



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 17 • May 5, 2011

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

Cancer center opens doors to public



The Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care held an open house at its new facility on Mill Road in Fairhaven on Saturday 4/30. Members of the public toured the new facility, while volunteers explained the functions of the rooms and state-of-the-art equipment. The 56,000 square foot facility has 16 chemotherapy stations and the latest in imaging technology, including a CT scanner, and a PET/CT scanner. ABOVE: The star attraction at the new Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care in Fairhaven: a Linear Accelerator (Linac). The Linac can turn 360 degrees around the patient table, the table can move 180 degrees to get just the exact angle. The Linac delivers a range of radiation, from low dose treatments to radiation surgery. 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 32
- **Finance Committee**, page 12

- **Letters to the editor**: page 20
- **MSBA letter**, page 17

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Osama bin Laden is dead. Our Navy SEALS, in an extraordinarily daring mission, infiltrated way inside Pakistan and killed him in a suburban mansion. I started this whole big thing about celebrating a violent death and his young child being there and all, but I deleted it. I'd rather just marvel at how the guy was living the suburban lifestyle in a grand way, while we all thought he'd be in a hole like Saddam Hussein's "spide hole." Bin Laden was living in a million-dollar McMansion a stone's throw from Pakistan's version of West Point.

Geesh. No wonder we couldn't find him.

Who would've thought of looking there?

We've got lots of great coverage for you this week. We've published our annual salaries issue this week, right before town meeting. See page 26–30 for what all town employees made last year, and also a little update on last week's administrator salary story.

For meeting coverage we have Selectboard on page 32, School Committee on page 33, and Finance Committee on page 12.

Our cover story is about the brand-new cancer treatment center in Fairhaven. See page 16 for that. It's a beautiful building, that's for sure. It will also make it much easier for local cancer patients to get state-of-the-art treatment. No more traveling to Boston or even just Fall River. Let's hope, however, that fewer and fewer people need it as time goes on.

Joyce Rowley wrote a great piece on the conflict of interest/ethics law. I've made some pointed comments on this page about board members recusing themselves from votes and not telling us why, and not leaving the room.

Joyce got to the bottom of what the law requires, and what common sense dictates. It's not as clear cut as it may seem.

I, however, stand by my comments. I don't care what the law says. I think the public should know why a board member won't vote on something. If it's just because he or she hasn't decided yet, he should just abstain. If it's because of a conflict, I think the public has a right to know. Yes, they don't have to say why according to the law, but this is America. I can disagree with the law. There's nothing in the law that says they CAN'T tell us.

Well, until next week then,



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS

In our article on teacher salaries in last week's issue, we made a mistake. The average salary for teachers in Rochester is \$68,289.

After-prom parties at both FHS & GNBVT to keep seniors safe

Cruising at FHS

As far as safe events for teenagers, the parent-chaperoned after-prom at Fairhaven High School hopes to offer more exciting and amusing entertainment than an out-of-school private party could afford.

To recreate the number of fun things to do aboard a cruise ship and the settings at ports along the way, the after-prom committee has put together a full package of customized decorative creations, themed entertainment and large rented amusements. Some of the highlights include indoor motorized toilet-shaped race cars, a giant laser tag arena, caricature artists, and personalized music videos. There will also be plenty of food and beverages.

The school's gymnasium, theater and their connecting lobbies, as well as a large adjacent classroom are completely transformed with decorations to fit the Midnight Cruise theme. Participating students get the run of these spaces to enjoy the games and amusements.

At the end of the night, FHS students have chances to win a

number of valuable prizes, Chinese auction style. Most importantly, the event is guaranteed alcohol-free; and for parents, that should take a lot of worry out of prom night. Seniors and juniors who do not attend the prom are also welcome to attend this event.

This year's event has been months in the making. Much of that time is spent fundraising and gathering donations of food and prizes. The specialty entertainment consumes a significant portion of the budget, but is essential to making the event one students will want to participate in. The planning committee is actively seeking donations and raffle prize giveaways and has generated a "Top 10 Reasons to Support the After-Prom Event" to encourage area businesses to contribute.

In addition, the committee is sponsoring the Mr. Fairhaven competition. This year eight senior boys are vying for the title of Mr. Fairhaven. Their fate will be decided on May 6 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center where they will be judged for their pizzazz in casual wear, swim wear, formal wear,

and a talent presentation. Admission is \$ 7.00.

To contribute or volunteer for the Fairhaven High School After-Prom Event, please call Liddy Pepin at 508-993-4792. Contributions and donations can be dropped off directly to the After-Prom Committee c/o Fairhaven High School, 12 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

At GNB Voc-Tech

Prom season is fast approaching! GNB Voc-Tech will be having its fourth After Prom Event at GNB Voc-Tech fieldhouse. The After Prom provides students with a lifesaving alcohol and substance free event that is filled with cherished, happy, tragedy-free memories.

The GNB Voc-Tech After Prom Committee has been fundraising since September. We are still short of our \$20,000 goal, and have until May 26th to reach that goal. There will be a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at Café Funchal on May 6th at 7pm to help raise funds for the After Prom.

GNB Voc-Tech has over 480 students in the senior class. The goal

PROM: cont'd on page 22

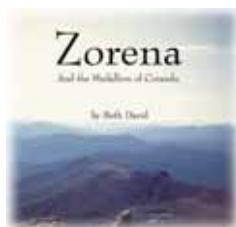
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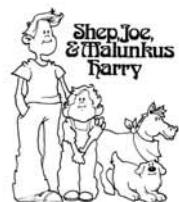
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Conflict of interest rules/violations not always clear

By Joyce Rowley

NeighbNews Correspondent

City Councilor Michael Carrigan of Sparks, Nevada, was charged with an ethics violation for not recusing himself on a vote for a new casino when his campaign manager and close confidant was getting \$10,000 a month from the developer as salary. Now at the U.S. Supreme Court, the case challenges whether Nevada's conflict of interest law can keep an elected official from his First Amendment free speech rights. Councilor Carrigan claims he did nothing wrong, but was doing what he was elected to do — cast a vote.

Massachusetts' conflict of interest law may be different, but it's all about maintaining the public trust. There are times when a board or commission members say they are abstaining or "recusing" themselves from voting. Why can't they vote? Shouldn't they say what the conflict is? Aren't they supposed to leave the room? And, hey, what about that guy who got up from one side of the table, went and sat down with the public, and then got up and spoke against that new store? How is that right?

"The intersection of the public employee's official responsibilities and their private interests creates the conflict of interest," said David Giannotti, Chief of Public Education and Communication at the State Ethics Commission. That entity receives questions and complaints about conflicts of interest for state, town, and city employees. They also provide free and confidential legal consultation to municipal officials and employees about potential conflicts.

Mass. General Law (MGL) Chapter 268A is the "conflict of interest" law for all municipal employees and officials. Anyone who is elected, appointed and/or works full-time or part-time, paid or unpaid for town, city, county or state government is considered a "public employee."

There are two types of conflicts: when a public employee has a financial interest in a matter, and when a public employee has a private interest in a matter. But having a conflict of interest does not necessarily mean there has been a

violation of the law.

Public employees are prohibited from participating officially in any matter if it affects the financial interest of the employees, their immediate families, employers or businesses, or anyone with whom they are negotiating employment for themselves.

For boards and commissions, the typical course of action is for the member to recuse himself or herself from a decision. The conflict of interest law does not make a distinction between the two terms "abstain" and "recuse." It merely states that the public employee may not participate, according to Mr. Giannotti.

When a conflict of interest comes up, board members or commis-

being filed. Leaving the room does.

It may be that just the very presence of a well-respected board member will inhibit other board members. There may be non-verbal gestures, or body language that will influence how other people on the board vote. Or the complaint may state the board member's presence was intimidating to other members.

So how about the member who abstains and then sits in with the general public? According to Mr. Giannotti, board members and commissioners do not give up their private rights. They just cannot represent any other board, person, or organization before any board in their municipality.

For example, if a Wal-Mart is proposed across the street from a board member's home, the member can abstain from voting, sit in the audience, and then participate on her or his own behalf. He cannot represent anyone else before his own board, but he can represent his own private interest, such as opposing the traffic or supporting the tax revenue that a Wal-Mart might bring.

Nor do board members have to state the reason for their recusal. However, if there are numerous occasions on which they abstain, the appointing authority, if there is one, may request a report on recusals. Otherwise, they can answer to the voters at the next election.

If someone suspects a violation, they should still file a complaint. Complaints can be filed confidentially, and even anonymously. Only the State Ethics Commission can make the determination whether a violation has occurred. The Commission reviews between 900 to 1100 complaints a year. These are first reviewed for jurisdiction and fact-finding.

About 20 to 30 complaints are publicly adjudicated. If the violation is significant, and, in the interest of justice, the public should know, the Ethics Commission makes the violation public. Otherwise, all complaints and remedies are kept confidential.

The fines for a violation can be steep — up to \$10,000 for civil penalties. There are a few instances

When in doubt, don't vote...

It's not worth getting in trouble over.

[John Roderiques]

If you recuse yourself,
get up and walk out of
the room. [Jeffrey Osuch]

sioners may recuse themselves and stay at the meeting table; they may get up and sit in with the general public; or they may leave the room before the discussion starts. As long as they do not participate in the discussion or vote, said Mr. Giannotti, then it is not considered a violation of the law.

According to Town Counsel Thomas Crotty, the difference between the two terms is whether the abstention is counted in the vote. If there is a recusal and the person leaves the room, he or she clearly is not counted. If he abstains, the vote will reflect it and it may be considered participation.

In a practical sense, though, recusing and staying at the table during discussion does not insulate the public employee from a complaint



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Mothers' Club

The Fairhaven Mothers' Club will hold its board meeting on 5/12 at 10 a.m. at the home of Gwen Skinner. The Club will hold its Directors Luncheon Annual Meeting, including election of officers, at the Pasta House in Fairhaven on May 17 at noon.

Book Bazaar

Families are invited to celebrate the love of reading and writing at the Southcoast Children's Book Bazaar on Saturday, May 14, from 10am - 2pm, hosted by the East Fairhaven School, 2 New Boston Road, Fairhaven. Authors and Illustrators for children of all ages will be in attendance.

Event includes storytime with the authors/illustrators, book signings, crafts, "Runaway Story" writing workshop. Also, FREE Title I resources for parents: Early Reading Strategies and Using the Newspaper for Reading. Admission is free.

Guests are encouraged to take a gently used book for donation to the East Fairhaven School Library.

Featuring the following authors and illustrators: Paula J. Chretien, author of "A Haunting in Plymouth, Spirit in the Woods"; Kristine Daniels, author/illustrator of "Floyd and the Irresistible Cookie"; Amy A. Gracia, "Arby the Singing Cockatoo"; Bunny Griffeth, illustrator of "The Waterfire Duck, Bubble Butt"; Eveline Hesketh-Petty, author of "Eveline's Ants;" Myra Lopes, author of "Pa's Magic Pillow," "Causey Goes to Summer Camp"; Stephanie L. Pickup, author/illustrator of "The Soldier's Tree;" Jessica Piva, illustrator of "The Adventures of Miss Aiden in Dinoland;" J. B. Spooner, author of "The Little Black Dog Series;" D.G. Stern, author of the Upton Charles Adventure Series; Jacque Stoddard, author of "Vision: The Path to Danger, Blinding Deception."

At the Millicent

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

Storytime Spring Session begins

April 25th and runs through June 3rd. No regular storytimes June 6th through 17th

Summer Storytimes begin the week of June 20th along with Summer Reading Signups!

Toddler Storytime is on Tuesdays! Back by popular demand, a second session has been added. Ages 1-3. Siblings welcome! Toddler Group I will meet from 9:30-10:15 and Toddler Group II will meet 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Big Kid Storytime is on Fridays from 10-11 a.m. Age 3-5.

Baby Storytime is on Fridays from 11:15-11:45 a.m. Age 0-18 months.

May Teen Advisory Group (Milliwizards) meets Tuesday, May 10th from 3-5 p.m. Grade 6 and up.

May CRAFTERNOON! Wednesday, May 11th from 3-5 p.m. in the downstairs Auditorium. Ages 3 and up. Springtime crafts.

Rum Runners

The Fairhaven Historical Society is planning an exhibit on the Rum Runners of Sconticut Neck. If you have information or artifacts about these local legends, please contact Mark Badwey at 508-993-1464.

Grease

Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech Theatre Company presents "Grease," the best Rock & Roll Musical to hit Broadway since the 50s.

Performances on Thurs., Fri., Sat., 5/19-21 at 7 p.m. and 5/22, Sunday matinee, 2 p.m., at GNBVT High School, 1121 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford. Tickets: \$12 general; Seniors, \$10; Students, \$6. All seating reserved. Call the box office, 508-998-3321, Ext. 424 for more info.

Car Wash

The GNBVT Theatre Company is holding a car wash fund-raiser at the school on Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m.-noon. \$5/car.

DCR Comments

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is inviting public comment on the Resource Management Plan for the Ft. Phoenix Planning unit, which includes the Ft. Phoenix, Nasketucket Bay and West Island State Reservations.

The presentation that was made on April 13 in Fairhaven is available

at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

The DCR will receive comments until Friday, May 13. Send to DCR.Updates@state.ma.us and note "Fort Phoenix RMP" in the subject line, or to Office of Public Outreach, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 251 Causway St., Boston, MA 02114.

Coalition events

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay has opened registration for Swim Buzzards Bay (July 2nd) and The Watershed Ride (October 2nd). Both are fantastic ways to enjoy the Bay and watershed while helping The Coalition protect these precious resources. Participants can register for both events at the same time and fundraise towards one combined goal.

