and was instrumental in opening up the closed society to the west. In photo above, Capt. Whitfield's picture is top left, Manjiro's picture is top right. The fireplace is famous in Japan as the place many Japanese tourists have their pictures taken. See page 16 for story. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook for more photos of this event.*

Also Inside:

- **Selectboard**, page 17
- **Letters to the editor**, page 26, 28, 29
- **Finance Committee**, page 12
- **School committee**, page 20

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Oh, so much to muse about and so little time.

First, an issue near and dear to every quahogger in Fairhaven. The Ristuccias are selling land to the town to provide access to Round and Senior Coves. You may recall that last year, the new owners of Bella Vista Island posted no trespassing signs and built a fence, keeping people away from the coves. They tried to block the road much farther away, but the Ristuccias, who also own property along the road, made sure he did not block off access to their lots.

Well, we know those lots aren't buildable. You can't really do much with them except look at them and dig around for stuff in the marsh; and even that's limited by wetlands regulations. But, they provide water access, a rare and dwindling commodity in Massachusetts, and especially here on West Island and along Sconticut Neck. People are buying up the old houses and adjacent lots that people used for decades to get to the water. Then the neighbors find out that it was private property all along. They find out when a fence goes up, and the new guy posts no trespassing signs.

Last year it was poised to get very ugly. We all heard the talk at the bars and around town about how people were planning to access those quahog beds. The beds are not owned by anyone, much to the chagrin of some. The part that goes under water with the tide belongs to all of us. Getting to it, however, can be impossible without a boat.

Well, Donna and Dan Ristuccia have come to the rescue. I, personally, want to say "thank you" to them. They are selling the two adjacent lots to the town for \$1 each and associated closing costs. I think we should put a monument up and call it "Ristuccia Marsh." Really. No kidding.

For the record, all you rich guys out there: this is how you treat the neighbors if you give a damn about a neighborhood.

Well, I had a bunch of clever stuff to ramble on about, but no time or space left. See page 4 for a story about a petition that parents collected 800+ signatures for to stop the school building process. See page 17 for the Selectboard story that also contains information about the school building. And, my favorite committee, the School Committee is on page 20. I'll save that rant for another time.

Don't forget to vote on Monday.

Oh, speaking of the election, we have eight letters to the editor this week, too. You can find them, though, I'm sure. Until next week then, see ya



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS

In last week's issue we ran an ad for Richard C. Brodeur for BPW. We neglected to add that the ad was paid for by Richard C. Brodeur. It was an oversight and we regret any confusion the omission may have caused.

Don't forget to

VOTE

Mon., 4/4, in Fairhaven

Land acquisition to restore access to two Coves

By Anne Fenton

Neigh News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will probably make Fairhaven quahoggers very happy as a result of a decision at their recent meeting on Thursday, 3/24.

The CPC will ask town meeting to buy two parcels of land, for \$1 each, that will allow access to the shellfish beds in Round and Senior Coves. Donna Ristuccia is listed as the owner of the two parcels. The article is on the special town meeting warrant.

After buying Bella Vista Island in December of 2009, Anwar Faisal and his wife Heiam Alsawalhi, installed a fence and posted "no trespassing" signs to restrict access to the shellfish beds.

Town Planner William Roth said that their actions "created a huge neighborhood dispute" involving a number of local people.

"An opportunity has come up that is too good to pass up," said Mr. Roth.

He asked to give "kudos" to shellfish warden Tim Cox, who talked with Dan and Donna Ristuccia's son about the possibility of donating or

selling adjacent property to the town. Dan Ristuccia then started talking details with Mr. Roth.

Mr. and Mrs. Ristuccia decided to sell two parcels of land, Lots 61 and 64 on Fairhaven Assessors Map 43B, for the sum of \$1 each, plus closing costs.

Mr. Roth noted that in order to comply with a potential conservation

**An opportunity has
come up that is too good
to pass up [Bill Roth]**

requirement to provide access where there is not already a path, a wooden raised path might be needed. In order to utilize recreation funds for that type of project the property must be owned by the town. If needed, the Shellfish Warden and Harbormaster will determine the type of wooden structure to be built.

A Purchase and Sale agreement has

been completed by the town and is expected to be returned from the property owners in time for the special Town Meeting to be held on May 7, 2011. The closing will take place a minimum of 10 days after a yes vote at the special Town Meeting.

If the transaction is completed this year, money from the CPC's Professional Services account will pay for the legal fees for the closing costs for the property. The money will come from the existing fund balance so there will be no delay; and the parcels are land court property so no additional surveys or title searches need to be done.

"I fully expect the project to come in next year," declared Mr. Roth, meaning quahoggers will be able to access the beds this summer.

Absent from the unanimous decision to submit this article to the Special TM were Carol Tyson, James Souza, and Cynthia McNaughten, with Jay Simmons arriving after the Land Acquisition discussion, prior to the vote.

•••

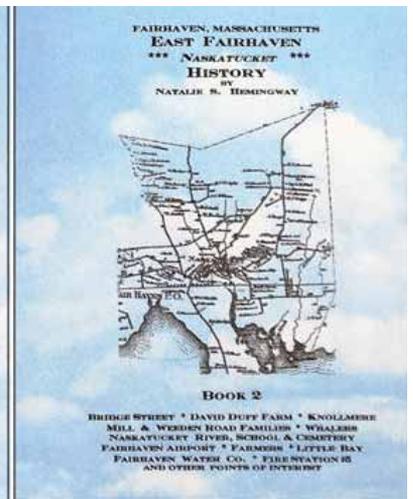
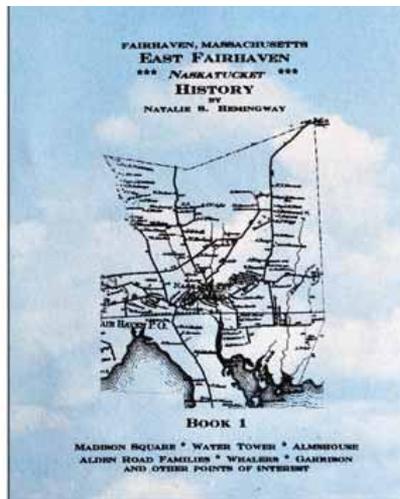
The Fairhaven Historical Society

presents

East Fairhaven History: Nasketucket

By

Natalie S. Hemingway



Friday, April 1, 7 p.m. • Fairhaven Town Hall

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

Free, donations requested.

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 information, please call Barbara Acksen, President at 508-993-0317.

800+ signatures collected to “hold” school building vote

By Joyce Rowley

NeighbNews Correspondent

A group of Fairhaven residents, disturbed by what they called a lack of information leading up to the decision to consolidate the Wood and Rogers schools, presented a petition with more than 800 names to the Selectboard on Thursday, March 24. The petitioners are asking the Selectboard to put on hold the Town Meeting article that requests \$200,000 for a new school schematic design.

Copies were provided to School Superintendent Robert Baldwin and School Building Committee Chairperson Christopher Bunnell. Dr. Baldwin presented a copy of the petition at a meeting of the Mass. School Building Authority (MSBA) on Friday, 3/25.

When contacted for this article, Selectboard Chair Charles Murphy said the petition will go before the Selectboard on April 4. He said he had seen the petition.

“There’s a lot of names,” he said. “A lot of names.”

The petition calls for a “hold” in the process and seeks to have the current School Building Committee (SBC) modified to include parents,

neighbors and concerned residents. It states that the current committee is comprised of school and town employees and School Committee members. The petition also asks that all information be made public, and for a community survey to be taken on the consolidation.

A “no” vote at Town Meeting would start the 120-day clock ticking at the MSBA. The Town would have to hurry to put together a different plan. That, claim the petitioners, would jeopardize future funding.

But that’s what the proponents of consolidating the schools also claim.

“To rescind the article would represent a ‘no’ vote,” said Mr. Murphy, who said he had just finished discussing the matter with Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch.

Mr. Osuch had accompanied Dr. Baldwin, Mr. Bunnell, and FinCom Chair John Roderiques to Boston for the meeting with the MSBA on the 25th. School Committee (SC) and SBC member Pam Kuechler also attended the meeting. The purpose of that meeting was for clarification, said Colin Veitch, SC chairperson.

“We haven’t been up there for

awhile, since November,” he said, adding that the meeting would update the MSBA and provide the “shape of the project.”

When asked if the School Committee would be taking the MSBA matter up at its next meeting, he said it was not their issue. He said it was for the School Building Committee.

But when asked when the SBC meets again, Mr. Veitch said it would not meet until money is approved for the schematic design at Town Meeting.

Mr. Murphy said that the MSBA had promised a letter of determination that would address the issue of how many schools they would pay for.

“What they said was that you’re more than welcome to pay for renovations yourself,” said Mr. Murphy.

According to Dr. Baldwin, the Town will submit a letter by April 1 to the MSBA outlining the three options reviewed and the process used to select the preferred option. The MSBA will respond with a letter of determination by April 15. It is anticipated that the MSBA’s letter will provide a response to whether they will fund a two-school option.

