



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 46 • December 8, 2011

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

Common Park is ready for the holidays



The magnificent old tree in the center of Clasky Common Park in New Bedford is lit from below, while colorful Christmas lights surround it and spread through the park. The display was lit on Sunday, 12/4, and will be lit every evening through January 6, 2012. The park is bordered by County, Pearl, Pope and Purchase Streets in New Bedford. Story on page 16. Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook to see more photos of this and other events.

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Well, here we go again, sprinting to the finish line (would that I could sprint around my house without getting heart palpitations).

I made a huge mistake in last week's issue in the story about the wind turbines.... but, you knew that right? You knew it was supposed to be cents and not dollars, didn't you, huh, huh?

Ugh.

This weekend is the old time holiday celebration in Fairhaven. See page 3 for lots of fun stuff happening all around town. And it's not just for the kids, either. It's for everyone. Hot chocolate and singing, and just running around being happy. That's Christmas.

Our cover story is always lots of fun to go to, the lighting of the Common Park in New Bedford. See page 16 for that. Be sure to visit our Facebook page to see lots more photos, in color, too. Diane Kozak also got to do a fun Christmas lighting celebration. She covered Acushnet's event for us this year. See page 12 for that.

The wind turbine foes have not given up yet. See page 17 for a story on what they tried, and what they are trying next. Also on page 7, you'll find a follow-up on the hit-and-run accident that killed Katie Brienzo and injured Ellery Reynolds.

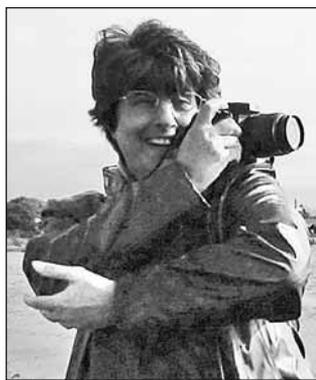
We have some meeting coverage for you, too: see page 4 for Conservation Commission and find out what the Bella Vista Island residents are up to now, see page 25 for BPW and page 26 for School Building.

Well, gotta run. Sorry to be so brief, but it's really late and my printer is awaiting this with bated breath.

Until next week then...

Be sure to start enjoying the season.

See ya,



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS

In last week's story on the wind turbines, we made two errors. The town will pay \$.0743 per kilowatt hour for electricity (cents, not dollars); and the renewable energy certificates (not credits) will amount to approximately \$250,000 per year.

We also mixed up the dates on the historical commission and the conservation commission meetings.

We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused.

Help feed the hungry

This bin is in the Walnut Street lobby of the Millicent Library in Fairhaven. Another bin is at Stop & Shop. All food goes to the Shepherd's Pantry, 1215 Main Street, Acushnet (508-763-9289). The pantry has seen a sharp increase in families seeking food due to the worsening economy.



The Pantry spends more than \$5,000 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 100 families each week.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit www.shepherdspantry.org

Fairhaven's old time holiday this weekend

Fairhaven Office of Tourism
Press Release

The second weekend in December is the time to visit Fairhaven if you want to feel a sense of old-time holiday spirit as the town celebrates its Old-Time Holiday Weekend. Holiday marketplaces and crafts fairs, a pancake breakfast and book fair, and luncheons are among the ways to enjoy the season of good cheer. For children, there are many chances for photographs with Santa or Father Christmas.

Friday, December 9

Lighting of Benoit Square

On Friday evening, **December 9, at 6 p.m.**, the North Fairhaven Improvement Association will start the weekend by lighting the lights at Benoit Square, at the intersection of Main Street and Adams Street in North Fairhaven.

Father Pat from St. Mary's Church will be present to say a short prayer and the crowd will sing to welcome Santa who is expected to arrive on a fire truck for the occasion, and hand out candy canes to all the children.

The newly designed lights will be turned on to welcome the holiday season. Everyone is invited to attend.