The 18th Annual Swim Buzzards Bay will take place on Saturday July 2nd, with the first swimmers hitting the water just after 7am to swim 1.2 miles from Davy's Locker in New Bedford to DCR's Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. With great support and clean, clear water, the Swim draws a wide range of participants, including serious competitors, first-timers, families, teams, and everyone in between. Participants can register at the new Swim Buzzards Bay website: www.savebuzzardsbay.org/swim.

The 5th Annual Watershed Ride will take place on Sunday October 2nd with cyclists departing at 9am for a 76-mile Bike Ride from Westport to Woods Hole. The route is one of the region's best with winding roads that take cyclists through coastal villages, past cranberry bogs, the New Bedford waterfront, farmlands, and along the back roads of Cape Cod. There is also a 35-mile option which starts in Rochester and ends in Woods Hole. Participants can register at the new Watershed Ride website at www.savebuzzardsbay.org/ride.

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay is a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. The organization works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem through education, conservation, research and advocacy and is supported by more than 8,000 members.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Volunteers Day

On Saturday, May 7, from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will host a Volunteer Day & All-American Cookout, a volunteer-driven initiative designed to provide our national park with the people-power to ready the park for the upcoming summer season. The event kicks off with volunteer check-in at the park visitor center at 33 William Street, downtown New Bedford, where participants will receive a complimentary t-shirt. Accessible

Volunteers who have participated in past events cite the satisfaction they get from volunteering. In addition, the service activities enable volunteers to earn service-hour credits while giving something back to America's treasures — its 394 National Parks.

To learn more or to sign up, call Emily Prigot at 508-996-4095 Ext. 6105 or email emily_prigot@nps.gov. Drop-ins the day of are also welcome.

Texas Hold 'em

Texas Hold 'em Tournament to benefit the Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech After prom. On **May 6**, at **Cafe Funchal, 123 Church St., New Bedford**. Wheelchair accessible. Fifty percent of tix sales to cash prizex. Buffet included, cash bar.

Registration at 7 p.m.; game starts at 7:30. Also paying 12 levels of prizes

This is an over-21 event. Costs: \$60 per ticket. Make checks payable to GNBVT, with "After Prom" in the memo line. Sponsor a table for \$60. For info, call Michelle, 508-415-5310.

WHALE Fund-raiser

"Aoife Clancy and Friends," featuring Eddie Dillon, Truck Croteau, Jonathan Danforth, Erik Wendelken, Andrea Cooper, and Lauren and Rachel Croteau will present an exciting evening of traditional Irish music and dance on Friday, May 6, 2011 from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m., New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. Accessible.

The proceeds of this event will benefit the saving of historic buildings in New Bedford. To learn more about WHALE's projects and to order your tickets for the Celtic

Hooley, "a lively party," please visit the web site at www.waterfrontleague.org/support-us/donations/.

Your ticket, \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members, to Ceol agus Craic, "music and fun," includes a complimentary drink of your choice; Guinness, Harp, Jameson, Bailey's, Irish Coffee, Magners Irish Cider, or Wine; and a menu of Potato Leek Soup, Clam Chowder, Hearty Vegetable and Chicken Soup, Irish Soda Bread; and snacks. A cash bar will be available and the event is sponsored by Reynolds DeWalt, Peter and Toby DeWalt, mediumstudio, Peter Hawes, Garnish and Drink, and Destination Soups.

Cancer Screenings

Southcoast Hospitals Group and Northeast Ear Nose & Throat Surgeons will be offering free **head and neck cancer screenings on the Southcoast Health Van on Wed., 5/11**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at CVS/Pharmacy, 1145 Kempton St. in New Bedford. Reservations are required for the screening. To register, call the Southcoast Wellness Line at 1-800-497-1727.

To learn more about head and neck cancer visit www.headandneck.org/.

Bio Med Seminars

The Biological Medicine Network (BMN), a program of the Marion Institute, is pleased to offer a seminar, Applications of Biological Medicine, on May 20th-21st and The Pleo-Sanum "Power 10 Package": Clinical Applications on May 22nd. These seminars will take place at The Waypoint Conference Center, Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, 185 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford, MA 02740.

These seminars will be led by Frank Pleus, M.D., D.D.S, O.M.F.S. and Dirk Eckhardt, D.D.S. both from the Paracelsus Clinic in Switzerland, and Bradford Harding, M.D. and Margaret McMorrow, LAc., M.S., from the Progressive Medicine Clinic in Litchfield, CT. The seminars are designed for healthcare practitioners, medical students and the public who are interested in learning more about biological medicine.

Please visit our website www.biologicalmedicinenetwork.org, email us at info@biologicalmedicine-network.org or call the Marion

Institute at 508.748.0816 for more detailed information.

Hazelwood Run

The Greater New Bedford Track Club is excited to announce the running of its 32nd Annual Hazelwood Women's 5K Run/Walk on **Sunday, May 15, at 10 a.m. at Hazelwood Park (553 Brock Ave.) in New Bedford** to benefit The Women's Center. A fun run for children 10 and under will begin at 9:30. The 5K race will be professionally timed by 5K Sports Race Management. Prizes will be available for participants in the Kids' Run and to 5K runners and walkers, including mother/daughter teams.

The Greater New Bedford Track Club and The Women's Center would like to thank our early sponsors: Anderson Law Offices, Webster Bank, BMC HealthNet Plan, Hoyt & Hoyt, P.C., and Robert Commercial Construction. We continue to seek additional sponsors for this event.

Registration fee is \$20 per person. No fee for the Kids' Fun Run. For more information and to register, visit www.rungnbtc.com or email questions to Hazelwood5k@rungnbtc.com.

Free Meditation

At Serlingpa Meditation Center, 512 Pleasant St. (between Spring & Union). For more information, www.meditationinmass.org, or call 508-979-8277. Call for wheelchair accessibility information.

- Saturday in New Bedford. Free Event: Just Breathe: Learn to Meditate. May 7th, 10-11am Class will include short talk and guided meditation. No meditation experience necessary

- Sunday in New Bedford, Special Event: Tara & Mothers' Day High Tea, May 8th, 1:30-3pm. Mothers' Day Celebration. Enjoy tea, finger sandwiches, and crumpets and the company of our kind mothers. \$12/per person \$20/for two.

Free Lecture

Peter Pantuso, president of the American Bus Association will speak at the New Bedford Whaling Museum on Thursday, May 12 at 3:00 p.m. in the Cook Memorial Theater. A reception to "meet and greet Pete" will follow in the Jacobs Family

cont'd next page

STILL OVERTOWN

Gallery, concluding at 5:00 p.m. The event is free but reservations are required by calling Museum Admissions: (508) 997-0046, ext. 100, or by email to: plowe@whalingmuseum.org

18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown and is open daily. Wheelchair accessible. For a complete calendar of events, visit the Whaling Museum online at www.whalingmuseum.org.

AHA! Night

April showers bring May flowers! Join us on **May 12** in Downtown New Bedford when we celebrate Arts in

Bloom. Our garden of creativity is bursting with visual & performing artists including over 2500 pieces of student artwork at the NB Public Schools District-Wide Art Show as well as over 15 new & continuing shows to see at our downtown galleries, studios, shops & eateries.

AHA! Night highlights include: • We Art NB! NEW SHOWS @ Artworks!, Crowell's Fine Art, Judith Klein Art Gallery, the Green Bean, the Pour Farm Tavern, Gallery X & more! • Frock: new work by Jennifer Avery, live music with the Wolf Hongos & belly dance performance by Sarasvati @ the Garage • NB Public Schools District-Wide Art Show @ the Paul

Rodrigues Administration Building • Classical & Jazz ensemble performance by the students of Tom Short @ Gallery X • UMass Dartmouth Senior Illustration Exhibition @ Waypoint Event Center at Fairfield Inn

• SouthCoast High School Artists' Pop-Up Gallery @ Webster Bank Bldg, 5th floor • Flower Power! with the First Unitarian Church @ Custom House Square • Art in Bloom: hands on crafts @ NBAM • The Language of Flowers @ NB Whaling National Historical Park • Seed bombs with the Marion Institute @ Wings Court • Port Cities in New England lecture series @ the RJD • NB Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal @ Zeiterion Theatre.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Tiara Classic

The Women's Fund Tiara 5K Race & Walk event is here: **Mother's Day, 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.**

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.

For more information about the Women's Fund or to register as an individual or as a team, please visit www.womensfundsema.org.

At Baker Books

The following events are at Baker Books is, independent bookstore located at 69 State Rd. in North Dartmouth. Accessible. For more information, visit www.bakerbooks.net or call 508-997-6700.

Book signing

Fresh, quirky and disquieting: these are words that have been used to describe Nina-Marie Gardner's writing. She beautifully delivers an unflinching and real glimpse of alcoholism, isolation & love addiction in SHERRY & NARCOTICS, the debut novel she'll be reading from when she visits Baker Books for an in-person book signing on Sat., 5/7, at 3:00PM.

Calling her book the antithesis of chick-lit, Gardner says, "not every woman lives for Prada handbags and wants to only read about perfect

characters and happy endings." SHERRY & NARCOTICS is THE book for every woman who has ever fallen for the wrong guy, or knows someone else who has.

Visit her website at ninemariegardner.com

Special story time

Are you itching for fun? On **Saturday, May 7th at 11:00 AM**, local author Kimberly Marcus will be at Baker Books for a fun-filled story time event. She'll be reading from her debut picture book, SCRITCH-SCRATCH: A PERFECT MATCH, a rhyming romp about a flea with a knack for bringing new friends together. A story-related activity, yummy treats, and a book signing will follow the reading.

KIMBERLY MARCUS writes pictures books and novels for teens from her home in Dartmouth. She shares that home with her husband and two children, but not with any fleas! You can find out more about her and her books on her website at kimberlymarcus.com.

From the other side

Have you ever wondered what's on the other side? Or why we are here? The realm of the spirit world is closer than you think. Curious to learn more? Meet local Medium Susan Bellwether, author of MORPH IN A MINUTE: MAGIC IN THE MOMENT = RAVINGS OF A MEDIUM in person when she visits Baker Books on Tuesday, May 10th at 6:30 PM.

Susan Bellwether's life experiences

have enabled her to make contact with the spirit world. She uses her gifts to transcend other dimensions and communicate unique messages and wisdom

Free Jazz Concert

The UMass Dartmouth Music Department will present the Vocal Jazz Ensemble in concert on **Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.** This new ensemble includes vocal improvisation and four-part harmony arranged in the style of Manhattan Transfer. The group features the vocal talents of Kristine Chylinski, Charlie Denny Jr., Christine Eubanks, Marcelle Gauvin, Brad Goff, Dori Legge, Michelle Oliveri, and Rebecca Wolff.

All student ensemble concerts sponsored by the UMass Dartmouth music department are **open to the public and free of charge**. This program will take place in the Recital Hall Room 153 which is located on the first floor in the College of Visual and Performing Arts building. Visitors are advised to park in lot number 7 or 8.

For additional information about the UMass Dartmouth Music Department, please visit www1.umassd.edu/cvpa/areas/music/overview.cfun

Call For Artists

For Acushnet residents 16 years of age and older, call 508-995-4238 for information to participate in the FREE Annual Acushnet Arts & Craft Show May 21st & May 22nd.

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Recipe of the Week

Breakfast Pizza

1 store-bought pizza dough
2 tablespoons butter, melted
4 tablespoons Cinnamon-Sugar,
divided (recipe follows)
2 cups mascarpone cheese
1 tablespoon heavy cream
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tsp lemon zest (from 1 lemon)
2 cups mixed berries

Preheat the oven to 350° Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Using a rolling pin, roll out the pizza dough to a thickness of about 1/4 inch. Transfer the pizza dough to the lined baking sheet and brush the dough with the melted butter. Sprinkle with 2 tbs Cinnamon-Sugar and bake until golden brown, about 10–15 min. Cool the pizza crust on a wire rack.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, mix together the cheese, cream, lemon juice, and zest.

Spread the cheese mixture over the cooled crust. Top with mixed berries and sprinkle with the remaining Cinnamon-Sugar. Slice like a pizza and serve.

Cinnamon-Sugar:

1 vanilla bean • 1/2 cup sugar
1 tbs ground cinnamon

Cut the vanilla bean in half, lengthwise. Using the back of a knife, scrape along the inside of the vanilla bean to collect the seeds. Scrape vanilla bean seeds into a small bowl. Add sugar and cinnamon and stir to combine. Set aside in a small serving bowl.

Submitted by Rachael Thomas Higgins



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A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neigh News

FHS Baseball

Adam Mullin pitched a four-hitter versus Westport. Billy Lessa, and Dylan St.Pierre led the hit parade, in a 7-2 win. Adam got his fifth win of the season in FHS win over Wareham.

Wareham Upsets FHS

Softball 11-10

Courtney Girouard suffered her first loss of the season. Kelsey Perron-Sovik, Kelsey Rapoza and Kayli Moniz had three hits apiece for the Lady Blues.

FHS was beating ORR on Monday 6-3 in the fifth inning. Kayli Moniz got the big hit to put the Blues ahead.

FHS Girls and Boys Tennis

Both teams won big again. Ray Lawton led Blues over Wareham. Christina Pottel and Michelle Westgate led the girls with a big win over Wareham.

Prose on Pros

Jordon Todman a Charger

Jordan Todman taken 183rd round in the NFL Draft. I thought he would go higher and maybe the Pats would take him. He ends up with the SD Chargers where I think he will be much better off. Congratulations and good luck to Jordan. I do not like any of Belichick's picks, number 56th pick

Shane Vereen RB maybe be Ben's son. Number 74, a six-foot seven QB Ryan Mallett, maybe be a tight end someday, he will never replace Brady. Super Bill, you need defensive linemen.