PETITION: cont’d on page 29

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Geoff

Haworth

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works



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Vote to re-elect

Kathy “Bouley” Sturtevant to the Board of Public Works on Monday, April 4



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

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

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Kathy Bouley Sturtevant for Board of Public Works

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- M3 Curry Fish Fillet, Fried Vegetable Wonton, Fried Jumbo Shrimp, White Rice
- M4 Scallop Fried Rice, Crab Rangoon, Vegetable Roll, Chow Mein

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Mac's has been satisfying a wide circle of friends at 116 Sciticut Neck Rd., Fairhaven, since June 21, 1946

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Historical Society

April 1. See ad on page 3.

Concert Series

Community Concert Series: Atwater-Donnelly Folk Duo, **Sunday, 4/3, First Congregational Church, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven, 2:00 p.m.** Accessible. Award-winning duo performs a unique and thrilling blend of traditional American and Celtic folk music and dance, along with original songs and poetry. Elwood and Aubrey blend gorgeous and unusual harmonies and play guitar, mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons, limberjacks, and other surprises including Appalachian clogging and French Canadian footwork. They explain song origins to create a deeper understanding of the music and its cultural history. **Tickets are \$10 adults, children free with adult.** Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. To reserve call 508-994-3607. Visit <http://sites.google.com/site/fhvnccs/>.

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.

At the UU Church

The following events are at the Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven, 508-992-7081. Accessible.

Spiritual Explorers

Tuesday, April 5, parish house, 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to explore the concepts of various spiritual traditions, both ancient and modern, to expand awareness and understanding. Meets first and third

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

Special Service: Transgender Minister

Special service: On **Sunday, April 3 at 10:30**, Mr. Barb Grieve, M. Div., a transgender person and UU minister, will give a sermon called "Courage from Necessity." He will preach on the courage it takes to live out one's truth with integrity. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist and graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, Barb will share some of his own coming out journey. He is the Interim Director of Lifespan Education at the Unitarian Universalist Newton Church. After the service, Barb will host a conversation about transgender identities.

Fish & Chips

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

Baseball Camp

The Fairhaven High School Baseball Team will host a skills clinic for girls and boys ages 6-13 on two **Saturdays: April 9th and April 16th from 9-11:30AM at Hastings Middle School** (rain dates 4/30 & 5/7).

The cost is \$40 before April 6th or \$50 on the spot; proceeds to benefit Fairhaven High School Baseball and the Class of 2012.

If possible, youth should take their equipment and protective gear. To register, or for further information, contact Rudy Bulgar at 508-979-4051 x5414, rbulgar@fairhavenps.org or Tracy Higgins at x1105, thiggins@fairhavenps.org.

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, based on the Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story about a brilliant doctor whose experiments with human personality create a murderous counterpart.

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.

Jane Doe No More

Local organization Connecting the Dots...hosts **Donna Palomba on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at Seaport Inn and Marina in Fairhaven, from 7-8 p.m. Accessible.**

Connecting the Dots... invites the community to view "Duty Trumps Doubt," Ms. Palomba's new video currently being used by law enforcement to secure a more rapid, professional and dutiful response to victims of abuse crimes.

Jane Doe No More founder Donna Palomba is a riveting speaker, whose story served to inspire Connecting the Dots... in furthering its goal toward establishing positive change out of injustice.

For more information, contact Beverly Rousseau at 508-525-6884, or email www.connectingthedots-info.org, or janedoenomore.org.

At the Millicent

At the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Walnut Street entrance is accessible. To register, call the library at 508-992-5342, or email Jane Murphy (jmurphy@sailsinc.org).

April is National Poetry Month. **Poem in Your Pocket Day** is April 14. There will be a display in the children's room celebrating the event.

April Teen Advisory Group (Milliwizards) meets Thursday, April 7th from 3-5 p.m. Grade 6 and up.

We'll celebrate Poetry month with a special Teen Poetry "Coffeehouse/Open mike" program.

National Library week is April 10th-16th. This year's theme is

CONT'd next page

STILL AROUND TOWN

"Create Your Own Story." April 13th is Library Snapshot Day. April 14th is Teen Literature Day!

FYFA Reg

Fairhaven Youth Football Association (FYFA) will be holding April registrations for the upcoming fall 2011 season on Friday, April 1st 6 PM to 8 PM and Saturday, April 2nd, 9 AM to Noon at the former Fairhaven Oxford School gym, Main Street, North Fairhaven.

The Fairhaven Youth Football

Association is a member of the National Pop Warner Football League. Tackle football and cheer team ages are 7-15 years. Football players are assigned by age, weight, and boundaries. Children learn the fundamentals of football, how to work as a team, make new friends, and build confidence. Players and cheer teams have the chance to compete in the regional playoffs, and the Pop Warner National Championship Game in Florida.

The registration for Tackle and

Cheer Football: \$100 due at sign-up. Multiple sibling discounts available

New player must have ORIGINAL RAISED SEAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE. We will need to keep this certificate until the season begins. It will be returned at your request after our team books are certified.

Parents are encouraged to download the applications online at www.fairhavenacushnetyouthfootball.com. You will still need to come to the registration drive to complete the appropriate paperwork.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

FIA Annual Meeting

The Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Fairhaven Improvement Association will be held on **Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Wamsutta Club**. Members and guests are invited to attend. Cocktails will begin at 5:30 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM.

This event allows us to conduct annual elections of new Board Members and Officers, as well as to honor individuals who have provided outstanding community service and to local businesses which have beautified their properties in Fairhaven. Honorees include Mr. Enrique Goytizola and Mr. Wayne Oliveira for their service; and Sivalai Thai Cuisine Restaurant and Sullivan Tire and Auto Center for their beautification efforts. The evening will also feature a presentation of historical facts and descriptions of the Rogers School as well as other schools in Town presented by Mrs. Myra Lopes.

Dinner choices for the Annual Dinner include Petite Filet Mignon (\$30); Lemon Pepper Chicken (\$25); Baked Scrod (\$25); or Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken (\$16). Please plan to attend and take a friend. Contact Linda Meredith at 508-542-1735 for reservations and questions.

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. Direct line: 508-717-6849.

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.

Music at St. Anthony's

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, MUSIC AT ST. ANTHONY'S is excited to present internationally renowned international concert organist, Gail Archer, in a recital at St. Anthony of Padua church in New Bedford's North End. The recital is part of the fundraising series for the restoration of the nearly 100 year old pipe organ. Complimentary tea and refreshments are served after the recital at a reception to meet the organist in the church hall. Freewill donations are collected during the event, and patrons are encouraged to "Adopt an Organ Part" to help the fundraising.

St. Anthony's French Romantic Casavant pipe organ is a fitting instrument for Ms. Archer's expertise and skill. With a repertoire of her depth and breadth, anticipation is at its highest for this artist in the closing recital of the 2010-11 MUSIC AT ST. ANTHONY'S series.

St. Anthony's great pipe organ is one of the largest of its type and size in North America. It was designed for the space in the large Romanesque cathedral style church, which possesses a great acoustic quality due to the wood and plaster interior finishes. It is difficult to find items that appreciate in value, but a fine instrument of this quality does so when it is properly cared for.

Since this organ cannot be

Cont'd next page

STILL OVERTOWN

replaced, it is a treasure for New Bedford, and the New England region; it is being preserved through this music series. Over the last 99 years, it has been in use and maintained, but it was damaged in the 1950's when lightning hit the church. One of the sections, the solo division, was not repaired at that time, but through the success of the campaign to restore the organ before its 100th birthday, that section is back in full working order; Ms. Archer will make great use of its added power and sound.

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

SaintAnthonys.org. We regret that St. Anthony's Church is not accessible.

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.

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 or call (508) 992-3295.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

MO LIFE ball

M.O. L.I.F.E. (Murphy and Others Living Interdependently for Future Endeavors) will sponsor its 15th annual semi-formal ball at **White's of Westport from 6 p.m.-midnight on Friday, April 1. Semi-formal attire.**

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

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

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

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

Food Addicts

Free and open to the public, Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) meeting on Tuesday, April 5, from 7:00-8:30 PM on Tuesday, April 5th

Free yourself from food addiction and food obsession. Come to a community information meeting for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating and bulimia. Everyone is welcome to this free meeting, including those who think they may have a food problem or those who are concerned

about someone who may.

At Church of The Good Shepherd, 74 High St., Wareham, MA. Parking and entrance to meeting at rear of church. Accessible. Visit www.foodaddicts.org

Tiara Classic Teams

The Women's Fund Tiara 5K Planning Team is in full training mode as they prepare for the 5th Annual Tiara Classic 5K Race & Walk event to take place on Mother's Day, Sunday May 8, 2011.

Loyal Tiara 5K supporters inspired the Women's Fund to create this year's "Team Up for the Tiara" effort. Participants can now formally create active running and walking teams. Individuals and teams can also ask friends and family to sponsor their 5K in order to raise additional support for the Women's Fund which promotes the educational and economic advancement of women and girls in this region.

Sarah Mercer-Medeiros has run the Tiara Classic 5K for the last four years. Last year she teamed up with her family and members of her boyfriend's family and they all walked or ran together. Dressed all in green with matching T-shirts that read "In Memory of Moms," team participants kicked off Mother's Day on the right foot. This year Sarah is team captain and their group has something wonderful in store. The Women's Fund will award team prizes for the most funds raised, the most mother-

daughter pairs on a team and the most creatively attired teams. Prizes for the first female and male individual finishers will also be awarded.