Bruins get big win over Montreal, should beat Philly. Celtics in trouble with Heat.

Ray Dean

One of Fairhaven's best passed away last Friday. Ray was co-chairman of FHS Hall of Fame for years and was also an FHS Hall Of Famer. Ray excelled in basketball and baseball in the middle 40s at Fairhaven High. He later played and coached in the City Basketball League. For many years he coached Fairhaven Little League Teams and Fairhaven Rec Girls Basketball. He was an ASA and High School Softball Umpire for many many years.

Mr. Dean was also a mailman in Fairhaven for many years. Ray could be seen at many FHS games, which he was a big supporter of. A friend to so many through his coaching and umpiring, he will be sorely missed by all of Fairhaven. Thanks Ray for just being Ray Dean.

A Friend

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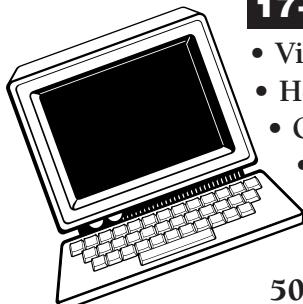
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FinCom Votes 5-4 to Recommend the One-school Option

By Joyce Rowley

NeighbNews Correspondent

When all was said and done, the Fairhaven Finance Committee was about evenly divided over proposed Article 8, Schematic Design for the preferred option — consolidation of Rogers and Wood Schools.

The first vote, for indefinite postponement, failed 4-5 at the FinCom meeting on 4/28. The same members, Padraic Elliott, Sidney Martin, Theresa Szala and Kathleen Carter, voted against funding the article, but it passed 5-4. Chairperson John Roderiques, Antonio D. DeNardis, Edward Silva, Scott Fernandes and Kim Hyland voted in favor. Jennifer Bishop, Ronald Quintin, and Carl Bissonnette were absent.

The hour-long debate was not a public hearing, and was announced by Chairperson Roderiques as a discussion only among FinCom members. Many of the issues had been discussed at earlier meetings.

Mr. Elliott led by asking what the implication would be if the article was voted down.

"If Town Meeting doesn't vote the schematic design, then there's no money," said Mr. Roderiques.

"The \$200,000 is already spent?" asked Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Roderiques read aloud the article's language as a proposal "to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds" a sum of money for the schematic design.

He said there would have to be another Town Meeting to appropriate money for designing a two-school option. Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch said over \$310,000 had been spent to date on feasibility and design. Mr. Roderiques asked who would do the design and under whose direction if another Town Meeting were held.

Mr. Elliott answered it would be an architect under the direction of the School Building Committee.

"This is the way the School Building Committee (SBC) decided to determine what design to use. They didn't conduct studies or focus groups. They brought it to Town Meeting," said Mr. Elliott.

The two members then debated the ability and willingness of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to pay for two schools, and the fiscal impacts if it

did not. Mr. Elliott said the Town should let the MSBA decide whether they would fund two schools.

Mr. Elliott read from MSBA guidelines that they were not to be applied to renovations, but only to new construction. But Mr. Roderiques said that applied if this was a one-school renovation project. The options, he said, were renovation, renovation with additions, new school construction, and redistricting.

"I think everyone here cares about all the children in the Town. The problem is we don't agree on how to do that," Mr. Roderiques said.

He handed out copies of the historic birth rates for Fairhaven for the past thirty years that he got from the Town Clerk's office. On average, 141 children are born every year in Fairhaven. The average birthrate in Town for the last ten years is 129.

**You can't ask my
precinct to pay for
your two schools after
closing Oxford School
[Scott Fernandes]**

Those figures are what the MSBA uses to calculate the number of children the new or renovated school has to accommodate. Mr. Roderiques said the MSBA, at the town's request, boosted it another 30, to 370, for the two elementary schools.

Mr. Elliott argued that MSBA figures automatically exceeded the class size capacity from the beginning by two or three per grade. From class sizes the discussion turned to the benefits of small class sizes, with comparisons to rural schools refuted as not comparable, and no firm definition of what was considered a "small" school.

When Mr. Roderiques polled the board for a vote, Mr. DeNardis weighed in as supporting the SBC's decision.

"I don't know if we can afford to throw the dice," he said of the two-school option. "I've got to go with the one-school option which has the

extra two rooms with \$5 million savings."

Mr. Silva also supported the one-school option, saying he had to respect SBC Chair Christopher Bunnell's efforts in researching the options.

Mr. Fernandes felt it was unfair to ask his precinct to pay for two schools.

"You can't ask my precinct to pay for your two schools after closing Oxford School," he said.

But Mr. Roderiques stopped him, saying it shouldn't get personal. He said the debate was on the merit of the arguments. Mr. Fernandes stood by his opinion that one school was better for the taxpayer.

Mr. Martin raised concerns with the costs as presented, and believed that too much emphasis was spent on designing for reimbursement.

As an engineer, he said he felt the renovations could be done for much less. But even if the architect's estimates were used, it was unknown whether the MSBA would fund it because they didn't clarify their position. He said he did not have enough information to decide.

"If we have to go to Town Meeting," he said, "it'll be a cost, but it will be Town Meeting that decides it."

Ms. Szala said the cost of renovating Rogers School had to be figured in before anyone could say a one-school option would cause less debt.

"If it cost \$9 million, \$10 million, or \$3 million [to renovate Rogers School building], 100% is going to come out of taxpayers' pockets. If we're going to spend money fixing it, why not have it as a school?" she asked.

Ms. Carter agreed the cost of renovating Rogers School should be brought to the taxpayers with the one-school option. She said without it, there wasn't enough information to make a decision.

Mr. Elliott wrapped up by reiterating the MSBA's failure to clearly state whether they would fund any part of a two-school option. He said use of the third floor of the Rogers School was not part of the plans, and there could be a more creative solution to the problem.

When the vote was over, Mr. Martin asked if they could present a minority presentation at Town Meeting and Mr. Roderiques agreed.

FINCOM: cont'd on page 13

Fincom from page 12

In another matter, Fire Chief Timothy Francis asked FinCom to restore \$350 in dues and gatherings to his budget. He presented a list of grants and equipment the Town receives as a result of his participation in various state and county associations.

It included a \$345,000 new police boat, \$70,000 in dive equipment, \$100,000 cascade system for police and fire departments, and a new trailer for Board of Health.

The Finance Committee did not capitulate. Mr. Fernandez said the \$350 could still be covered out of pocket, which Mr. Francis refused to do. Mr. DeNardis asked if there was something that could be cut, which at first the Fire Chief refused to do.

Mr. Hyland said it was a matter of consistency. For example, the Chief listed ten committees and associations that have monthly meetings. He asked if Mr. Francis must attend each meeting every month, and if so, how there is coverage at the fire station.

Mr. Francis said his deputy covers for him when he's out and again stated the meetings are necessary to

network and bring in grants. He also said he pays for his own meals at the monthly meetings, a point that Mr. Roderiques disputed. Mr. Roderiques also said it was an across-the-board policy, and all departments bring value to the Town.

Mr. Francis also asked \$700 of unclassified expenses be restored to his Purchase of Services account. This money went to food for firefighters in the event of fires and catastrophes.

However, Mr. Roderiques said he saw charges to WB Mason and Staples under that item. After further discussion, the committee voted to allow \$150 in general unclassified to be used for food, and \$550 additional in supplies, noting this was a justifiable exception to the policy.

While he was there, the Fire Chief also requested \$13,000 be returned to his salary account from the reserve fund. Salaries for injured workers are taken out of the department account but workers' compensation reimburses the general fund, so there is a shortfall. The FinCom voted unanimously to transfer the funds.

The FinCom also took up the issue of Article 4, Item 53, contributory retirement, which they had voted to increase by \$25,000 on April 21st. The Retirement Board had voted for the same amount, but the Selectboard had not agreed.

Mr. Roderiques suggested that the FinCom amend the vote to allow a return to the original recommendation if there was not consensus by Town Meeting. The amendment passed 7-2, with Mr. Hyland and Mr. Silva voting against the measure.

The Hastings Middle School window replacement bid came in at \$292,530, or \$200,000 less than expected. The Committee voted the new number in unanimously as an amendment to last week's vote on Article 28 of the Special Town Meeting warrant.***

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Kool Kids Summer

Summer Vacation Registration: April 30 & May 1st 8am-2pm. Kool Kids is for children entering first grade to age 12. Children will have fun each day by participating in a variety of sports, games and art activities. Each session will also include special themed events. Children are grouped by the grade they will enter in the Fall. Don't miss out on this great summer program. Last year's program was full every week. Sign up early so we can take more participants than in years past.

Counselor in Training Program

In this new program teens 13-16 learn to become summer counselors. Included in this program is CPR, early education tips and job interview skills and much more. CITs will plan and run a theme day for the summer Kool Kids program, run games, assist senior counselors with projects, etc. Field trips and a pizza lunch every Friday are included. Program runs for two-week sessions. Cost per session \$200. You must be at least 13 to attend this program; no exceptions

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Self Defense & Awareness Class: 6 week session on self defense that teaches situational awareness and self defense tactics and techniques for the everyday person. Ages 11-Adult. Instructor Derk Alves. \$125.00 member/\$150. Non-member Fridays 5-6:30 pm from 5/6/11-6/10/11

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MALL TRIP/WED.:

May 11: Swansea Mall, Seekonk Plaza

ENTERTAINMENT:

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5/25: Silver City Galleria, Kohls, & Target

June

6/1: South Shore Plaza

6/8: Wrentham Village

6/15: Hyannis Mall, XMass Tree Shop and Trader Joes

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Save a life: Donate Blood

Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 18, 2:30-7:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven.

New at the Senior Center

Beginning May 12th Every Tues. and Thurs., 9:30-11:30 any Fairhaven senior or caregiver of a senior will be able to meet with the nurse Lisa Russell RN, by appointment or walk-in. This endeavor is a partnership with the Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center, Community Nurse and Hospice Care, Visiting Nurse Association of Fairhaven to create a Senior Health and Wellness Center.

Upcoming Trips

With Nancy

May 26: Newport Dinner Train and Tour of Rosecliff Mansion

June 13, 2011 – The Hamptons & Montauk Point, Long Island .

Sept. 11: Duck Boat Tours. Boston. Shopping at Quincy Market and Fanuel Hall

4-DAY TRIP: Mon.-Thurs., Sept. 19-22. Lancaster Show Trip & the Dutch Country. Insurance for this trip is available, please inquire.

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

With George

Foxwoods, June 27

July 20: Lobster Bake at Captain Jack's & Mohegan Sun Casino

Aug 17: Newport Playhouse

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Public tours new cancer center in Fairhaven

Beth David
Editor

With lots of "oohs, aahs" and "I hope I never have to use it," floating around the building, the new Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care opened to the public on Saturday, April 30. A steady stream of visitors toured the sprawling 56,000 square foot, two-story building on Mill Road in Fairhaven. It boasts the newest and best equipment available in the fight against cancer, yet is designed to be a "retreat-like setting."

The star attraction of the building is the Linear Accelerator (Linac), a state-of-the-art radiation therapy machine that can deliver low dose radiation treatments or radiation surgery (radiosurgery).

"This machine can do it all," said Deborah, who explained the details to the public.

The \$5 million Linac can also take CT images to help with positioning of the radiation beam. Imaging systems in the ceiling and floor allow for microscopic accuracy.

The "gantry" is the part of the machine that can move 360 degrees to position the beam exactly. The patient "couch" also rotates 180 degrees, and tips 6 degrees.

"It can pitch, roll, and yaw," said Deborah.

The facility is designed to be welcoming and calming to patients, while still delivering the highest in technological advances.

"It's a beautiful retreat, everything is under one roof," said Dr. Elizabeth Blanchard, a medical oncologist who will be running clinical trials at the facility. She said oncology patients spend a lot of time at their various medical facilities at a very difficult time in their lives. "For them to have

these amenities in such a difficult time of life is wonderful."

Some of those amenities and conveniences include a specialty suite, where patients can see more than one specialist in one visit and at the same place. Artwork throughout the building is by local artists and includes water colors and sculptures. Outside is a small flower garden for sitting.

The infusion room, where patients get chemotherapy, is designed for patients to have privacy or socialize with other patients. Each room has extra chairs for family members and a flat-screen TV.

A "green roof" has planted material on it that gives chemo patients more to look at than asphalt, reduces heat build-up in the building, and provides rainwater absorption. The building has other "green" elements, including special roofing, window glazing, and lighting controls.

"It's mind-boggling to have this here. We had no idea that this was like this," said Ann Ayers of Rochester. "It's astounding. It's like an art gallery."

Ms. Ayers was touring the building with her friend Jackie Crocker, who has breast cancer.

"I think it's amazing. It's state-of-the art," said Ms. Crocker. "I've been to some pretty nifty rooms in my travels, but these take the cake."

"Why would you go anywhere else?" asked Ms. Ayers.

The facility will be the only comprehensive provider of oncology services from Fairhaven to the Cape.

"It's beautiful. We've come a long way," said Louise Sylvia of Marion, who has relatives with cancer.

Herb and Shirley Hunter of



ABOVE: the "green" roof has planted material, giving chemo patients something green to look at. It also reduces heat build-up and provides additional rainwater absorption. BELOW: The infusion chairs, where cancer patients get chemotherapy, are spacious, light, and comfortable. They all have flat screen TVs and patients can have privacy or socialize with other patients. Photos this page by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook for more photos of this event.

Fairhaven have been happy with the care Shirley received for her breast cancer at St. Anne's in Fall River, but they could not resist checking out the new facility.

"It's so much closer," said Shirley. "Hopefully, we won't have to come here."

The center will also do clinical research and clinical trials for patients who have exhausted all their current protocols.

"It's so far advanced just from a few years ago," said Richard Clark of Fairhaven. "It's so patient oriented."

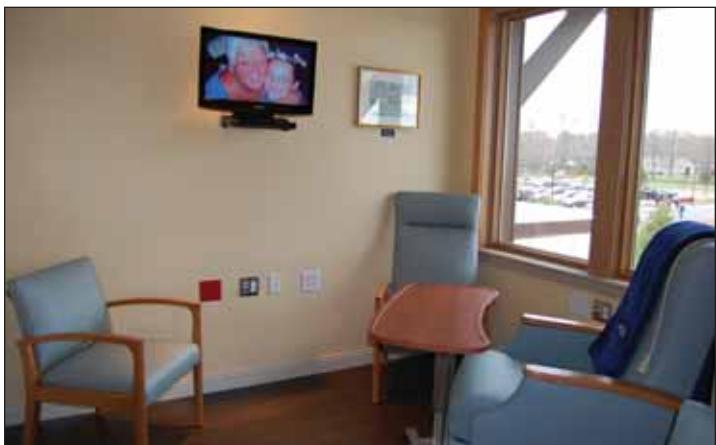
"I'm amazed at the technology," said his wife Diane.

The building has a resource library that will be open to the public and allow access to specialized medical information; a café with a menu designed with cancer patients in mind, including sandwiches with hormone-free deli meats; a conference room with video conferencing capabilities; separate changing rooms for men and women; CT scanner, PET/CT scanner, and X-Rays.

Fairhaven Superintendent of Schools Robert Baldwin also attended the open house. He said the high school does not have an arrangement with the facility for school-to-career programs...yet.

He said it was definitely good for students to have the facility in town.

"Absolutely, from our perspective," he said. "We are always trying to create school-to-career programs, and internships. But Allied Health professions? Yes."



*This letter was sent to
Fairhaven town and
school officials on 4/28/11.*

The Massachusetts School Building Authority has been pleased to work with the Town of Fairhaven since the MSBA Board of Directors invited the District's priority school, the Rogers Elementary School, into its capital pipeline for a feasibility study in November 2007. The MSBA is confused and troubled by the statements made in The Standard Times recently that the MSBA is "non-responsive".

Since November 2007, the MSBA has been working with the District to better understand its needs and the existing conditions of its school facilities. The MSBA has understood from the District that the community faced a challenge to design a cost-effective project that would meet the educational needs of its K to 5 enrollment. The District has made clear that the proposed project would need to address both the divergent community opinions on maintaining neighborhood schools and the concerns regarding the restoration of the historical Rogers Elementary School.

These challenges not only affect the options for a cost-effective capital project but also requires, as do all MSBA projects, a review of the operational budget for the proposed options.

For the last 12 months, and before the feasibility study had even begun, the District has repeatedly requested that the MSBA outright declare to Fairhaven two things: first, that the MSBA would only fund one project, not two; and second, that the MSBA would not support a proposed project for less than 300 students.

The MSBA would never make a

MSBA responds to criticism

statement like that without having studied the options through a feasibility study — the purpose of which is for the District to work with its consultants to study various options and provide the analyses necessary to inform the most cost-effective and educationally appropriate solution.

If the feasibility study shows viability for two projects that represent the most cost-effective and educationally appropriate solution, the MSBA will discuss this result with the District. As your Owner's Project Manager undoubtedly knows, any feasibility study funded in part by the MSBA must include a robust analysis of no-build, add-reno, and new options as required by the MSBA's regulations, the District's Feasibility

the MSBA a clear preference for a new building for many months, and the MSBA has not yet agreed to this solution because the complete feasibility study results have been only submitted to the MSBA in the past ten days.

The MSBA has a one-project-per-district rule, but in cases where a feasibility study has concluded that a multiple school solution is appropriate and cost-effective, this has also been considered.

It is truly disappointing to see how much miscommunication has occurred regarding the study of this project.

MSBA staff is reviewing the complete feasibility study submittal, which we received on April 15, 2011 after having received inadequate information from the District earlier in April, despite having met on March 25th to discuss the project and requirements for the feasibility study submission.

Only after a thorough review of this submittal will the MSBA be able to issue comments on the District's recommendation. We look forward to providing comments on the District's submittal.

In the meantime, however, the District must complete the local actions and approvals form sent on April 20, 2011 to illustrate the community outreach it has conducted to date. Also, the District and its Designer and Owner's Project Manager must present the feasibility study and recommendations at a Facilities Assessment Subcommittee, as scheduled by the MSBA. The District's presentation at a Facilities Assessment Subcommittee will be the first time the Board of Directors has an opportunity to see the preferred solution recommended by the District and provides an important opportunity for the District to present its educational program and the analysis of the preliminary alternatives studied as well as address any questions raised by the MSBA.

I look forward to continued collaboration with you as we advance the proposed Rogers Elementary School project through the MSBA process. Please feel free to contact me or your Field Coordinator, Brendan Melican, at 617-720-4466 should you have any questions.

Mary Pichetti

Director of Capital Planning, MSBA

**It is truly disappointing
to see how much
miscommunication has
occurred regarding the
study of this project.**

Study Agreement with the MSBA dated August 12, 2010 and the Module 3 — Feasibility Study guidelines, published July 2010.

The MSBA has strongly emphasized that the District's feasibility study needed to include an option which would compare addition/renovation options for two schools (Rogers and Wood) to a new construction option as potential solutions to the District's issues. Options cannot be ruled out until the feasibility study is complete, and only with this information would the District be able to make a decision and vote to forward to the MSBA its recommendation for a preferred solution.

The District has presented to

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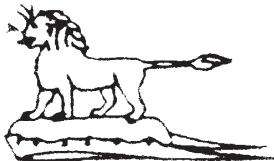


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Atria volunteers recognized



April was National Volunteer Appreciation Month and Atria Fairhaven honored these wonderful ladies, L-R, Pat Broadland, Lillian Desrosiers, Germaine St Gelais, Christina Lindh. *Submitted photo. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

Atria holds Red Sox party



Opening day Red Sox Party at Atria Fairhaven. L-R: Toni Byrne, Marjorie Weinstein & Shirley Ryan. *Submitted photo. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

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Letters to the editor

Letter Carrier Food Drive coming up fast

Have you ever been hungry?

I'm not talking about the type of hunger that goes away after you reach for a sandwich or when you eat one of three meals that you have in a course of a day. And, not the type of hunger you experience when you're on a diet trying to lose weight.

No. The type of hunger I'm talking about is the type of hunger that stays with you because you need to ration what you eat because of your financial situation. In this case, these folks need to choose between heating their homes, buying gas to get to work, clothing for their children, buying medicine and paying medical bills, heating their homes and the list goes on, or eating to your heart's content.

Unfortunately, a lot of these folks can't apply for aid because they're over the threshold financially.

This scenario I've just mentioned isn't about people in foreign lands; although we both know there are plenty of them that need help. I'm mentioning people in our own community, possibly your own neighbors, who are struggling in this economy trying to make ends meet.

To prove my assertions, you just have to look at all the many food pantries that have cropped up over the years. These pantries are where the less fortunate can go to get help.

But in order to supply these needy families with much needed food, the supply train needs to continue on a weekly basis from generous donors from all over.

One of the ways to do this is to participate in local food drives and fund raisers that are in your area from time to time. One such food drive in particular that is coming up on Saturday, May 14, has been sponsored by the Postal Service for the past 18 years called, "STAMP OUT HUNGER."

This food drive has netted over 1 billion pounds since its inception. This yearly venture combines the U.S. Postal Service, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, the United Way Worldwide and the AFL-CIO's Community Services to name a few of the participating agencies.

This food drive has got to be the easiest way someone can donate food to the needy. You need only to put out

food on your porch or by your mailbox and your letter carrier and their helpers will do the rest. Last year, nationally, 77.1 million pounds of food were picked up, making this the nation's largest one day food drive.

I've been a proud member of the Postal Service delivering mail for the past 30 years in North Fairhaven. It truly makes my heart feel good, as well as my fellow letter carriers, to see the generosity of the kind people along our routes who leave bags of food for us at this time of year.

I challenge anyone who hasn't donated anything to this food drive to simply put out one or two cans of non-perishable food on that morning and help make this year even better.

Every postal patron will be reminded of this upcoming event with the help of a postcard you'll receive in your mail a few days before, courtesy from the Campbell Soup Co. Campbell Soup is a major corporate sponsor who supplies postcards, magazines and newspaper advertisement promoting this food drive, and will also earmark an additional one million pounds of canned food.

We can do this folks. We can muster our love and caring for the less fortunate and make this 19th year of "STAMP OUT HUNGER" a huge success. Put your non-perishable food out for your letter carrier on Saturday, May 14.

Remember, we are all in this together.

Gerry Payette, Fairhaven

High salaries do not always equal better talent

I, like most people in Fairhaven, have read about the size of the raises the Fairhaven School Administrators are still receiving. How in this economic environment, when so many hard working, intelligent individuals are losing their jobs through no fault of their own, are we still giving out 3% or higher raises?

In an article in the newspaper, the Fairhaven School Superintendent states, "a boost in administrative salaries is necessary to retain talent."

Frankly, I have heard these same arguments on Wall Street for years leading up to the economic collapse of 2008. This argument is a big canard. There is no empirical evidence that suggests paying the highest salaries retains talent.

For example, Warren Buffet does

not pay his employees the best salaries, yet he retains some of the best talent in the industry. Private industry has not given out much in the way of raises over the past few years, yet they still retain great talent.

Frankly, in this economic environment, the empirical evidence is to the contrary, the supply of educated, talented professionals far outpaces demand.

Also, please save the argument that we have to pay what other communities are giving. No two communities are the same. Whether they are measured in terms of size, age, population or per capita income, we are all different.

In addition, I do not think it is wise to compare Fairhaven to other towns which are in much worse financial condition than we are. A town should only pay what it can afford, and I do not believe Fairhaven can afford the sizes of these raises any longer.

Finally, when many of these administrators retire they will be receiving 80% of their salaries as their yearly pensions. I can tell you today that with the amount they contribute to their retirement and the increased longevity of life, the retirement system will not be solvent. The actuarials that are currently being used are incorrect and in time its massive flaws will be exposed.

The good news is, the system can be saved if we start making the correct changes.

Let's start by stopping the excessive raises.

Mark Badwey, Fairhaven

Town Meeting member to vote for one-school design

On Saturday May 7th hundreds of our friends and neighbors will gather at Town Meeting to make the difficult choices that determine the future direction of Fairhaven. The hottest topic is likely to be Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting, a petition from the School Committee for \$200,000 for a new school schematic design.

I'll be one of those hundreds who will be voting that morning and I can say with complete certainty that, regardless of what I hear or read during the next few days, I will be voting in favor of the expenditure for that schematic design.

As someone who has volunteered and worked in our elementary

LETTERS: cont'd on page 31

ML's Eye on the Weather



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

Chasing Tornados – The Ultimate Extreme – and you're invited

By MLBaron

The West Island Weather Station

F5 Tours, Inc. doesn't take you in a chubby bus with long vertical windows to see dead movie stars' homes or "Old Faithful." You would be cramped inside a storm chasing vehicle with storm spotters and tornado chasers headed right for trouble.

"We remove that anxiety and put you in a situation where you can learn how to chase in comfort. It takes a special kind of person to want to go on a storm chase," says Andrew Revering, CEO of F5 Tours, Inc.

"Our extreme winter is setting the stage for a record breaking tornado season," said the veteran storm chaser.

You know you're in for some excitement when the tour guide asks you to sign a waiver and fill out a next of kin information card.

The company web site (<http://www.f5tours.com/index.php> or westislandweather.com) has more details and booking information. I'll gladly post your video and photos on westislandweather.com when you come back.

If you saw TWISTER, a movie about a bunch of weather nerds (nut cases) chasing tornadoes, it was not totally far fetched. A tornado can defy the laws of gravity with unbelievable catastrophic impact, however, some exaggerated special effects in this movie insulted everyone's intelli-

gence. This is the kind of movie that the case becomes more useful for the VHS home movies you just transferred to DVD.

The most outrageous scenes included a tanker truck suspended in mid air then exploding a few yards away; a cow slowly hovering by the chaser's windshield — mooing along — and then another cow. Later we found out it was the same cow.

The chaser's truck crashing through every room of a rolling house and smashing out the other side showed 4x4's could do anything. If this movie couldn't get any dumber — Bill and "Jo" — divorcing storm chasers run for their lives as a huge F5 Tornado bears down on them in a corn field. They ended up in a barn and decided it's not safe.

They find a long leather strap and secure themselves outside to a water pipe in a shed. The tornado blew away the shed and spun right over the couple as they went horizontal (hmmm) in the 150MPH wind.

Then through all the blinding sandblasted debris; Jo, with eyes wide open, looks up into the center of the tornado and sees the blue sky and sun breaking through.

As the twister heads away, debris, boards and shingles keep falling from the sky. Bill and Jo are OK as their fellow storm chasers come to the rescue.

You could say that some of the movie was based on eyewitness accounts from those who were "last-call" customers at The Bayside Lounge.

But seriously, an EF5 tornado like those that recently occurred down south removes everything in its path... everything. If you are not underground for safety in the path of one

of these, you will leave this earth in a most violent way.

There are indeed storm chasers who pursue tornadoes and provide important life-saving data and information to The National Weather Service and they invite you to go along!