Participants may register for our 5th annual Tiara Classic 5K Mother's Day Race/Walk. The event takes place Sunday, May 8 at Oxford Creamery in Mattapoisett. Kids Fun Run at 9:00 AM, 5K at 9:30 AM. Registration begins at 7:30 AM.

For more information about the Women's Fund or to register as an individual or as a team, please visit www.womensfundsema.org. If you are interested in fundraising for the event visit <http://www.active.com/donate/womensfundsema>

ABWA meeting

The members of the Southcoast Express Network of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) invite all women from diverse occupations and stages in their professional careers to join them at their next meeting on **Wednesday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. at the Country Club of New Bedford, 585 Slocum Road, North Dartmouth. Wheelchair accessible.**

The group's focus includes increasing their membership, providing opportunities for women to grow personally and professionally, and becoming the women's networking group in SE Mass. To make a reservation or for more information, please contact April Jodoin, VP of Finance, at 508-995-2553.



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Recipe of the Week

Chicken Marbala

1 head garlic, pureed
4-6 chickens
1/4 C dried oregano
salt and pepper to taste
1/2 c red wine vinegar
1/2 c olive oil
1 C pitted prunes
1/2 c Spanish green olives
1/2 c capers with juice
1 C brown sugar
1 C white wine (good wine)
1/4 c Italian parsley or fresh cilantro

Mix all ingredients except brown sugar and white wine. Refrigerate and marinate overnight.

Next day: preheat oven to 350°

Transfer chicken to shallow baking pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and white wine.

Bake 50 minutes basting with juices. Serve with spinach salad
From Rachael Thomas Higgins

BIG Neighb News Final Four Basketball March Madness Contest

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

Winner will receive a Gift Certificate to the Courtyard Restaurant.

All entries must be in by April 1st.

Pick from Kentucky, VCU, Belmont or UConn.

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

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

A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

FHS's Adam Mullen Honored

Adam won the basketball Dave Cowen's award for top high school player in the area. The following week he was selected Standard-Times basketball player of the year.

Adam was the best player in the area and deserves both honors. We congratulate him and wish him well in his collegiate future.

Billy Lessa was also honored as second team pick.

Kara Charette makes ST All Stars

Kara was selected to the Standard-Times all stars basketball team. Kara had a super year and will be back next year.

Kelsey Perrone-Sovik was selected to second team.

Congratulations to both super players.

FHS Hall of Fame

Selections for 2011 Hall of Fame induction have been made.

Lifetime Achiever's went to David Jenny, nationally renowned engineer, class of 1949.

Athletes are: Paul Cieurzo, class of 1926, all BC Running Back; Manny Cabral, 1956, 11 letterman in super 50's; Bob Gauvier, 1931, outstanding 4-year hockey all-star; Kim Melanson, 1991, 12 letter in volleyball, track and basketball. Coach selection was Sam Galvan, outstanding boys and girls soccer coach. Memorable season team: 1961 basketball team, BC Champs led by Mike Fitzgerald, Skip Hall, Bob Lebeau, John Kidd and Norm Tate.

Banquet will be held at the Century House on Sunday, June 26, the week of Homecoming.



The Fairhaven High School 1961 basketball team will be inducted into the 2011 Hall of Fame for its Memorable Season. Pictured, from the yearbook: Head Coach Entin and Assistant Coach Wilson, P. Fermino, R Lebeau, S. Vining, J. Hall, K Browning, M. Fitzgerald, S. Toland, J. Battaini, D. Frates.

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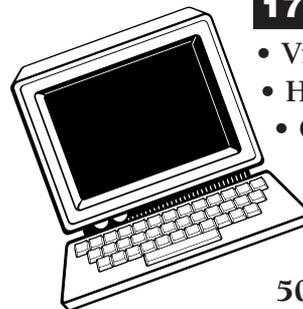
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Heineken 24 loose bottles.....	\$23 ⁷⁹ + dep.
Absolut Vodka 1.75.....	\$29 ⁹⁹
Captain Morgan Rum 1.75.....	\$29 ⁹⁹
Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75.....	\$24 ⁹⁹
Christian Bros. Brandy 1.75.....	\$19 ⁹⁹
Gordon's Gin 1.75.....	\$16 ⁹⁹
Kahlua 750	\$19 ⁹⁹
Kendall Jackson Chard 750.....	\$11 ⁹⁹
George Duboeuf Cotes du Rhone 750.....	\$6 ⁹⁹
Foxhorn Wines 1.5. All Varietals.....	\$7 ⁹⁹

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FinCom haggles over \$2 purchase for quahog bed access

By Joyce Rowley

NeighbNews Correspondent

Fairhaven Finance Committee Chairperson John Roderiques began the March 24 meeting by pushing for a vote to set the gasoline price to estimate fuel budgets for FY2012. He recommended that FinCom vote in \$3.60 per gallon. Local prices are around \$3.44, and the suggested price allows an offset against possible price increases over the next year. The reserve fund has up to \$175,000 in it for overruns, should gas prices soar next year. FinCom voted unanimously to approve the \$3.60 per gallon.

Mr. Roderiques next announced that he had been invited to attend a meeting of the Mass. School Building Authority in Boston on March 25, with School Building Committee members and Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch. As FinCom chairperson, Mr. Roderiques said he wanted to ask MSBA whether or not the two-school option was viable. He said he would ask for the answer in writing.

FinCom member Jennifer Bishop said that a petition with 800 signatures had been submitted to the Selectboard that afternoon asking to slow the design process down. Mr. Roderiques reminded Ms. Bishop that her obligations as a special municipal employee carried certain restrictions. He said he would supply her with information on those restrictions.

In another matter, Harbormaster David Darmofal presented Article 28, which requests \$19,250 from the Waterways account for a pump-out boat. The boat will cost \$77,000 with 75% of the cost coming from a grant.

Mr. Darmofal said the current pump-out boat is unsafe, has leaks and odor problems due to lack of maintenance.

FinCom Member Daniel DeNardis asked why the last boat was not maintained, and what maintenance plan was in place for the new boat.

In the past, boats were not properly winterized or maintained, Mr. Darmofal said. He said boats are now wrapped and bearings greased for winter, bilge systems repaired and electrical cut-off systems installed to preserve the batteries.

Mr. Darmofal also presented the

Shellfish Warden budget of \$105,267, a decrease over FY2011 of \$25,585. Salaries were slightly up due to step increases although he is at the last step in his range. Purchases of services were down overall but supplies went up substantially. Mr. Darmofal said that was due to better maintenance of equipment.

Boat storage was also a factor in services. He said the pump-out boat is stored at Earl's Marina.

Member Theresa Szala questioned why the Town pays for storage when the Town owns property at Maclean's. Mr. Darmofal answered that Earl's has security.

Member Kim Hyland questioned the need for four boats. In addition to the pump-out boat, the Town was awarded a \$200,000 no-match grant secured by New Bedford to purchase

Ted Silva raised the specter of a potential legal battle...

Mr. Hyland agreed with Ms. Szala and Mr. Silva. A motion to table the article failed in a 6-6 vote.

A motion to recommend adopting the article and purchase the land passed 7-5.

a 27 ft. Brunswick Boston Whaler with an enclosed cabin, night vision, 48-mile radar, GPS, and a police/fire/VHF radio.

State Representative William Strauss secured a \$44,000 grant for the Town that will be used to purchase a 25 ft. Boston Whaler for Environmental Police use with night vision, radar, lights and sirens, and two refurbished 150 hp engines. It also comes with a rebuilt trailer.

The existing Shellfish Warden's boat is a flat bottom 21 ft. Boston Whaler which is used to carry 1,000-80 lb. bags of quahogs for transplanting. It is also one of the few boats that can get under the I-195 bridge.

The new pump-out boat is 23 ft. long. Only the 21 ft. boat will be stored on its trailer. The rest will need to be kept at a marina.

Gas for the boats is purchased at the marina and may get as high as \$5 per gallon, according to Mr. Darmofal. State law prohibits taking gasoline to a marina. However, Mr. DeNardis suggested that they look into getting tax exemption on the gas they purchase there.

Member Carl Bissonnette suggested that the trailered boat be brought to the Town's fuel station to save money.

FinCom voted unanimously to recommend approval of Article 28, \$19,250, for the pump-out boat, using money from the Waterways Account.

The board also voted on replacing the gymnasium floor at the Recreation Center. The board again discussed the various methods available and associated costs. Ms. Szala held the position that expending money now was premature when next year's anticipated budget problems might mean closing the Recreation Center. Her motion to postpone it indefinitely failed, 5-7. A motion to recommend approval of the article for \$84,000 to replace the floor passed 7-5. Half the money will come from Recreation Center retained earnings.

Special Town Meeting Article 25, West Island land acquisition, also received considerable debate and a split vote, although the price tag was only \$2.

FinCom member Ted Silva raised the specter of a potential legal battle with the new owners of Bella Vista Island should the town buy the parcels. Ms. Szala also voiced her concerns about legal issues.