After the chase, Tornado Tourists are given a free F5 Tours T-Shirt and a DVD of their near death experience.

Forecast

Friday: Mostly Cloudy. Hi: 61

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Lo: 45

Saturday: Highs in the lower 60s.

Saturday Night: Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday: Highs in the upper 50s. Chance Of Showers. Hi: 59 Lo: 45 **Sun.:** Mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of showers. Lows in the mid 40s.

Monday: Chance Of Showers. Hi: 59 Lo: 45 Mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of showers. **Monday Night:** Partly Cloudy. Low: 48

Tuesday: Partly Cloudy. High: 55

Tues. Night: Mostly Cloudy With Scattered Light Showers Possible. Low: 51

Wednesday: Mostly Cloudy. High: 59. **Wed. Night:** Cloudy With A Light Shower Possible. Low: 51

Ocean temp: 55 degrees. Hurricane Season: 26 days. Summer: 46 Days.

Appreciate ML's Weather Eye?

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The Laurie Lee, a Fairhaven lobster boat, is framed by the gangway as it pulls out from Hoppy's Landing. The vessel, with a crew of two, headed out on Monday, 5/2, to lay out traps in a choppy sea. The Laurie Lee is named after the Captain's wife, a common practice for local fishing vessels. Photo by ML Baron. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com



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Friday	6	1048	2254	0414	1559
Saturday	7	1135	2343	0451	1640
Sunday	8	----	1225	0531	1727
Monday	9	0035	1318	0618	1824
Tuesday	10	0131	1414	0718	1934
Wednesday	11	0230	1512	0828	2059
Thursday	12	0333	1613	0934	2217
Friday	13	0437	1714	1030	2321*
Saturday	14	0540	1812	1119*	----
Sunday	15	0638	1907	0017*	1208*
Monday	16	0732	1959	0111*	1256*
Tuesday	17	0823	2049	0204*	1345*
Wednesday	18	0914	2140	0254*	1434*

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

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

RON'S LAWN MAINTENANCE Lawns cut & trimmed, weeding, mulching, hedges, gardens roto-tilled, clean-ups. Experienced & insured. Dedicated to a job well done! Free estimates. Ron, 774-451-4521.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 2nd floor, in Fairhaven on Main Street; 6 rms; 3 BR. Off street parking. \$800+ utils. No smoking. Call 774-313-9160.

SPRING CLEANING? HAVING A YARD SALE: Run a classified ad in the Neighb News. Only \$5 for three lines. Call Beth at 508-979-5593.

DIFFICULT & UNUSUAL carpentry, furniture repair and refinishing, antique repairs. Unusual jobs a specialty. Call Tom, 508-999-1517.

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BOB'S LAWN SERVICE Yards clean, grass cutting, mulching, new lawns installed, Bobcat service, trees & bushes pruned, lawns fertilized, gardens planted, dump runs, loam/fill/gravel. Located at Staffon's Greenhouse, 124 Alden Road, Fairhaven, MA 02719; Business line: 508-997-9259; cell, 774-263-4002.

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DANA'S LAWN SERVICE, 508-642-2118: Retired teacher/coach. 25 years' experience landscaping. Or email dana02719@yahoo.com

BOAT FOR SALE. 26' Stamas Cruiser. Fully equipped. \$6500. Willing to barter for plumbing or carpentry. Call 508-961-8830.

PROM: cont'd from page3

each year is to have every senior walk away with a raffle prize at the end of the night. As of right now there are not enough funds to give each GNB Voc-Tech senior a raffle prize.

Donations of raffle prizes, which can range from gift certificates, to gas cards and cash donations, are needed to help make this After Prom a success.

The After Prom Committee is still looking for a car to be given away to one of our lucky seniors who attends the After Prom! If you are thinking about buying a new car, we will be happy to take your old one off your hands!

Volunteers are also needed to help out at this year's After Prom,

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Public Works

Sat., 5/7, Middle School, 8:15 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 5/9 Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 5/7, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Sat., 5/7, Middle School, 8 a.m.

School Committee

Sat., 5/7, Middle School, 8 a.m.

Wed., 5/11, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Sat., 5/7, Middle School, 8:00 a.m.

Mon., 5/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting

Sat., 5/7, Hastings Middle, 9 a.m.

CANCER: cont'd on page 22

The open house also had some fun activities: free refreshments, trail mix, and a goody bag for all takers. Those who got their cards stamped in each area could enter a raffle for an Apple iPad 2. A photo booth allowed free pictures with funny hats and fuzzy boas.

"It's welcoming for both family and patient," said cancer patient Paulette Sanchez of Fall River after she shed her hat and boa.

"It's comforting. It's bright. It's shiny. That's what you need," she said. "You need something to cheer you up."

She said the photo booth was also just the right medicine.

"Where else can you go and have a miserable disease and smile?"

The facility is scheduled to open this summer. ***

Thursday May 26th. Volunteers are needed to check in students, work the food station, security (covering exits), the game area, and general volunteers. A CORI form must be completed as soon as possible and volunteers must attend a mandatory meeting on Tuesday May 17th at 6:30pm in the GNB Voc-Tech cafeteria. Sun Kissed Tanning sends a group of employees each year to volunteer. Do you have a small group of employees or friends? Eighty volunteers are needed to run this event.

For more information on how you can help, contact Jennifer Gaspar at jgaspar@gnbvt.edu or Heidi Walsh at 508-998-3221 ext 764.

Please see visit www.gnbafterprom.com for more information. ***

Scouts hold annual Pine Derby



The Fairhaven Boy Scouts held their annual pine derby race on April 3, at Troop 52's headquarters at St. Mary's Church in Fairhaven. Scouts have to make a pinewood car to strict specifications. It cannot be heavier than 5 ounces. TOP LEFT: the cars line up for heat. BOTTOM LEFT, L-R: Cullin Tate, Cory Furtado and Owen Gallagher root for their cars. TOP RIGHT: the cars a mere blur as they race to the finish line. BOTTOM RIGHT, Back Row, L-R: Kevin Dorgan, Bob Dorgan; The Winners: Brice Vargas, first place; Sam Vieira, second place; Eagan Cabral, third place; Owen Gallagher fourth. Photos by Heidi Winnett. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com



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ETHICS: cont'd from page 4

where an official can be removed, but not usually on the local level.

If bribery is alleged, the Ethics Commission will normally coordinate with the Attorney General's office to determine whether the matter is investigated as a criminal or civil matter. Penalties for criminal violations are steeper — up to \$100,000 and 10 years in jail.

Minor violations are resolved confidentially; the Commission provides the public employee education on requirements of the conflict of interest law.

In fact, public education is a key component of the law. Within 30 days of election or appointment, the municipality is required to distribute summary documents on how the law applies. Also, within that same 30 days, every elected or appointed official must complete online training on the Ethics Commission website.

Although the online training is geared towards state employees, Mr. Giannotti said the conflict of interest principles are the same for all public employees. But the rules are complex, so he strongly recommends calling the Commission with questions.

"It's not worth the aggravation or the monetary sanctions to go through the process, so call first," Mr. Giannotti said.

Fairhaven Finance Committee Chairperson John Roderiques agreed.

"When in doubt, don't vote," he said. The law is not always clear, so he recommends recusal. "It's not worth getting in trouble over."

Fairhaven Selectboard Chairperson Michael Silvia said that he always leaves the room when recusing himself rather than staying at the table. As an example, he said when Homecoming comes before the Selectboard, he recuses himself because he is a past president of the Fairhaven Improvement Association. That organization's by-laws allows past presidents to sit on the board of directors, so he feels there is a conflict of interest.

"If you recuse yourself, get up and walk out of the room," said Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch. Staying at the table can invite a complaint.

Mr. Osuch noted there are exceptions to the recusals, as when there are not enough members on a board and a 2/3 vote is required. With a five-member board, if more than one

person has to recuse themselves, it can prevent the board from acting.

Recently re-elected Planning Board Chairperson Wayne Hayward voiced the same concern. With eight members on the Planning Board, it takes six members to vote a special permit under MGL 40A. If two members are absent, then all six must vote.

He said the chairperson could request a recusing member to disclose their conflict and vote under a "rule of necessity." However, the recusing member would still have his or her own obligation to seek a legal opinion from either the State Ethics Commission or Town Counsel.

Geoffrey Haworth, BPW chairperson, said he is always very careful when reviewing matters for a conflict of interest.

"I'm a contractor and I'm on the BPW," said Mr. Haworth. "There may be conflicts of interest because of what I do for work. So I always use caution if a client I've worked for previously comes before the board."

He said that it is the same with his board members.

"It is their duty to come forward and recuse themselves if they have a conflict," he said.

Mr. Haworth also said he knew that no sitting board member has ever been found guilty of an ethics violation.

Town Clerk Eileen Lowney said she distributes a summary of the ethics law to all public employees shortly after elections. Not only the board and commission members receive it, but all paid employees as well. The summary includes a signature sheet, which is returned to her. She also retains the online

training certificates from all public employees.

All of the officials contacted remembered the online training. No one recalled receiving annual summary documents after being elected. Those who had taken the evening seminar presented by the Ethics Commission two years ago remembered it as a good experience.

"It was more interactive," said Mr. Silvia. "You could ask questions."

The law can be found at www.mass.gov/ethics by clicking on the section for "Laws, regulations and forms" and then on "Information about the Conflict of Interest Law."

And be sure to try the online test — it's fun!

Find the test under Education & Training Resources, click mandatory education requirements and then online training program.

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stubborn things

Alain René Le Sage

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Sun., 5/29: Chris Richard solo, 8-Mid.

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Salaries of town employees; cont'd to next page

By Beth David
Editor

With Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, 5/7, it is time for our annual publishing of town employee salaries as they appear in the Fairhaven Finance Committee's report to town meeting. The list on pages 26-30 has been scanned directly from that report. The amounts listed are actual dollars paid to employees from Jan. 1, 2010 through 12/31/10.

Last week we ran an article on the salaries and contracts of the town's top administrators. As a follow-up to that, we would like to make a few additions/clarifications.

An astute reader pointed out that some salaries published in last year's salary article were more, not less, than the salaries/contract amounts in last week's issue. Last week's article published the contract amounts, or agreed upon base salaries, to administrators for fiscal years. Fiscal years start on July 1 and end on June 30.

The salaries of public employees

that we published last year was actual dollars paid to employees for the calendar year, which is Jan. 1 through 12/31. The actual amounts paid can also include sick leave buy-backs/incentives, longevity pay, and stipends.

There has also been discussion about some information in last week's article. The school administrators did not take raises for FY10 (the year ending on 6/30/10). The following year, they resumed receiving the amounts in their contracts. We neglected to note that this resulted in increases of 5-6% in one year, which is a big point of contention with critics.

Superintendent of Schools Robert Baldwin's current contract expires in 2012. The five-year contract was negotiated in 2008 and covers fiscal years 2008-2013 (ending June 30, 2013). At the end of the contract, his annual base salary will be \$144,895.

The average salary of superintendents in New England, according to the American Association of

School Administrators' website is \$135,180.

School business manager Paul Kitchen's contract was renegotiated in September 2010 and ends in FY2012. His base pay will be \$98,970 through June 30, 2011. Future raises will be based on merit and, therefore, are not specified in his contract.

Raises for East Fairhaven School principal Geraldine Lucas will also be based on merit starting with FY2012.

Contracts for Wood Elementary School Principal Amy Hartley-Matteson, Rogers Elementary School Principal Wendy Williams, and Fairhaven High School Principal Tara Quirk Kohler expire this year. The new contracts are not yet available, but reliable sources say raises will be based on merit in those as well.

See last week's issue, page 17, for the story. It is available on the archive page of our website: www.Neighb News.com

•••

DEPT/NAME	X.TD.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	X.TD.GROSS
MODERATOR		ELECT & REGIST. CONT.	
Sylvia, Mark	\$800.00	Horsley, Lilian	\$481.03
Sub Total:	\$800.00	St. Germain, Jan	461.07
SELECTMEN		Brazil, Donald	461.07
Osuch, Jeffrey	115,225.30	Lopes, Eugenia	461.07
St. Germain, Jan	50,306.97	Mello, Joan	447.95
Alves, Bernice	37,535.63	Purington, Marian	447.95
Pina, Loreen	33,148.67	Monk, Elizabeth	447.90
Bowcock, Brian	4,766.67	Cunha, Mary	445.77
Murphy, Sr., Charles	4,766.67	Gammans, Dorothy	432.65
Silvia, Michael	4,766.67	Lewis, Vivian	432.65
Sub Total:	250,516.58	Markey, William	432.65
TOWN ACCOUNTANT		Melanphy, Sandra	432.65
Carreiro, Anne	68,466.16	Perry, Nancy	432.65
Shepard, Joyce	16,717.99	Berg, Martha	343.30
Sub Total:	85,184.15	Greene, Pamela	317.65
BOARD OF ASSESSORS		Grace, Mary	317.65
Bettencourt, Jane	57,742.80	Markey, Norma	265.44
Perry, Melody	32,293.05	Filipek, Mabel	241.22
Correia, Erika	28,130.01	Souza, Barbara	202.65
Davis, Pamela	5,665.55	Graham, Vivian	202.16
Matheson, Paul	4,635.33	Pomfret, Cynthia	113.30
Withington, Ellis	1,030.22	Kenworthy, Jacqueline	87.16
Sub Total:	129,496.96	Sub Total:	14,858.95
TREASURERS		CONSERVATION	
Nunes, John	83,247.98	Walsh, Lori	96.83
Rose, Lisa	46,728.37	Sub Total:	96.83
Blais, Suzanne	32,289.89		
Sub Total:	162,266.24		
TOWN COLLECTOR		ENFORCEMENT AGENT	
Brandolini, Carol	58,492.80	Griffin, Susan	20,457.12
Bettencourt, Pamela	40,782.21	Sub Total:	20,457.12
Ferranti, Kelly	31,727.05		
Paquette, Vicki	12,012.97		
Sub Total:	143,015.03		
TOWN CLERK		PLANNING BOARD	
Lowney, Eileen	50,621.17	Monte, Shirley	603.36
Smith, Linda	37,265.86	Pelland, James	439.96
Sub Total:	87,887.03	Sub Total:	1,043.32
ELECT & REGIST.		TOURISM	
Rocha, Elaine	2,793.58	Richard, Christopher	50,161.56
Eddleston, Jr., Herbert	674.40	Sub Total:	50,161.56
Medeiros, Lorraine	534.47		
Francis, Doris	503.35		
Lizotte, Mary	503.35		
Rego, Ilene	503.35		
Rogers, Margaret	503.35		
Ryle, Amy	503.35		
Sub Total:	5,165.79		
PLANNING AND ECONOMICS			
Roth, Jr., William	76,297.04		
Ripley, Marie	34,044.20		
Tupikow, Amy	6,929.50		
Dias, Ana	3,921.50		
Sub Total:	121,192.24		

Salaries of town employees cont'd from previous page; cont'd to next page

DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS
POLICE DEPARTMENT		BUILDING DEPARTMENT	\$78,200.15	SHELLFISH INSPECTOR CONT.	
Sobral, David	\$143,575.67	FIRE DEPARTMENT CONT.	\$80,786.53	Sub Total:	\$82,022.60
Myers, Michael	116,386.17	Correia, Todd	80,564.63	Fostin, Wayne	
Botelho, Michael	114,587.62	Linecoln, Robert	34,506.08	Robillard, Frances	
Kobza, Kevin	102,967.63	Johnson, Erik	32,041.25	Moniz, Lisa	
Bouvier, Jr., Michael	95,265.93	Burr, Chauncey	9,577.20	Lussier, Norman	
Souza, Timothy	94,143.11	Riggs, Brian	7,565.72	Bobola, Andrew	
Gordon, Scott	93,733.79	Coneira, Paul	7,302.37	Gracia, George	
Cudmore, Glenn	93,331.53	Silveira, Douglas	72,256.88	Cottrill, John	
Bettencourt III, Jerald	93,288.87	Benoit, Joshua	69,084.37	Alphonse, William	
Snizek, Frank	92,148.16	Rocha, James	68,311.52	Dagle, Henry	
Bourgault, Pamela	88,841.52	Therrien, Wally	68,013.32	Poitras, Jr., Roger	
Correia, David	88,436.90	Medeiros III, Antone	67,886.21	Olsen, Andrew	
Joseph, Scott	86,035.54	Freitas, Edward	64,507.70	Sub Total:	183,690.92
Demello, Walter	85,557.78	Almeida, Stephen	63,161.21	Sub Total:	180.11
Ciccone, Richard	83,588.18	Gordon, David	59,698.05	Rosa, Steven	
Gwozdz, Stephen	83,321.85	Medeiros, Justin	58,572.61	Lacerda, Lindsey	
Darmofal, Marc	80,160.51	Samanica, Shawn	57,610.21	Tavares, Jody	
Foster, Jr., Stephen	78,873.47	Cruz, Frank	57,151.90	Veronneau, Nicole	
Boiteho, Matthew	77,217.67	Charest, Nancy	52,267.76	Mitchell, Christine	
Viveiros, Kevin	73,413.97	Messier, Brian	47,122.94	Hopwood, David	
Lacerda, Philip	72,461.06	Austin, Kristine	41,723.02	McLeod, John	
Chasse, Kevin	67,624.73	Nichols, Joy	39,287.48	Martins, Denise	
Cannon, Laurie	66,914.12	Sub Total:	1,647,289.03	Loranger, Barbara	
Joseph III, Macy	66,848.29	CALL FIRE DEPARTMENT	7,178.96	Barlow, Ruth	
Bettencourt, James	61,892.17	Foster, Stephen	3,447.44	Monette, Elizabeth	
Riggs, Edward	61,806.34	Paulson, Matthew	3,431.62	Webster, Barbara	
Cordeiro, Mark	61,702.16	Gautreau, Nicholas	3,209.26	Medeiros, Sherry	
Joseph, Peter	59,549.28	Knowles, G.	3,094.21	Perry, Kevin	
Dorgan, Daniel	57,032.99	Labelle, Scott	2,372.54	Raposo, Joseph	
Quintal, Lindsay	53,151.88	Siwik, Christopher	2,072.02	Estate of Dasneves, Marie	
Bretz, Marie	45,898.20	Thatcher, Thomas	1,434.02	Collins, Joan	
Adesso, Jaunna	39,794.59	Brodeur, Jeffrey	1,233.64	Pires, Lori	
Morel, Julie	39,036.38	Wright, Steven	1,231.00	Duval, Aline	
Leconte, Hilda	37,967.22	Daniel, Brian	1,184.10	Niemiec, Alyssa	
Swain, Kevin	14,830.51	Katz, Adam	990.85	Sub Total:	35,588.94
Chace, Susan	13,697.47	Winnett, Scott	870.24	Sub Total:	5,500.00
Manzone, Ronald	10,574.70	Ste. Marie, Joseph	841.70	DUTCH ELM	
Kouta, Bachir	10,137.50	Polson, Kevin	805.26	Pimentel, Michael	
Joseph, Donald	761.80	Normandin, Gerald	734.84	Foster, Stephen	
Souza, Glenn	436.53	Johnson, Thomas	596.92	Robichaud, Scott	
Rock, Timothy	1.27	Rocha, Kathleen	504.80	Silva, Christine	
Lord, Tracie	0.69	Souza, James	462.46	Pimental, Armand	
Sub Total:	2,762,496.95	Davis, Jonathan	370.06	Silva, Gleim	
POLICE DEPARTMENT - INJURY LEAVE		Pepin, Edward	62.68	Medeiros, Janice	
Joseph, Peter	7,276.93	Sub Total:	31,144.59	Sub Total:	310.00
Lacerda, Philip	1,129.63	SHELLFISH INSPECTOR		Sub Total:	959,205.41
FIRE DEPARTMENT		Cox, Timothy	13,817.19	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	
Francis, Timothy	108,755.89	Darmofal, David	12,762.18	Lucas, Geraldine	
Fletcher, Donn	96,650.33	Dube, Richard	2,614.99	Williams, Wendy	
Oliveira, Wayne	84,203.84	Wood, Bryan	1,143.00	Hartley-Matteson, Amy	
FIRE DEPARTMENT - INJURY LEAVE		Syliva, Paul	584.16	Manchester, Patricia	
Nichols, Joy	19,562.95	Gifford, Don	174.27	Pereira, Cathy	
Cruz, Frank	913.41	Henniques, Martin	174.27	Marchand, Karen	
Medeiros, Justin	887.20	Crowley, Sr., David	31,513.03	Nogueira, Patrice	
Sub Total:	8,406.56	Seguin, Marc	3,471.13	Munce, Brian	
		Lopes, Daniel	2,271.95	Hamric, Constance	
		Manzone, Jr., Ronald	1,249.38	Desrosiers, Paula	
		Hennessey, James	1,134.15	Pavlic, Michelle	
		Villa, Jonathan	1,134.15	Deegan, Maretta	
			979.83	Whitehead, Joanne	
			960.53	Nigra, Anne	
			314.77	Thomas, Lisa	
			227.43	Close, Elizabeth	
			43.94	Thomas, Lisa	
			25.42	Whitehead, Heidi	
			1.60	Perry, Diane	

Salaries of town employees cont'd from previous page; cont'd to next page

DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONT.		ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONT.	
Bourgeault, Elaine	\$66,868.46	Leslyk, Janet	\$30,492.22
Carney, Linda	66,743.48	Jordan, Natalie	28,009.80
Rogers, Linda	66,736.77	Perreira, Susan	27,660.94
Ponte, Ann	66,730.52	Schnmitt, Deborah	26,713.64
Lasalle, Jacqueline	66,544.39	Camara, Kristen	26,242.27
Turner, Valerie	65,768.02	LaFlame, Susan	24,682.88
McGrevey III, Thomas	65,682.75	Mitchell, Michael	24,258.23
Mattos, Dawn	65,595.25	Mitchell, Beth	24,180.54
Campoli, Rita	64,932.77	Judd, Jennifer	24,027.01
Ambra, Deborah	64,932.75	Dupont, Carolyn	22,194.77
Lincoln, Teresa	64,932.75	Couture, Julia	21,974.19
Mello, Joyce	64,586.48	Mello, Katie	21,896.89
Kennedy, Susan	63,986.48	Rose, Betty	21,727.68
Castelo, Jennifer	63,859.27	Perry, Kraig	20,508.00
Gubler, Kristin	63,491.79	Anderson, Nancy	19,714.31
Lopes, Sheri	62,908.55	McHale, Priscilla	18,630.50
Barboza, Carole	62,889.82	Taylor, Jennifer	18,195.95
Tilton, Leslie	62,394.36	Lewis, Nancy	17,324.37
Frazier, Regina	62,056.05	Botelho, Shantene	17,058.13
Hunt, Meg	61,683.55	Beaubien, Jocelyne	16,946.56
Neely, Lisa	61,292.95	Lane, Ananda	16,504.11
Lamarre, Sara	60,020.55	Lopes, Carolyn	16,389.88
Rock, Cynthia	59,764.90	Silva, Lyune	15,903.11
Barao, Katherine	59,466.00	Medeiros, Carol	15,712.19
Dwyer, Kim	53,279.32	Ouellette, Michelle	15,628.99
Vasconcelos, Lynn	52,130.45	Ferreira, Linda	15,374.69
Cashman, Heather	49,180.77	O'Neale, Dolores	15,062.38
Tynan, Carol	49,076.37	Dufresne, Kerry-Anne	14,783.11
Bandara, Jill	48,926.37	Dillon, Louise	14,488.59
Chirigotis, Daniela	48,846.55	Correia, Heather	14,291.06
Lewis, Jack	48,778.01	Darling, Amy	14,038.72
Joseph, Susan	47,423.75	Abrantes, Lisa	13,938.64
Liarikos, Anne-Marie	47,174.03	Arnuda, Lynn	13,796.34
Lopes, Sarah	46,281.02	Grace, Maureen	13,259.94
Riley, Emily	45,531.02	Martins, Jeanne	12,793.18
Cunha, Steven	45,382.62	Washington, Cheryl	12,347.41
Horowitz, Lois	45,028.16	Sub Total:	5,120,905.28
Panel, Laura	44,613.21		
Valois, Denise	43,898.44	MIDDLE SCHOOL	81,509.15
Guilfoyle, Kelly	43,833.15	Dorgan, Karen	75,891.71
Antonio, Kristen	41,512.57	Galvan, Derek	75,551.21
O'Malley, Kayla	39,332.87	Burroughs, Leigh	75,298.81
Smith, Ji, Robert	38,503.22	Tracey, Joan	74,040.60
Jarvis, Diane	38,198.98	Gardner, Glenn	73,542.58
Rego, Kristin	38,097.92	Rego, Dawn	72,300.53
Bancroft, Constance	36,818.21	Freeman-Aronofsky, Susan	70,418.84
Horsfall, Kim-Marie	36,460.76	Ronn, Edith	70,256.29
Palmer, Annette	36,235.97	Petelan, Joyce	68,981.34
Richard, Julian	33,266.76	Arsenault, Karen	68,417.75
Charpentier, Donna	31,945.68	LeBlanc, Kimberly	67,731.05
Besse, Susan	30,640.08	HIGH SCHOOL	103,044.86
		Kohler, Tara	84,406.28
		Muello, Mary	82,986.14
		Harding, Philip	67,193.41
		Girouard, Eileen	81,465.14
		Welty, David	78,450.19

Salaries of town employees cont'd from previous page; cont'd to next page

DEPT/NAME	YTD.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	YTD.GROSS
HIGH SCHOOL CONT.			
Zauner, David	\$38,500.24	SPN IDEA ENTITLEMENT	\$71,849.90
Gesualdo, Robert	36,307.11	Fiske, Angela	
Spargo, Abby	35,609.20	Foster, Brendan	64,668.05
Ribeiro, Manuel	31,345.41	Lavoie, Judith	42,255.06
Rock, Janet	30,399.71	Martins, Sarah	40,235.89
LeClerc, Suzanne	29,680.49	DeCosta, Linda	28,920.24
Smith, Joan	28,721.76	Choquette, Elizabeth	27,508.56
Oswald, Kerrie	26,847.66	Figueiredo, Feliciana	24,923.07
LaBranche, Melinda	26,843.75	Thayer, Jennifer	24,608.88
Corcoran, Pamela	25,480.97	Peekham-Costa, Linda	21,028.07
Gomes, Paul	24,821.87	Johnson, Kristin	20,955.21
Grondin, John	23,400.00	Perry, Donna	16,688.49
Frias, Debra	21,753.28	Sol, Theresa	16,421.25
Joseph, Marjorie	21,644.57	Loo, Susan	15,918.63
Pavao, Judy	21,405.33	Martin, Stacy	13,919.14
Brady, Taryn	20,317.65	Thomas, Jodi	13,136.58
Morency, Janice	19,373.47	Hooley, Heather	<u>11,970.03</u>
Polochnick, Jennifer	17,578.78		Sub Total: <u>455,007.05</u>
Goes, Kathleen	16,931.65		
Paris Stokes, Shawnette	16,440.39		
Pilla, Nicholas	15,839.07		
Medeiros, Lisa	15,542.38		
Amaral, Sarah	15,031.23		
Nordstrom, Misti	14,970.20		
Sylvia, Andre	10,998.36		
Lizotte, Bradley	8,940.20		
Moisades, Julia	4,767.84		
Antonio, Jason	4,552.00		
Moniz, John	3,845.00		
Moor, Nathaniel	3,692.00		
Garnache, Matthew	3,612.80		
Faunce, Caitlin	3,406.94		
Bainton, Arthur	3,166.00		
Charpenier, Joshua	2,164.00		
Carvalho, Lisa	2,036.00		
Rudenauer, Meagan	2,036.00		
Soares, Susan	488.50		
Comeau, Nicholas	300.00		
Camara, Amanda			
Sub Total:	4,098,378.89		
SPECIAL NEEDS			
Olsen, Kathrynne	<u>300.00</u>		
Sub Total:	<u>300.00</u>		
CROSSING GUARDS			
Ponsart, Joseph	8,110.72		
Dompiere, Kerry	4,055.36		
Mandeville, Linda	4,044.34		
Luminello, Wanda	4,022.30		
Parent, Nancy	29.31		
Sub Total:	20,262.03		