"Right is right," said Mr. Roderiques, explaining why he thought that did not compare to the benefits of access to shellfish beds.

At issue is access to Senior and Round Coves. The new owners of Bella Vista Island, Anwar Faisal and his wife Heiam Alsawalhi, fenced off access and posted no trespassing signs after they bought the property in December of 2009. The owner of the adjacent property, Donna Ristuccia, has offered the land to the town for \$1 per parcel. The Community Preservation Committee is hoping to build boardwalks across the property to make access to the shellfish beds easier.*

"If I didn't vote for this my father would hit me in the head with a

FINCOM: cont'd on page 22

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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 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

Fairhaven Senior Center

Visit our new website at:
http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

MALL TRIP:

April 6: Swansea Mall and
Seekonk Plaza

ENTERTAINMENT:

April 5, Tues: Music with
Rod at 12:30
April 6, Karaoke with Bev at
12:30
Every Thurs. dancing w/the
COA Band

MALL TRIPS: MAY 2011

5/4: Hyannis Mall, XMass Tree Shop,
Trader Joes
5/11: Swansea Mall & Seekonk Plaza
5/18: Providence Place Mall and
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5/25: Silver City Galleria, Kohls, & Target

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Nutrition Program/meal served;
Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coor-
dinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch;
Reassurance Program; Shopping;
Supportive Senior Social Day
Program; Tai Chi; Walking Clubs.

Volunteer Recognition Day

Please join us for a reception,
Tuesday, April 12th, 12:45-2:30 pm
to honor our volunteers who give
without regard to reward or
recognition. We will enjoy Jozsef
Halajko classical guitarist. Students
of New Bedford Vocational Techn-
ical High School will make
appetizers and we will have
desserts. Our volunteers' commit-
ment in various tasks assists us in
promoting the best quality of life for
seniors of the Fairhaven community.
Come and thank them; see you
then!

Fuel Assistance

To assist any Senior who needs
help filling out PACE forms, by
appointment only.

Seniors, do you need help heating your home?

1. If you are a senior who lives in
Fairhaven
2. If you qualify for fuel assistance
3. If you have exhausted all other
sources of help (PACE, etc)
4. If you have an unpaid bill for
heating fuel, of any kind.

Take your bill to the Senior
Center, 229 Huttleston Ave, and you
will get some help in paying it.

VOTE

Monday, April 4, is election day
in Fairhaven. Don't forget to vote!

Upcoming Trips

With Nancy

**June 13, 2011 - The Hamptons &
Montauk Point, Long Island.** Seat-
ing is limited. Lunch at Gurney's Inn
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With George

Foxwoods, April 25 & June 20
**July 20: Lobster Bake at Captain
Jack's & Mohegan Sun Casino**
Aug 17: Newport Playhouse
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Manjiro House raising funds for Japanese

By Beth David
Editor

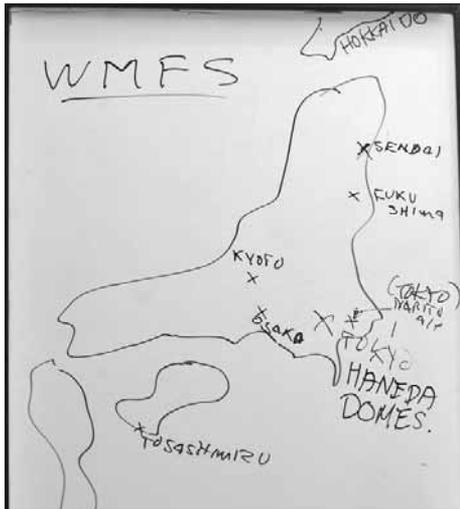
A couple of years ago, it was the Fairhaven end of this sister-city relationship that needed fund-raising help. This year the Fairhaven group is raising funds to help their friends in Japan.

The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society (WMFS) hosted an open house on Sunday, 3/27, accepting donations to be sent to Japan for victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck on March 10.

The massive 8.9 earthquake triggered a massive tsunami that left miles of devastation in the small island nation. Thousands are dead or missing.

Fairhaven's sister-city, Tosashimizu, is not near the quake, and was not affected by the tsunami directly. But the whole country is smaller than California, so the devastation is being felt everywhere. Several nuclear reactors are also at risk of core meltdowns, putting the population at risk from radiation poisoning.

Eleven minutes after the quake hit, Ayako Rooney's plane landed at the airport in Tokyo. She and her small group were stuck on the plane for six hours and in the airport for 15. After many adventures in cab hailing and subway riding, they made it to Tosashimizu, which is significantly south of the tsunami's epicenter in Kochi Prefecture in the southwestern



A quickly drawn map gives people an idea of where Ayako Rooney and her group were in Japan in relation to the earthquake and tsunami. Sendai was the epicenter, Tokyo is where they landed 11 minutes after the earthquake struck. Tosashimizu is Fairhaven's sister-city in Japan. Fukushima is where the nuclear reactors are.

part of the country.

Ayako said the hardest part was getting a domestic flight from Tokyo's Narita Airport to Haneda airport.

"We were very scared not knowing if we can make the connection," she said.

Ayako and her husband Gerry are on the board of the WMFS.

H a n a k o Nishida lives in Tokyo and is good

friends with the Rooneys. She was working at her clerical job in the hospital when the earthquake hit.

"It was the biggest one I have ever experienced," said Ms. Nishida, explaining that Japan gets lots of earthquakes.

She quickly realized this one was different. She and a co-worker got under a table at first.

"Because it was very different," she said. "We were just real panicked."

She said the building kept swaying. They put their heads down and "kind of prayed, 'please stop,'" she said. "When it stopped we couldn't move, we were so scared."

Then she and her co-worker went back to their office and saw cracks in the wall, the door was jammed, and "everything" as piled on the floor. That's when they decided to leave the building.

Then the second one hit, a big aftershock. She said it seemed to go on forever. They were only on the second floor, so they got out quickly.

Ms. Nishida lives within walking distance of work, so she was able to go home, taking her co-worker along, because she could not get home.

"There were just people everywhere," she said, adding that they watched the news on their cell phones to find out what was going on.

She emailed her parents, but it was a long time before she heard that they were okay.

When she got home, she saw all her books off the shelf, and everything on the floor. It was not long before stores started running out of



Hanako Nishida, who lives in Tokyo, looks at a picture taken by Laurie Despres last year when she visited with Hanako in Japan during a sister-city trip last year. Photos this page by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook for more photos.

milk and bread and other food.

She said she did not realize the devastation of the tsunami until she saw news reports.

Now, she is more worried about relatives in Fukushima, who are close to the nuclear power plants that are now leaking radiation.

Both Ms. Rooney and Ms. Nishida said the Japanese people do not think too much about the nuclear power plants and the risk of radiation, despite their experience with radiation poisoning in World War II.

"We never talked about that. We know it's there," said Ms. Nishida. "We learned so much about nuclear power, so it's a different issue. Now, after this, I think people are going to see it is not just an issue for the people who live near them. It is the whole country. It's something we all have to think about."

Ms. Rooney said, "We have no oil, no nothing, so we are totally dependent on the natural resources of other countries."

She said the Japanese government told people it was a "100 percent guarantee" of safety.

"They said it was safe, safe, safe," said Ms. Rooney.

"I was completely horrified," said the Rooneys' daughter Monica Dupre. "I woke up to the news and I knew she was landing right at that time."

Ms. Dupre has many friends in Japan and has traveled there many times throughout her life.

"I just wanted her to come home," she said, while at the same time,

JAPAN: cont'd on page 29

Selectboard receives 850+ signatures against one-school option

By John Garcia

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard debated the town's options for building a new school with a group of parents at the Board's meeting on Monday, 3/28.

The parents had gathered 857 signatures for a petition requesting that the town place an immediate hold on the School Building Committee's (SBC) decision to move forward with an elementary school consolidation plan. The petition was scheduled to be placed on the agenda for the Selectboard's next meeting, however, the mention of a Town Meeting article regarding a schematic design for the new school prompted several of those in attendance to request to speak.

Parent Sharon Lacroix-Anderson told the board she was worried that the new school would get voted down if the process was rushed.

"We don't want to lose the money [that would be granted by the Massachusetts School Building Authority]," she said.

Executive Secretary Jeff Osuch responded that the MSBA would treat a delay in the process as identical to a negative vote, and would withhold funding.

"If you expect MSBA funding, you've got to follow their guidelines," he said.

Several parents said that an MSBA member named Diane Sullivan had recommended the postponement option to them. Mr. Osuch stated that Ms. Sullivan had not been involved in any of the town's meetings with the MSBA, and that the information she had given parents was often the opposite of what Authority officials had told him.

"People are getting a hold of different people and different interpretations," board member Brian Bowcock said.

In a phone interview, Emily Mahlman, director of communications for the MSBA, said the organization is quasi-public and tries to be responsive to all inquiries. She said Ms. Sullivan's job is to be a liaison between the public and the MSBA to clarify projects, and that she does not make recommendations. Ms. Mahlman said that Ms. Sullivan encouraged people to look at the

feasibility documents.

"And those documents are filed with the district," said Ms. Mahlman, adding that all documents pertaining to a project are supposed to be available to the public.