DEPT/NAME	YTD.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	YTD.GROSS
SUBSTITUTES CONT.		SUBSTITUTES CONT.	
Curry, Sharon	\$2,712.50	DeSouza, Carolyn	\$325.00
Solomon, Donna	2,620.00	Kingman, Patrick	325.00
Martins, Corey	2,590.48	Soares, Lisa	305.00
Hahn, Diane	2,522.50	Vaughan, Phylicia	295.00
Guy, Ross	2,235.00	Bousquet, Theresa	270.00
Scieszka, Katherine	2,233.69	Desrochers, Anne	260.00
Simoes, David	2,170.08	Fonseca, Wanderley	260.00
Holroyd, Gillian	2,157.50	Robidoux, Rachel	260.00
Bettencourt, Julie	1,800.00	Rodrigues, Joshua	260.00
Henriques, Jennifer	1,790.00	Isakken, Kendra	250.00
Collins, Britni	1,750.00	Mulvey, James	221.94
Defelice, Cheryl	1,735.00	Avery, Jessica	195.00
Tiffany, Halima	1,725.00	Prefontaine, Roger	195.00
Downey, Steven	1,680.00	Selley, Caitlin	195.00
Bettencourt, Ernest	1,600.00	Raposo, Dolores	175.70
Betourney, Christopher	1,595.00	Baumgartner, Lee	175.00
DeMarco, Robert	1,550.00	Taylor, Paula	165.00
Arruda, Danielle	1,450.00	Deus, Jacob	130.00
Murphy, Samuel	1,380.96	Gamache, Caryn	130.00
Galego, Adilio	1,183.68	Kennedy, Myles	130.00
Andrews, Janet	1,140.00	Richard, Tanya	120.00
Moutinho, Nicole	1,105.00	Davis, Brian	110.00
Anthony, Tracy	1,085.00	Sylvia, Joseph	98.64
Gardner, Justin	990.00	Bean, Katherine	75.00
Cook, William	986.40	Simmons, Jamie	70.00
Charpenier, Thomas	890.00	Barile, Troy	65.00
Arone, Elizabeth	835.00	Bodeau, Robin	65.00
Blouin, Robert	780.00	Brisson, Jessica	65.00
Vasconcellos, Garry	755.48	Carrow, William	65.00
Macedo, Nathan	750.00	Dalonba, John	65.00
Boulds, Cynthia	730.00	Duff, Alicia	65.00
Curral, Jennie	720.00	Gardiner, Patricia	65.00
Pegg, Justine	720.00	Harding, Kerri	65.00
Rock, Kayleigh	705.00	Keneddy, Colleen	65.00
Snodgrass, Jeanne	690.00	Loranger, Aimee	65.00
LeVasseur, William	650.00	Millay, Susan	65.00
Barnes, Donald	640.00	Parr, Andrea	65.00
Nelson, Gary	585.00	Santos, Jason	65.00
Santos, Rachel	575.00	Sergeant, Thomas	65.00
Frazier, Ronald	520.00	Taylor, Adam	65.00
Garcia, John	520.00	Whitaker, Kerry	60.00
Jeffrey, Robert	520.00	Devlin, Shannon	60.00
Alexander, George	515.00	Fincher, Jennifer	55.00
Holloway-Cripps, Kaisa	510.00	Newton, Ashley	55.00
Braley, Priscilla	488.50	Sub Total:	<u>55.00</u>
Rose, Mariette	480.00		
Anderson, Rebecca	470.00		
Cruz, Eric	455.00		
Martins, Cindy	445.00		
Canasta, Justine	435.00		
Bennett, Richard	433.75		
Fernandes, Paul	390.00		
Anderson, Elizabeth	375.00		
Niazi, Humaira	330.00	Sub Total:	<u>9,124.51</u>
LUNCHMONITORS			
Mueda, Anne	3,218.42		
Dossantos, Elaine	2,863.25		
Perry, Nancy	1,667.75		
Wilder, Sandra	676.58		
Moniz, Sharon	503.51		
Dufresne, Sharon	195.00		

Salaries of town employees cont'd from previous page

DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS	DEPT/NAME	Y.T.D.GROSS
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		WATER DEPARTMENT CONT.	\$52,908.70
Charbonneau, John	\$78,749.88	Fleurent, Karl	\$52,908.70
Martin, Jr., Albert	59,689.24	Gadomski, Stanley	52,528.53
Silva, Jorge	50,813.42	Costa, Jeffrey	46,441.64
Rusinowski, Mitchell	49,343.19	Viveiros, Robert	40,683.68
Paulson, Matthew	46,197.80	Hurley, Carolyn	32,820.49
Gouveia, Sr., Richard	43,257.90	Wilson, Joyce	27,613.59
Gagliardi, John	42,839.16	Bowers, Jonathan	13,827.67
Silva, Kenneth	39,283.18	Scieszka, Jon	12,267.64
Destroches, Joseph	39,263.11	Oliveira, Nathan	3,471.34
Martin, Jr., James	39,129.41	Horsley, Erik	58.82
Nogueira, Kim	39,122.70	Sub Total:	419,863.87
Hurley, Charles	38,162.71		
Manzone, Matthew	38,043.30		
Cardoza, Philip	37,774.01		
Stack, Justyn	36,713.30		
Souza, Manuel	35,402.57		
Angelinini, Vincenzo	31,548.52		
Rose, Robert	27,770.18		
Snell, Daryl	27,770.18		
Sub Total:	2,352.13		
D.P.W. ADMINISTRATION	785,650.84		
Fitzgerald, Jr., William	90,489.69	BOARD OF HEALTH	
Tripp, Kathy	60,510.40	Fowle, Patricia	68,716.53
Sub Total:	151,000.09	Darwin, Teresa	9,446.94
		Lopes, Jeannine	1,645.84
		Doerr, Joseph	1,587.50
		Caton, Dolores	1,333.34
		DeLlera, Peter	1,333.32
		Sub Total:	84,063.47
SEWER DEPARTMENT		COUNCIL ON AGING	
Schick, Linda	81,616.96	Jenkins, Deborah	51,808.98
Robillard, Rene	67,124.76	Cookinkham, Joyce	35,556.89
Paczosa, Raymond	62,192.63	Vandenburgh, Cynthia	33,103.93
Furtado, Jeffrey	56,436.99	Houghton, Rosemarie	29,143.83
Pinard, Douglas	55,459.39	Roderiques, Susan	26,159.49
Barlow, Lee	53,667.27	Dauteuil, Lucille	20,957.10
Gomes, Robert	50,075.01	Zegarowski, Karen	11,927.01
Frates, Joseph	48,266.35	Pequita, Phyllis	11,026.49
Bonneau, Joseph	45,127.68	Simmons, Paul	10,798.73
Winderick, Kyle	45,032.17	Barcellos, Jr., Frank	9,740.95
Oliveira, Victor	43,726.38	Carter, Ronelino	8,340.75
Hathaway, Dana	41,986.69	Snell, Cecile	8,287.53
Paulson, Charlene	36,665.28	Roderiques, Clifford	5,986.65
Boucher, Barry	33,711.53	Nadeau, Grace	3,736.00
Costa, Russell	32,851.68	Borges, Randall	3,229.70
Carreiro, Jeffrey	24,705.59	Pacheco, Myron	3,057.47
Machado, Joseph	20,780.00	Alfonse, Christine	2,247.34
Luz, Manuel	9,286.20	Hammond, Ronald	2,027.97
Gibney, Cody	3,561.90	Silver, Jean	981.55
Claffin, Patrick	64.70	Holmes, David	338.96
Freitas, Daniel	48.96	Sub Total:	278,437.32
Sub Total:	812,388.12	POLICE – OFF DUTY	
		Soares, Alexander	46,753.20
		Souza, Gary	6,175.72
		Jenkinson, Gene	4,422.36
		Hollins, Heather	3,923.30
		Wood, Victoria	3,236.85
		Grenier, Michelle	2,716.09
		Skipwith, Chelsea	2,526.57
		Gammie, Elizabeth	2,169.18
		Alves, Kayla	2,057.28
		Stafford, Linda	56.40
		Dumas, Jeffrey	46.92
		Arne, Alyssa	21.33
		Sub Total:	74,105.20
VETERANS SERVICES		TOTAL WAGES	\$22,895,531.57
Cochran, James	20,374.72	TOTAL ACTIVE EMPLOYEES	815
Silva, Edith	12,050.47		
Sub Total:	32,425.19		
RECREATION CENTER			
Renshausen, Warren	50,581.76	INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE	
Martin, Rachel	33,088.62	TREASURERS OFFICE.	
Duarie, Ashleigh	11,989.02	EMPLOYEE'S GROSS EARNINGS FOR	
Perry, Heather	10,718.10	THE CALENDAR YEAR 2010.	
WATER DEPARTMENT	81,816.96	POLICE EARNINGS REELECTS:	
Farrell, William	55,424.81	REGULAR, OVERTIME, AND OFF DUTY	
		EARNINGS PAID BY THIRD PARTY	
		VENDORS.	

LETTERS: cont'd from page 20

schools for a decade I can attest to the following:

- 1: The Rogers and Wood schools are in desperate need of replacing.
- 2: East Fairhaven is a warm and inclusive learning community that is not a cold "big box" school.
- 3: School buses, which my sons rode for 8 years without incidence, are common sense alternatives to private transportation, and they are a worthwhile expense to be sure that children arrive safely and on time for the school day.

I believe the School Building Committee consists of honest individuals, who have invested hundreds of hours questioning and researching all of the ins and outs of the issue, while navigating an impossibly complex process.

The result is that they have brought us to the point where our town's children will reap the benefits of their labor, a new elementary school equal to the beautiful model building in East Fairhaven.

I believe that if we were building that new school at the current Rogers school site, we would not be having this discussion. As far as walking vs busing: the Wood School site is near the bike path which is a safe, direct walking route from the center of town.

At one of the meetings I attended I learned that the MSBA will fund a building or buildings that house a total of three classes per grade. So to me that means if we renovate both sites, the larger Wood School site would have two classes and the smaller Rogers School site just one.

That tells me that the neighborhood for Rogers School would be cut in half; half the students now attending would end up at Wood School anyway.

I guess the Town can proceed on its own and tell the MSBA "thanks but no thanks, we're going to renovate the two buildings with two classes each so we'll fund it all ourselves".

That doesn't seem like a very smart solution. The bottom line is, if we want state funding, we have to accept the guidelines of the MSBA.

If the Town wants to preserve the Rogers School because of its undeniable historical relevance, then it should be done with other resources.

I want my tax dollars to go toward

building and maintaining modern schools that will educate our students and prepare them to be responsible citizens of the world. It's not right to mortgage that future in order to preserve the past.

I urge every Town Meeting Member to get the true facts. Do not allow sentiment and hysteria to override common sense. Vote in favor of the funds needed to secure the future education of our students.

Diane Hahn, Fairhaven

From the Superintendent

It is with great enthusiasm that I provide you with this update regarding our process to meet the educational needs of our entire elementary population in the most cost effective manner.

My enthusiasm is based upon tangible fact. At a recent School Committee meeting (April 27, 2011) all the seats were filled with members of the school community. During the public comment section of the meeting, seven (7) different individuals or groups presented comment or prepared statements in favor of the one-school option. The three building principals read a joint letter of support for the project. The momentum established at that meeting was palpable.

At a meeting with the MSBA, it was made clear that support across the community by various boards is important to the success of a project.

- Before reaching a final decision on recommending the preferred option at the Wood school site, the School Building Committee voted unanimously (8-0) to pursue a one-school option. This decision was unanimous and was based upon all of the information received during the feasibility study process. A one-school option was the unanimous choice of the school building committee because it was determined to be the most educationally sound and cost effective option.

- The Fairhaven Board of Selectmen approved the membership of the School Building Committee in accordance with the recommendations set forth by the MSBA. The building com-

mittee membership was accepted by the MSBA. Some members of this team were responsible for the East Fairhaven School project that concluded in 2007. This project was completed ahead of schedule, under its projected budget and is still considered one of the most cost effective projects conducted in the new MSBA era. Most recently, four schools were announced as models for the new elementary school division of the highly successful model school program. The East Fairhaven School was selected as one of these schools. Schools that meet the high standards of the MSBA and could be used as model designs for other town school building projects were chosen for this honor.