Parents in Fairhaven have asserted that the information has not been available as stated.

Ms. Mahlman said that because of the apparent confusion, the MSBA will soon upload a list of questions and answers on their website specifically pertaining to the Fairhaven project.

"We make recommendations on all of the town's projects," Dr. Bowcock said, noting that all Town Meeting articles had columns for recommendations from the Selectboard and the Finance Committee, not the BPW.

"That's why we are putting solid factual information on the website," said Ms. Mahlman. "The debate will be just about the facts, the merits of the project and what's gone on thus far."

The Fairhaven page should be live by the weekend, but people should continue to check in case there is a delay. The website is www.massschoolbuildings.org/

Ms. Mahlman also said that MSBA meetings held with district officials are open to the public.

"We like our process to be open and accessible," she said, adding that the website has a calendar of scheduled meetings.

At the Selectboard meeting, several of the parents expressed their support for a two school option.

Noting claims that such a plan would not be economically feasible, School Committee candidate Lisa Schroeder-Plante stated that the two school plans discussed at SBC meetings were overly elaborate.

"I don't think those proposals show reasonable two school options," she said, adding that it

would be possible to have an affordable two school option.

Parent Mary Boucher accused the SBC of not wanting to hear two-school options, prompting a response from Dr. Bowcock, who sits on that Committee.

"That statement is unfair and untrue," he said.

Ms. Anderson expressed concern that a one-school option would increase the problem of overcrowded classrooms, which she said the town was already facing.

Mr. Osuch responded that the issue of class sizes was something that should be taken up with the School Committee. He noted that the size of any new school would be based on projected enrollment figures rather than the current number of students.

Chairperson Charles Murphy praised the parents for letting their voices be heard.

"When you have that many signatures, that's a statement," he said.

The MSBA will send the town a report in April that will say which options they would consider paying for. Mr. Murphy told the parents that the report must be considered before the town could decide what it will do.

"We at least need to see what they're going to pay for," he said.

Selectboard member Michael Silvia noted that Fairhaven residents would have the final say.

"I think it has to be debated before Town Meeting and ultimately the voters," he said.

In another matter, the Board continued discussing the Fiscal Year 2011 budget. Mr. Osuch stated that a representative had told him to expect cuts to local aid, but that the exact amount had yet to be revealed.

"That makes life very difficult," he said.

Among the budgetary items discussed was a Town Meeting article that would use money appropriated by last year's Town Meeting to chip seal Potter Street for Wayne Street instead. The Board had voted to recommend the article at their March 14th meeting, but then learned that the money had already been spent on

SELECT: cont'd on page 30

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State reviews Fairhaven elementary schools

By Joyce Rowley

NeighborNews Correspondent

Two weeks ago the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reviewed all three elementary schools, Fairhaven Schools Superintendent Robert Baldwin reported to the School Committee at their March 23, regular meeting.

"It was a full...audit in sheep's clothing," quipped Dr. Baldwin about the review. The District thought reviewers were trying to understand the high achievement scores of low-income students on MCAS testing at East Fairhaven School.

Instead, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) reviewed protocol for the entire district systems and practices for differentiated needs of all students in elementary grades K through 5.

Reviewers met with teachers, building principals, and School Committee members in a standards assessment over a period of three days. They also reviewed a random sampling of 32 teachers' evaluations, and verified the process of evaluations to ensure they are conducted rigorously.

Although the final report will not be available immediately, Dr. Baldwin said DESE gave the elementary school system good marks in all categories. The representatives were impressed with the fact that six district members attended their segments of the audit, as usually only one or two members participate. He also wanted to issue a public thanks to Jodi Tavares for her professionalism as she assisted reviewers throughout their stay.

Colin Veitch, School Committee chairperson, said he was impressed with the final report synopsis. He also said the review included meeting with parents. School Committee member Bernard Roderick agreed that the final report would be positive, based on his meeting with reviewers.

Committee member Pamela Kuechler asked if there were areas of growth identified by DESE and how the district can match it with goals.

Dr. Baldwin said two areas did come up, but there were no surprises. Assessment and use of data, and response to intervention with

students were areas he knew they needed to work on. But benchmarks on assessments were met through Grade 5.

SC member Stasia Powers said DESE mentioned how EFS was a very uplifting, comforting place to be, and it was easy to see why students were doing so well. DESE had noted the inequity in facilities at Rogers and Wood schools.

Later, when Ann Ponte, a fourth grade teacher at Rogers School, stood to present a request for travel to the Boston Science Museum, she began her presentation with an impromptu commentary on the DESE visit. She said a reviewer had spent 35 minutes in her classroom.

"When he came in, what he saw was inclusive like no other place in Town at Rogers School. He saw

He saw students working together.
He saw children at the chalkboard
There's learning, culture, climate,
teaching and pride. We feel a little
bad when we hear that [about East
Fairhaven]. It's the teaching that
goes on inside that counts.
[Ann Ponte]

students working together. He saw children at the chalkboard," said Ms. Ponte. "There's learning, culture, climate, teaching and pride. We feel a little bad when we hear that [about East Fairhaven]. It's the teaching that goes on inside that counts."

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Powers said she wanted to state how proud she was of all the elementary schools.

"I just want them to have what East Fairhaven has — a great building," she said.

In a presentation on net school spending and foundation, Dr. Baldwin described how the state calculates net school spending as the sum of its required district contribution and its Chapter 70 Aid.

It can be higher than the foundation budget, which is a floor and a constitutional requirement. He noted it is not a goal. At 2% over foundation,

Fairhaven is far below the State average of 13% over foundation, he said.

"Net school spending is not a target," he told the board.

School Committee member David Gonsalves asked if net school spending drop to 2% occurred in the year that the School Committee had to take a 4% cut while other departments had their budgets returned. Dr. Baldwin said that was correct, the FY10 budget was cut 4%.

Dr. Baldwin also reported he had received a letter from Mass. DESE stating Fairhaven's anti-bullying policy met all of state standards.

Under New Business, Business Manager Paul Kitchen presented two requests for Rogers Trust fund transfers. Both were for architectural plans and bid documents for Fairhaven High School projects in articles at Town Meeting.

Guastavino tile replacement over FHS egresses was estimated at a range of \$180,000 to \$111,000. Mr. Kitchen said the range reflected copper flashing instead of PVC sonafelt. Also, the architect reviewed plans and prioritized areas in greatest need of replacing.

The architect recommended repairing the front entrances and an area that connects the two buildings (loggia) immediately, egresses east and west as necessary but not urgent, and areas to the rear of FHS as needed within five years. The transfer would pay for plans for the front egresses and loggia with east and west entrances as add-alternates for a target bid range of \$90,000. PVC will be used where it is not visible.

Mr. Gonsalves said he had read that a FinCom suggestion was to remove tiles if the situation was life-threatening. He asked if anyone from the building department or inspection services had looked at the building. He also asked if removing tiles would alleviate the problem.

Mr. Kitchen said no one had come out to look at it from the Town. In answer to the second question, water getting underneath the copper eroded the tiles' mortar, which in turn made the tiles loose. Mr. Kitchen did not believe removing the tiles would eliminate the problem.

SCHOOLS: cont'd on page 30

ML's Eye on the Weather



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

It's not time to put away your snow shovels just yet

There's been some fuss about the "nuisance" snow events recently. It is the time of year when the calendar heralds the first day of spring giving a false perception that winter is over. But winter leaves on its own terms and Mother Nature reminds us that April storms are her specialty.

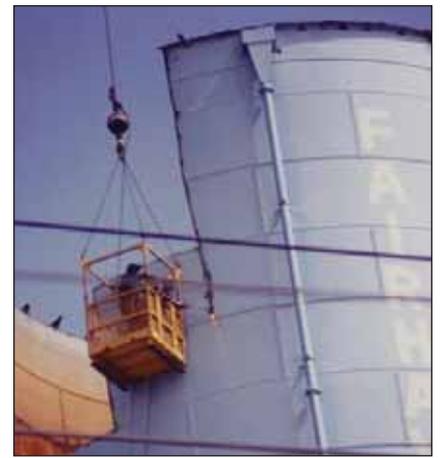
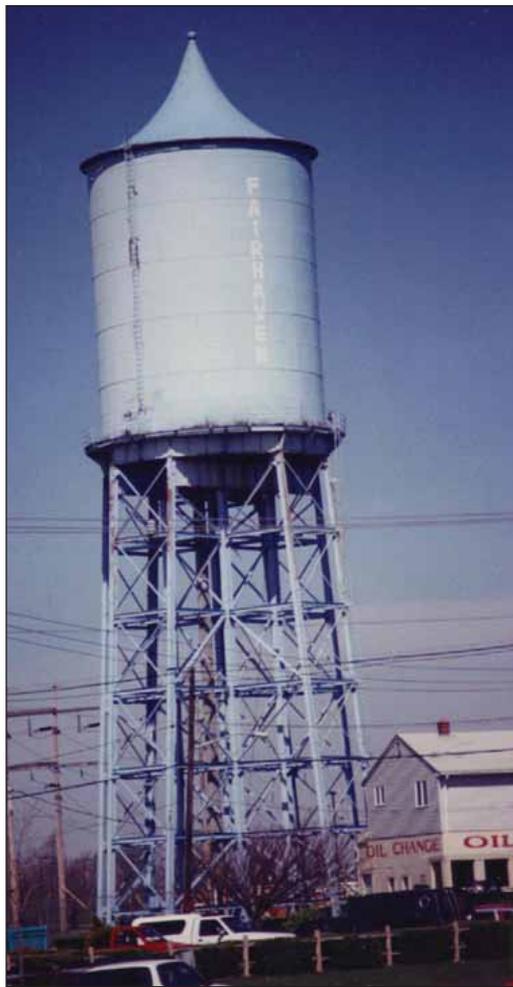
The April Fool's Day Blizzard of 1997 buried the Northeast with over two feet of snow, locally 15-18". More snow fell with this one storm than the entire 96-97 winter season combined in most areas. Hurricane force winds (74 MPH) accompanied the heavy wet snow making this storm one of the worst New England April snow storms in history. The day after, the sky was bright blue as the storm exited with temperatures in the mid 50's.