- The Fairhaven School Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to support the preferred option of the new model school at the Wood School site.
- The Fairhaven Board of Selectmen voted unanimously (3-0) to support the preferred option of the new model school at the Wood School site.
- On April 4, 2011, the town elections took place. The two leading vote getters openly ran supporting the one-school option. They were elected by over 200 vote margin in an election that had only 1500 voters total.

The ultimate decision lies with town meeting and the taxpayers of our great community.

I believe the majority of people in our community support the decision that was made and believe that the School Building Committee, School Committee, and the Board of Selectmen, have the town's best interest at heart. I trust our community as it has always done what is right for its people, especially for the children and their future.

Editor's note: please see page 17 for a letter from the MSBA to Fairhaven town officials.



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Save Our Schools group tells Selectboard they were all misled

By Mali Lim

Neighb News Correspondent

More than 25 concerned residents filled the Fairhaven town hall banquet room Monday night, 5/2, in an effort to convince the selectboard to withdraw a school-related article from the May 7 sepcial town meeting warrant.

The short selectboard meeting, meant to cover a few housekeeping matters before Saturday's town meeting, was dominated by parents challenging the town's decision to put forward an article for schematic design costs for a new elementary school.

Representatives from Save our Schools Fairhaven, a group of town residents opposed to the consolidation of Rogers and Wood schools into a single new facility, asked the selectboard to table the article, pausing the development process and giving town residents more time to consider options.

"Many community members did not feel as if as much time was spent on looking at all the design options pertaining to this project," said Sharon LaCroix-Andersen, one of the S.O.S. organizers.

The process in which the school building committee came to the decision to present a single-school option was the main point of contention for the group.

"When this project began there was a strong sentiment that a decision had already been made," Ms. LaCroix-Andersen told the board. "Votes were taken without input from all groups and I feel I wasn't validated by this process."

"On multiple occasions the community was told that the MSBA (Mass. School Building Authority) would not support a project of less than 300 students. On multiple occasions the community was told that the MSBA would not support a two-school option. On multiple occasions the community was told a pause in the process would be viewed as a 'no go' by the MSBA," she said.

The parent group presented the selectboard with copies of statements from the MSBA web-site, posted on April 28 in response to criticism in the local media and clarifying the agency's position relative to the Fairhaven project.

"Much of the information pre-

sented contradicted some of the information we've been hearing in the past few months," said Padraic Elliott, another concerned parent of a Rogers School student, and a Finance Committee member.

He went on to cite portions of a letter from Mary Pichetti, Director of Capital Planning at the MSBA, to support the group's claims that school officials had dismissed a two-school option from the start [*see full text of letter on page 17*]:

"For the last 12 months, and before the feasibility study had even begun, the District has repeatedly requested that the MSBA outright declare to Fairhaven two things: first, that the MSBA would only fund one project, not two; and second, that the MSBA would not support a project for less than 300 students. The MSBA would never make a statement like that without having studied the options

**An important decision
like this should be
debated on the town
meeting floor.
[Michael Silvia]**

through a feasibility study," said Mr. Elliott, quoting directly from Ms. Pichetti's letter. The response from Ms. Pichetti also referenced the advancement of a "proposed Rogers Elementary School," a statement that has further muddied the debate over the controversial building plan.

"We are in the portion of the process where a district is supposed to look at all the options, not to put any options aside," Mr. Elliott said. "The MSBA is taking a hands-off approach, and will not make a judgment until they receive a presentation from the town. I think it would at this stage be inappropriate to vote for a one school project without fully evaluating all options, to make sure we have a fully wide open view. We're not saying we need to take the one-school option off the table, but we feel that it is not time to take a vote."

Town executive secretary Jeffrey Osuch, a member of the School

Building Committee, disputed the group's claims that appropriate processes had not been followed.

"Architects have submitted studies to the MSBA. There have been traffic studies, impact studies," he said. "Both the project manager and the architect had to be selected by the MSBA. I don't think that you can easily say they didn't do a good job just because you don't agree with their position. I think the process was followed."

The selectboard refused to cede to the group's request to remove Article 8 from the warrant, as well as a request to withdraw the board's support of the article.

"The article was petitioned by the school building committee and not this board, so the article would have to be withdrawn by the school building committee," Selectboard Chair Michael Silvia told the group. "I'm not only uncomfortable with the idea, but I'm also pretty sure we don't have the authority to withdraw an article submitted by another committee."

"Let's put the shoe on the other foot," Mr. Silvia continued. "If this was an article that you were feeling passionate support for, and if we were to pull the rug out from under it just days before the town meeting, would you feel that democracy was being served? To me the larger issue is that you're asking this board to do something that we cannot and should not do."

One of the S.O.S. group members, who declined to identify herself, asked that the selectboard at least withdraw its endorsement of the article.

"You need to look at how this process was put together," she said. "Because of its process we feel we have lost faith in the legitimacy of the school building committee. If you refuse to withdraw your endorsement, you become accessory to the process, you become accessory to this article."

Mr. Silvia refused to comment on the board's endorsement, repeating that the appropriate venue for debate would be the town meeting floor.

"The ultimate arbitrator for the legitimacy of an article on the town floor is the town moderator," he said. "An important decision like this

SELECT: cont'd on page 34

School Committee hears more on school building options

By Anne Fenton

Neighb News Correspondent

Community support for the new "Model School" preferred option, one school built on the grounds of the Wood School to accommodate both Wood and Rogers School students, far outweighed the two schools option, according to Fairhaven Superintendent of Schools Robert Baldwin.

Dr. Baldwin presented his findings of the pros and cons of both plans in a PowerPoint presentation at the School Committee meeting on April 27, 2011. Parents, teachers, and school principals expressed their views about the options to "build new" or "maintain the old" elementary schools.

Dr. Baldwin said that he had presented his concerns and findings to parents and anyone who wanted to learn about the process a number of times.

The three elementary school Principals, Geraldine Lucas, East Fairhaven; Wendy Williams, Rogers School; and Amy Hartley-Matteson, Wood School, presented a united front with Mrs. Lucas addressing the committee.

"We would like to express our strong and continued support for the proposed school building project," said Mrs. Lucas. "Currently there are inequities in services, educational programming, and issues of compliance because of the condition of the elementary school facilities in the town of Fairhaven. This is unacceptable to us and should not continue any longer. The proposed school building project ensures equitable state-of-the-art facilities and services for all of our elementary students. We believe that the one school option is the only solution to provide an equitable education for all elementary students in Fairhaven."

Dr. Baldwin's presentation echoed the concerns of the Principals.

"The approval of the new model elementary school at the Wood School site would allow each and every elementary student in our district the same opportunities that the students are receiving at the new East Fairhaven School," he said. "A scaled down two-school option that does not provide the same opportunities for all of our elementary students, creates inequity, and is not

educationally sound for all students. It is irresponsible to propose a project that creates 'haves and have nots' and develops inequity within the system. Any suggestion that this is acceptable for our children is inexcusable."

"We don't really know what the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will fund and what they will not fund," said Parent Monica Whalley in a statement to the committee.

Dr. Baldwin then informed the public, once again, about the results of his research.

"To get a question again tonight that we don't know, with all due respect, we do know," he said.

Dr. Baldwin's findings include, "Based upon the total project budget prepared by Daedalus Projects/HMFH

It is irresponsible to propose a project that creates 'haves and have nots' and develops inequity within the system. Any suggestion that this is acceptable for our children is inexcusable

[Superintendent Robert Baldwin]

Architects, the total cost of the new model school preferred option is \$24,416,700 and the total cost of the two-school option, that does meet the MSBA guidelines and does conform to our educational program, is \$32,184,900."

Dr. Baldwin's presentation states that, "A reimbursement rate has not been determined by the MSBA for the two school option. It is common sense that a duplication of effort would be more costly, the question of whether or not this figure would be reimbursed is a moot point."

"A percentage multiplied by a higher figure is still a higher figure," he added.

With a reimbursement rate for the one-school option of 54.79%, set by the MSBA, with an increase of 5% if the new model school is utilized, MSBA's share would be \$14,598,745 and the town share would be approximately \$10,000,000.

Parent and Town Meeting member Denise Washko reinforced Dr. Baldwin's statements.

Ms. Washko admitted that originally she was in favor of maintaining the two school, but after attending a number of meetings she now prefers the one-school option. She is convinced that Fairhaven hired a Project Manager and Architectural firm based on their expertise and experience and because they have worked with the MSBA.

Ms. Washko also added that she trusts when her principal at Wood school said that a new school could retain a warm family feeling because, "It is about the people not the building."

Trust issues surfaced a number of times throughout the meeting. Brian Munroe, the newest School Committee member, stated, "They want to give us over \$14 million and I just in my mind can't say to myself they must be wrong I know better, these people do this every day."

Projected enrollment figures have also been a point of contention. Dr. Baldwin said the formula for predicting births was "reliable."

He said his research showed that the "district births to kindergarten ratio is one of a number of significant predictors of future enrollment."

Births in Fairhaven in the year ending August 31, 2006 total 137 and continually decreased through the same time in 2010 to 118. Actual enrollment in K-5 has declined from 1,005 in 2002 to 839 in 2011.

"They are factual birth to enrollment numbers. It gets scary if we don't do something about it."

SC member David Gonsalves asked Dr. Baldwin why the citizens of Fairhaven should believe the MSBA's enrollment projections.

Dr. Baldwin reassured Mr. Gonsalves that he and Town Clerk Eileen Lowney researched the birth records back through September 1, 2005.

"I feel better believing those projections when one of our own has gone to town hall, with town hall staff, and physically looked up these numbers," said Mr. Gonsalves.

The one-school feasibility study was one of 49 school districts'

SCHOOL: cont'd on page 34

SCHOOL: cont'd from page 33

projects chosen for analysis by the MSBA out of 162 districts that applied. If the funds for the schematic design are approved by 51% of the Town Meeting voters on May 7th, the project will go forward to the MSBA for further review. If the funding is not approved, Fairhaven could be removed from the MSBA list and another town could benefit from the grant funding.

"This approval will not be authorizing the building of a new school, but just the architectural design of the building which will provide a much more accurate cost of the new school," stated Dr. Baldwin.

Based on Dr. Baldwin's presentation, "A yes vote provides the educational program for all children for 40 cents on the dollar. A no vote will still cost the taxpayers millions, but at 100 cents on the dollar."

It is ironic that the Rogers School opened in 1885 as a regional alternative and according to the

school's web site, "It was not only Mr. Rogers's money but also his insight to see that Fairhaven needed a large grammar school that would replace several one-room schools. Besides being logically more efficient Mr. Rogers envisioned a school that would serve the educational needs of the children who might never go beyond a primary education."

Dr. Baldwin said, "Despite whatever efforts we use in bringing old and tired buildings up to code, we still will not have addressed the educational program deficiencies at Wood and Rogers Schools."

According to Dr. Baldwin's presentation, a very alarming situation surfaced at the Rogers School during a recent fire drill, when students in music class could not hear the fire alarm.

Ms. Kuechler noted that all the information regarding the proposed plans, including Dr. Baldwin's presentation, will be available online

ad: www.fairhavenps.org/.

In other business the committee learned that the Chess team made championships and a large number of Sophomore students are being inducted into the honor society. The local band Tavares will be looking at the battle of bands to see if they can spot especially talented students.

A discussion was held about FPS School Choice participation and Tara Kohler, High School Principal, cautioned against opening up the school system at this time until the elementary school proposal has been settled.

She said if the district opens system to outside students it opens it to the entire family. The committee voted unanimously not to become a school choice district.

The committee also unanimously approved two field trips for Rogers School students to travel to Woods Hole and Boston.

•••

SELECT: cont'd from page 32

should be debated on the town meeting floor."

Selectboard member Charles K. Murphy concurred, suggesting that the group focus its efforts on speaking out during town meeting and at the precinct meetings.

"If your support is prevalent on the day of meeting, your opinion will prevail. You have the opportunity to share this [letter from the MSBA] but it's up to you to educate the town," he said. "Eight hundred and fifty people have signed your petition, but there are 16,000 people in this town. Not everyone knows about this, not everyone knows what the MSBA is."

Selectboard member Brian

Bowcock concluded the discussion, commenting that the warrant had been served and the issue has come to the point where voters will decide which way to go on Saturday.

The board then ended the discussion on Article 8, to keep to a scheduled appointment to discuss a repair shop license for Ray's Fair Repair. The business license application, which has been pending approval for over a year, was contingent on the receipt of an official site plan, which the owner never submitted. As the proper documents have finally been produced and approved by the building inspector, the board voted to grant the license.

In other business, the selectboard voted to support the final negotiated contract ratified by the dispatchers' union,

agreeing to a zero-percent increase for the current year, 1% for FY12, another 1% for FY13, with an additional 1% for the last day of FY13, a contract similar to that negotiated by the teachers' union.

The board also voted to re-appoint Town Planner and Economic Development Director William Roth to the Southeastern Mass. Commuter Rail Task Force, and signed a CDBG Housing Rehab Subordination approval for a block housing grant.

The board reconvened in executive session to discuss an opening in the assessor's department for a secretary, contractual negotiations with John Moore, Cushman Park encroachments with the Board of Public Works, and union contracts.

**The logic of the heart
is absurd**

Julie de Lespinasse



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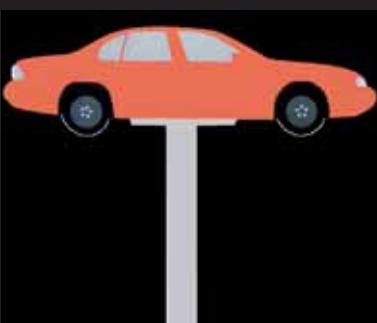


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