Forecast

Friday: Hi: 45 Cloudy with a chance of rain and snow. Highs in the mid 40s. Lows in the mid 30s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent. **Friday Night:** Lo: 35. Cloudy with a chance of rain and snow. Highs in the mid 40s. Lows in the mid 30s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday: Hi: 49. Partly sunny with a chance of rain and snow. Highs in the upper 40s. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. **Saturday Night:** Lo: 35. Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows in the mid 30s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Sunday: Hi: 49. Mostly sunny. Highs



The Fairhaven Water Tower at Route 6 and Alden Road, built in 1902, was a prominent landmark for almost 92 years. During WWII it was painted dark green. It later became the sky-blue icon of Fairhaven's business center on Route 6/Huttleston Avenue. Two newer tanks were erected in the late 70's (Alden Rd.) and early 80's (Scoticut Neck) rendering the old tank obsolete. Water was still kept inside to keep the deteriorating structure stable until it was chopped away by a welder's torch in April 1994. Photos from 1994 courtesy of Bob Bumpus and MLBaron Historic Archives.

in the upper 40s. **Sunday Night:** Clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Monday/ELECTION DAY: Partly Cloudy. High: 50. **Monday Night:** Mostly Cloudy. Low: 49

Tues.: Cloudy With Rain. High: 52. **Tues. Night:** Mostly Cloudy. Low: 39

Wed.: Partly Cloudy. High: 39. **Wed. Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 32

Thursday: Partly Cloudy. High: 39. **Thurs.**

Night: Partly Cloudy. Low: 38

The island's ocean temperature is 42 degrees. Summer Countdown: 82 days

This forecast is based on data received at the time of publication and is subject to change.



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Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck

April 2011		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Friday	1	0733	1945	0100	1253
Saturday	2	0809	2019	0134	1327
Sunday	3	0843	2052	0209*	1402*
Monday	4	0916	2124	0245*	1437*
Tuesday	5	0951	2157	0320*	1512*
Wednesday	6	1027	2233	0355	1546
Thursday	7	1108	2313	0428	1621
Friday	8	1152	2359	0504	1659
Saturday	9	----	1242	0544	1743
Sunday	10	0051	1335	0634	1838
Monday	11	0148	1433	0744	1950

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

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

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FINCOM: cont'd from page 12

shovel...or a quahog rake," said Mr. Roderiques.

Mr. Hyland agreed with Ms. Szala and Mr. Silva. A motion to table the article failed in a 6-6 vote. A motion to recommend adopting the article and purchase the land passed 7-5. Voting against were Mr. Hyland, Ms. Szala, Mr. Silva, Kathleen Carter and Dan Denardis.

A Special FinCom Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. to review funding source nomenclature and vote articles, time permitting.

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

Town Meeting Articles:

- Article 8, E, Point Road — Postpone indefinitely

Special Town Meeting Articles:

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, 4/11, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Boat Ramps Committee

Thurs., 3/31, Town Hall, 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

Tues., 4/5, 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

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/31, Arsene St., 7:00 p.m.

Tues., 4/5, Arsene St., 7:00 p.m.

Thurs., 4/7, Arsene St., 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 4/7, Arsene St., 7:30 p.m.

At Finance Committee meeting

School Committee

Wed., 4/13, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Mon., 4/4, 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.

- Article 1, Tax Title transfer of \$30,000 from short-term interest account — Approve
- Article 1, BPW, Sewer Division retirement buyout of \$10,693.85 from sewer retained earnings account — Approve
- Article 1, Contributory retirement for employee in overseas service of \$5,109 from surplus revenues — Approve
- Article 2, A, Unpaid bill, \$89 from surplus revenues — Approve
- Article 3B, Funding Labor Contracts for FY11 — Not to support any raises for FY11
- Article 22 & 23, Amendment to Town By-Laws/Pawn dealers — Yield to petitioner
- Article 24, Close out of unissued borrowings — Approve

*See page three, CPC article.

Fishing fund-raiser big success



On Friday, March 11th the Hastings Middle School cafeteria was filled with community members who were very supportive of the Local Fishing Industry. The fundraiser was quite a success for the HMS Student Council who held and sponsored the event. This idea was from one of the 7th grade student council members, Caleb Cebula. He thought we should try to help out the local community members that have been affected by the recent troubles in the fishing industry. He knows first hand about these issues because members of his family are in the industry, as are many other students' families. Over \$3,500 was raised through ticket sales, raffle items and cash donations from individuals, families and businesses. Everyone in attendance was very impressed with all the hard work of the students and volunteers who made the event possible. All of the money will be donated to The New Bedford Harbor Commission which has set up a Relief Fund for local families. The student council would like to thank all of the local businesses that made donations to the event, especially all of the seafood which was donated by The New Bedford Seafood Auction from the Canastra family. We would also like to thank Chef Roger, who donated his time to cook such a wonderful meal, as well as all the teachers and staff who volunteered their time for the night. *Photo submitted. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

Couple celebrates 65th



RIGHT: On Wednesday, March 2nd, Weber Torres and his wife Alice celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary. They shared their celebration with all of us in the Fairhaven Social Day Program. The family took a cake, some balloons and beautiful plants to put on all the tables. Everyone had a great time and we wish them all the happiness in the future. LEFT: Their wedding picture, 65 years ago. *Submitted photos.*

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FinCom chair's letter to Town Meeting members

By John Roderiques

Chairperson of the Fairhaven Finance Committee

Fairhaven's Annual and Special Town Meetings are scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011. Town Meeting will have to make significant decisions on the town's financial present and future needs. So far Fairhaven has been able to weather the "Great Recession" better than some.

The hard decisions that have been made elsewhere have been delayed here in part due to tighter and more realistic appropriations and the significant surplus revenue Fairhaven had accrued in past fiscal years. With state aid and local receipts dwindling, Fairhaven no longer has that luxury.

Substantial differences of opinion exist between some Departments, Administration and the Finance Committee on how to meet the needs for FY12 and also reasonably plan for known future expenditures that must or should be made.

Compounding the matter, those disagreements will exist within Departments, possibly the Administration and among Finance Committee and Town Meeting members.

The Finance Committee is not only obligated, but committed, to providing a balanced budget which realistically provides not only for the present, also future needs.

If we fully fund those proposed articles which look toward future obligations, cuts to present article requests and operational expenses will have to be made.

The questions you will ultimately have to decide are how much of our present operations and needs are to be cut or delayed in order to fund those future obligations at the requested levels.

You should receive the Finance Committee booklet and recommendations and the two Meeting Warrants at least a week before the meeting date.

You can watch the various meetings of the Town Boards and Committees which air on local Cable TV Channel 18. You will get a better understanding of the positions being taken and the reasoning why.

At your precinct meeting, to be scheduled sometime during the week prior to Town Meeting, many questions and issues will be discussed and hopefully answered.

Again, we all face many difficult

provided with this information much sooner than you actually will be. In the world we must live in, this is not possible. This is why we urge you to begin investigating the issues as soon as you can.

It is Town Meeting, not any board, committee or person, which decides how much of the available revenue and the excess funds are to be spent and what should be held in reserve.

The Finance Committee recommendations must first and foremost be based on balancing the budget; and, in doing so, to attempt to continue to provide you with the level of services it feels you may wish.

Budgets every year are scrutinized, even more so in years where requests and articles must be cut. In these times, if it is not essential, an expense has to be weighed against the needs of the entire Town, no matter how much or how or little it costs.

This is why you'll see disagreements over not only hundreds of thousands of dollars but a few hundred dollars. Every dollar not spent on discretionary matters is a dollar that can be used to sustain operations and pay fixed costs.

As a volunteer committee we do our best to make sure you are provided the necessary information in order that you can make informed decisions. No information should be withheld from you.

The Finance Committee and Administration each recommend, Departments and Petitioners request, and it is you who decide.

You may very well disagree with some of our recommendations. We not only recognize this fact, but we readily acknowledge that it is you who should rightfully make the ultimate decisions.

•••

It is Town Meeting, not any board, committee or person, which decides how much of the available revenue and the excess funds are to be spent and what should be held in reserve.

choices this year. To make matters worse, we have yet to receive the final state aid figures for the amount of state aid, and may not until mid-April.

Present indications are that the preliminary state aid figures released will be reduced. If so, a number of recommendations that appear in the booklet you do receive will need to be changed.

Hand in hand with its legal obligations, the Finance Committee strives to base its decisions on all information available, and to make sure that information is given to you.

In an ideal world, you would be

Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 11, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fairhaven Town Hall East Room (2nd floor). Purpose is for the Request for Determination of the following matters as required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Notice of Intent Applicant the Babaanikas Irrevocable Trust Location 69 Winnsegansett Avenue Plot 42A Lot 232A Purpose obtain Chapter 91 Waterway License and repair seawall.
- Notice of Intent Applicant Ann Thomas Location 1 Sippican Street Plot 42A Lot 264 Purpose obtain A Chapter 91 Waterway License and repair seawall.

- Notice of Intent Applicant George Fairbanks Location 5 Sippican Street Plot 42A Lot 261 Purpose Obtain Chapter 91 Waterway License, repair seawall and improve driveway surface for handicap accessibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Jones, Chairman
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

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Letters to the Editor

School Superintendent makes too much

Due to the current economic state, I implore Fairhaven town meeting members to scrutinize every line of the School Department's budget, before voting on it at town meeting in May.

While the Superintendent reminds us, "The legislative body cannot dictate how the appropriated money is spent," he ought to be reminded that the legislative body has the power to deny his budget request.

The online FY 2012 budget summary does not demonstrate the School Department's transparency. It is, clearly, a pacifier, presented with the intent of hoping taxpayers see where the money goes, without understanding where the money goes.

I believe the School Committee made a generous, unrealistic contract with the Superintendent, and is placing the obligation of honoring it on town meeting members.

I wonder how School Department employees, who are town meeting members, can vote on the budget without feeling awkward about this situation. I hope they vote as representatives of the people who elected them.

If the Superintendent didn't accept his raise last year, that was his decision. In the private sector, when a company suffers an unprofitable year, it takes a loss. And it doesn't earn a double increase the following year to make up for it.

Since the School Committee wants the Superintendent to have his raise, they should do what every household in town does, cut their budget somewhere else. Don't request extra money under the guise of (the children's needs) "level service funding."

The School Committee must face reality. Fairhaven taxpayers won't be held hostage to the terms of a contract that was made behind closed doors.

In this economy, town meeting members need to appropriate money that is adequate for our children's education. It's not their responsibility to support contractual obligations that they did not create.

Michelle Furtado, Fairhaven

Monroe will represent all

After watching the first two candidate's nights, I believe that

Brian Monroe is very knowledgeable about the issues and will represent the greater community well as a member of the school committee.

Over the past three years, I have had the pleasure of working with Brian in the Fairhaven Little League. As a coach, he works well with the kids and can always be counted on to be there. Brian has shown that he is dedicated to the youth of Fairhaven and he has already volunteered to coach an Instructional team for the upcoming season.

I believe that Brian will represent all of the citizens of Fairhaven with honor and integrity. He will be strong voice and make sure that people are heard. It is clear that he has the professionalism and common sense to work with others and get the job done.

Please join me on April 4th in voting for Brian Monroe for Fairhaven School Committee.

Let's get things moving in the right direction.

Peter DeTerra

Fairhaven Little League

Instructional League Agent

Member Fairhaven Board of Health

Hoppy pulling "puppet strings"

Why is Hoppy Hobson [Board of Public Works member Robert Hobson] working so hard against the re-election of his fellow board member Kathy Bouley Sturtevant? Could it be that Hoppy wants to continue pulling the puppet strings on the present superintendent Bill Fitzgerald? How else does the Board of Public Works pave the street with one full-time resident? Potter Street.* The only full-time resident that uses the street, Bobby Hobson. Why are the only street lights we have up on recent years only on Potter Street? Bobby Hobson.

Hoppy wants the superintendent to continue being his minion and we will have public works projects for Robert Hobson, and not the rest of the Town of Fairhaven.

I urge my fellow voters to strongly support and vote for Kathy Sturtevant on Monday, April 4, election day. We must maintain some integrity and honesty on that Board of Public Works. We certainly won't get that from Hoppy.

Leslie Stykowski, Fairhaven

Editor's note: Potter Street has no homes as listed in the town's online database. Mr. Hobson lives on a street that is accessed via Potter Street. There are approximately 20 other homes that also require access from Potter Street.

Brodeur & Hobson would be "comedy show"

Monday, April 4, 2011, is election day. We have an opportunity to vote for Richard Brodeur [for Board of Public Works]. Wouldn't that be a hoot? Brodeur and Hoppy [BPW member Robert Hobson] on the same board.

Although the meetings would be a free comedy show for the people of Fairhaven, unfortunately the show is not free. Hundreds of thousands of dollars wasted on Howland Road, a project that is years behind schedule, months behind on an anaerobic digester with cost overruns of hundreds of thousands of dollars, wasteful spending of Chapter 90 money instead of using it for road reconstruction and a Public Works superintendent suspended for poor work attendance and who doesn't even show up in snowstorms.

And Hoppy wants to keep this superintendent? Is it so he pull the puppet strings and take care of himself and his cronies? However, the joke would be on the voters of Fairhaven.

I urge you to vote for Kathy Sturtevant, an incumbent for re-election to the Board of Public Works. We must maintain some honesty, integrity and common sense on this board or the joke will be on the people of Fairhaven and the entire town of Fairhaven will pay the cost.

Join with me and re-elect Kathy Sturtevant to the Board of Public Works.

Sonny Eddleston, Fairhaven

Sturtevant gets the job done

I first got to know Kathy Sturtevant at a Hastings Middle School debate in which my brother John, who was running for the Board of Health, was giving his speech. In that speech he stated that bringing Town sewer down Scoticut Neck was an important thing to do. After the debate, a woman walked up to him and said, "I like what you had to say about the Scoticut Neck sewer

LETTERS: cont'd on page 28



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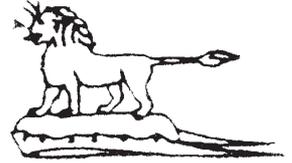
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LETTERS: cont'd from page 26

project and I will work to get you elected." That woman was Kathy Sturtevant.

On the way home I told my brother that I thought the debate went well, to which my brother stated, "the best thing about that debate was meeting Kathy Sturtevant."

He also responded by saying, "Kathy seems like a wonderful person and I know she is the type of individual who can get the job done."

To this date that statement remains true.

Whether it has been fighting to bring Town sewer down the Neck or working to get fair and equitable tie-in fees for our homeowners, Kathy has produced. In her civic activities Kathy has brought this same work ethic: hiding eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, handing out candy at the annual Halloween Horribles Parade and working the Homecoming Fair for charity. Kathy has demonstrated her love of this Town through her actions.

In conclusion, if you want to continue to get good things done in this Town then give the job to one busy lady, give it to Kathy Sturtevant. I hope all the residents of Fairhaven will consider voting for Kathy Sturtevant for Re-Election to the Board of Public Works.

Mark Badwey, Fairhaven

Sturtevant made Fairhaven "a better place"

I would like to add my voice to those many people who support Kathy Sturtevant for reelection to the Board of Public Works. Kathy has been a lifetime resident of Fairhaven, and it can be said that she has made Fairhaven a better place.

As Chairman of the Board of Health I can state that being involved in the Sciticut Neck sewer project has had a positive impact on the health and well-being of the citizens of Fairhaven. Not only did this project, resolve issues pertaining to failed septic systems, but it also helped to clean up the waters surrounding Sciticut Neck, allowing for shell-fishing in areas that had been closed for over 40 years.

Kathy has served on other committees, including the conservation commission. She is a dedicated public servant and she brings to the Board of Public Works intelligence, hard work, as well as common sense.

I urge you to join with me on election day, April 4, 2011 and vote for Kathy Sturtevant for reelection to the Board of Public Works.

Keep Fairhaven moving in a positive direction.

*Peter DeTerra
Chairman, Fairhaven Board of Health*

Freitas defends Sturtevant stance

The word around the town of Fairhaven is that Kathy Bouley Sturtevant, who is running for reelection to the Board of Public Works, wants to "get rid" of the current BPW superintendent, Bill Fitzgerald. The truth is that Kathy was one of three BPW members, including myself, who voted not to renew Mr. Fitzgerald's contract for a multitude of reasons which I would like to touch on in this letter.

Mr. Fitzgerald was made aware of the board's concerns which were discussed with him at length in executive session (in the absence of cameras) and the public has the right to be informed of the reasons behind our decision.

The reasons include:

1. Excessive absenteeism, because of which he received a suspension by the board.
2. Lack of supervisory skills: he is not a good day-to-day manager of the department.
3. Failure to cross-train staff after being told by the board to do so. This is a concern when employees are out sick or on vacation. Who will ensure that the job will get done?

In short, he is a procrastinator, he is overwhelmed by projects, he failed to adequately inform the board on BPW issues, and his staff does not have faith in their "leader."

While two board members would like him to remain one more year to see projects through completion such as the Digester project, he fails to attend the meetings with the engineers who are working on this project. Who is looking out for the taxpayers of this town?

We have projects behind schedule with cost overruns that need the attention of a superintendent who will make their successful completion a priority while doing his best to keep costs down. You need to ask yourselves a question, does the town need

a "puppet" superintendent for a few individuals or one looking after the best interests of all the townspeople?

He failed to obtain three bids on an \$80,000 boiler replacement project after being told by the board to do so, stating that spending this amount of money is "the cost of business." Could taxpayer money have been saved on this project if three bids were obtained? Every penny counts in these financially hard times.

Mr. Fitzgerald has publically received credit for obtaining grants for BPW projects such as the Digester, when in fact our state representative, William Straus was largely responsible for this accomplishment.

Kathy Sturtevant has been targeted as the sole member of the board looking to replace Mr. Fitzgerald, when in fact, the majority of the board made this important decision. The BPW needs a new superintendent who will not only effectively manage the department, supervise BPW projects, look for alternative funding sources for projects, but most importantly look at the best and most cost-effective ways to utilize taxpayer funds for the betterment of our community.

Kathy Sturtevant has been an asset to the Board of Public Works. She makes decisions after careful consideration of the facts. I fully support her re-election to the Board of Public Works and I ask you to support her in the polls as well. We need individuals who will put the taxpayer first, treat all residents fairly and equally while maintaining the most important goal which is to work for the greater good of Fairhaven.

Dan Freitas, BPW Commissioner

Riley supports removing Fitzgerald

I am writing to make the public aware of the reasons why I voted along with fellow board members Dan Freitas and Kathy Sturtevant not to renew BPW superintendent Bill Fitzgerald's contract. These reasons include:

- Budgets are late and inaccurate.
- Mr. Fitzgerald relies on engineers so he can function in his position which cost the town hundreds of thousands of dollars since he has been employed.
- Bill had nothing to do with the

LETTERS: cont'd on page 29

LETTERS: cont'd from page 28

- design of Howland Road. It was started before he worked for the town. Delays have been longer because of his failure to search for answers rather than wait for the engineer to advise him. Extra cost to the town is over \$500,000.
- Green and Middle Streets were done by [town Planner William] Roth and the grants he obtained.
 - Southcoast Hospital Group negotiated with the Planning Board on road work design NOT the BPW. The BPW got involved on sewer and water per TOWN requirements.

- Bill has cost the town over \$47,000 in cost overruns on the design of the digester. Town meeting will now have to vote on an article to pay for these costs.
- Cost overruns on the digester are over \$300,000 now and rising and the project is three months behind schedule due to lack of management on the project and attention to details.
- Mr. Fitzgerald misses 75% of the project meetings for the digester.
- Mr. Fitzgerald's absenteeism over the past three years has been

noted by the BPW on numerous occasions.

- His lack of knowledge in the daily running of each department is evident in how he manages the staff.
 - Failure to obtain 3 bids on the recent boiler replacement project potentially cost the town thousands.
- We can no longer afford to waste any more taxpayers' dollars. Please join me in voting to re-elect Kathy Bouley Sturtevant on Monday, April 4th for Board of Public Works.

Steve Riley, BPW Commissioner

JAPAN: cont'd from page 16

worrying about people still there. "All our family's there, and close friends." She said she doubts the magnitude of the damage will ever be known.

Ms. Dupre also said the reaction of friends here in the US was great. She posted something on Facebook.

"I was overwhelmed with the number of people who asked about her," said Ms. Dupre. "Once I found out where she was, I was more worried about her anxiety level than her safety."

"[I feel] relief, and concern about those back in Japan. The size of the devastation is incredible," said Ayako's husband Gerry. "And I feel a sense of responsibility to help those folks."

Ten percent of everything they sold on Sunday will go to Japan. He said they had raised \$4,000 up to then, with most of the donations arriving by mail before the Open House.

And then the Berniers arrived. Therese Bourassa-Bernier, her husband Robert, and their daughter Veronica had a special gift for the Manjiro Society. But make no mistake, it was all Veronica's idea. The seven-year-old put a can on the counter at Bourassa's Hardware store and asked people to donate. According to her mother, young Veronica has the touch.

Ms. Bourassa-Bernier also said that just saying "Japan" made people dig into their pockets.

But they did not only give. Veronica gave them copies of her original poetry in thanks for their donations.

"It was kind of cool," said her mother.

She said Veronica is from China, not Japan, but that Ayako Rooney was still a surrogate grandmother to her.

The WMFS 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.

The two families have forged generations-long ties and periodically return to Fairhaven for events, including the Manjiro Festival, which is held on alternating years between Fairhaven and Tosashimizu. This year it will be in Fairhaven. For more information on the WMFS visit <http://manjiro1.tripod.com/>

To help the earthquake and tsunami victims, 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 St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

PETITION: cont'd from page 4

Following the receipt of the determination letter, FinCom may make its recommendation whether to fund the schematic design. If it gets voted down at Town Meeting, the town will be removed from the list, Mr. Murphy said.

"There's a lot at stake here. Everyone needs to know all the facts. All the facts have to be totally at the fore," he emphasized. "So many

communities are vying for money."

Mr. Murphy said that, although he always liked the idea of two schools, he believed major renovations were needed at Rogers. He said he would definitely do more research and that he had talked to a lot of people, and had gone over the pros and cons with Mr. Osuch.

"I want what's best for our children and our Town," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by Sharon Lacroix-Andersen, spokesperson for the group that organized the petition.

"I don't want to be seen as a group that's splitting the Town," she said. "People want what's right for the children."

The group has a Facebook page, "Fairhaven Save Our Schools" and website, www.FairhavenSOS.org •••

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SCHOOLS: cont'd from page 20

Galvanized aluminum had also been considered instead of copper, but would have a lesser design life. Like PVC, aluminum would last about 25 years and copper lasts up to 100 years. Mr. Kitchen said less visible areas such as the area over the boiler room and electrical room could be replaced with PVC instead of copper to reduce costs. Also, Guastavino tiles inside an electrical room in the loggia could be removed and re-used to save money.

The School Committee voted unanimously to approve \$28,120 from the Rogers Trust for architectural plans and bid documents for Guastavino tile replacement.

Mr. Kitchen also sought funding from the Rogers Trust for architectural design of window replacement in the Knipes Auditorium. After talking to town planner William Roth Mr. Kitchen said they would make a grant application to the Mass. Historical Commission (MHC) for \$100,000. The anticipated \$190,000 CPC funds could be used as a match. Since MHC does not award funding until June, work would be performed

over the winter.

The School Committee voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$24,840 for the windows.

Mr. Kitchen also sought approval for issuing an insulation contract for Hasting Middle School's 6th grade wing. Air samples have shown a high spore count believed to come from the dirt floor in the basement. So far the area has received an air handler, new drainage, new roofing and soon will have new windows. The proposal was to install a vapor barrier between the dirt floor and the floor decking using cold cell installation.

Mr. Veitch asked who was paying for the insulation. Mr. Kitchen said it was coming from general appropriation. The School Committee voted unanimously to award the \$46,950 contract.

In other business, the School Committee:

- Discussed holding their first public hearing on the School District FY2012 budget for April. Vice-chairperson Louis Kruger asked whether the Committee had received feedback from FinCom

and the Selectboard. Mr. Roderick said that he left the Selectboard meeting feeling comfortable and was surprised to read in the paper that the Executive Secretary was going to cut the School budget \$175,000. Dr. Baldwin said nothing had been done formally yet on the budget.

- Voted to adopt the school calendar as proposed on first reading
- Selected Daedelus as Operating Project Manager and Durland VanVoorhis as designer for the Hasting Middle School Green Repair Program.
- Reconvened in Executive Session to discuss a strategy for collective bargaining. Upon returning from Executive Session, the Committee voted unanimously to amend the Unit A Teachers' contract. When asked for details on the amendment, Mr. Veitch said the amendment had not yet been ratified and directed inquiries to Dr. Baldwin. In a follow-up interview, Dr. Baldwin said that the amendment was a clarification of seniority with respect to maternity leave.

SELECT: cont'd from page 17

Potter Street. They will try to find another way to fund the chip sealing of Wayne Street.

During that discussion, Dr. Bowcock responded to a claim by Board of Public Works Vice Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson that the Selectboard should not select which streets would be paved.

"We make recommendations on all of the town's projects," Dr. Bowcock said, noting that all Town Meeting articles had columns for recommendations from the Selectboard and the Finance Committee, not the BPW.

At the conclusion of the regular session, the Board reconvened in executive session to discuss negotiations with the police union, as well as New Bedford water and sewer, and a lawsuit against the town.

In other business, the board:

- Signed a financing agreement with Solar Power Partners, which is financing the project for Blue Sky Power for solar panels at the landfill
- Voted to hold off on an early retirement incentive for non union personnel so that they could get more information on the town's financial situation.
- Voted to give non union personnel a one percent raise for FY12.
- Voted to sign a letter of support for the coalition for Buzzards Bay's efforts to acquire property in the Mattapoisett River Basin to protect the region's public water supply
- Voted to accept Joan Mello's request to be re-appointed to the Council on Aging.
- Discussed ways to generate business for local inns with Hampton Inn Manager Jennifer Hartley.●●●

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