Christmas Concert

Following the square lighting, a **free Christmas Concert** is scheduled at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 357 Main Street in North Fairhaven. The concert, featuring local musicians and choir members, **will begin at 7 p.m.**

Saturday, December 10

A full day of events from morning through late afternoon are scheduled for Saturday, December 10, at locations ranging from the historical Henry Huttleston Rogers buildings and churches in the center of town to the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship House on Cherry Street at Poverty Point and the Council on Aging at Route 6.

Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast will start things off at **Rogers School, 100 Pleasant Street, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Breakfast items will include pancakes, sausage, coffee and orange juice for **\$5.00 a plate**. There will also be crafts for children to make for a small fee. At the same time a Holiday Scholastic Book Fair will be held. Proceeds from the Rogers School

events will benefit the school's PTO.
Holiday Marketplace

A **Holiday Marketplace will take place at the Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street.** Local artists and crafters will set up display booths offering a unique collection of holiday goods. Baked goods and holiday greens will also be available. Saint Nicholas will be on hand, too, to greet visitors. **Admission to the marketplace is free. It runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, during which time the sanctuary of this magnificent English gothic style "cathedral" will be open for guided tours.

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

The Unitarian Church will also hold a soup and sandwich luncheon at its Harrop Center building on Center Street from **11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** **Hot soup, chowder** and a variety of sandwiches will be available.

Town Hall Shops

The Town Hall Shops at **Town Hall, 40 Center Street**, will be the location where local non-profit and church groups will sell crafts, holiday ornaments, baked goods and other items. **The Town Hall will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Groups selling goods include the Town Bicentennial Committee, Church of the Good Shepherd, Fairhaven Association for Music Education (F.A.M.E.), Boy Scout Troop 52/Cub Pack 52 of St. Mary's Church, FHS Art Club, Fairhaven Village Militia, Fairhaven Historical Society, some Fairhaven High School classes and organizations and others. Fairhaven music students from the public schools will be presenting **musical performances from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.** The Town Hall Shops event is sponsored by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism. The scouts and F.A.M.E. will offer food and refreshment outside on the Town Hall steps.

Ye Olde Brick Church Faire

More activity will be taking place from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 34 Center Street**, where Ye Olde Brick Church Faire will be held. Crafters will be selling their wares. Vermont cheddar cheese, baked goods, gourmet foods and other items will be sold. There will also be a raffle. A **lobster roll luncheon will be served as well, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** The whole building is wheel-

chair accessible.

WMFS Open House

Across town, the **Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society will be holding an open house at the Capt. William Whitfield house at 11 Cherry Street from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** The group will be offering tours of the house and will be selling items including origami ornaments and a variety Japanese stocking stuffers. Also offering free Origami instruction and free name-writing in Japanese. Refreshments will be available. Donations appreciated, but not necessary.

Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

At the **Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Ave.**, youngsters and the young at heart can enjoy cookies and cocoa with Santa Claus. There will also be raffles, wreaths and baked goods. The COA will be open from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Sunday, December 11

Christmas Carols

On Sunday, December 11, a public singing of traditional Christmas carols and hymns will be held at the **Trinity Lutheran Church, 16 Temple Place, starting at 1:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join in the singing. A free will offering benefits the TLC Play and Learn Campus, an after-school ministry.

Lessons & Carols

Sunday's activities conclude with a Service of Lessons and Carols at the **Unitarian Memorial Church at 4:00 p.m.** This holiday musical program in the magnificent cathedral-like setting will feature seasonal readings and music performed by the Unitarian Church Choir directed by organist Dwight Thomas.

The Old-Time Holiday in Fairhaven is sponsored by the participating non-profit, civic and church groups in town, with promotion coordinated by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, which first developed the cooperative event in 1998.

December's events in Fairhaven are shown online at <http://FairhavenEvents.blogspot.com>. A handout sheet is also available at the Visitors Center, 43 Center Street, Fairhaven, Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call the Office of Tourism at 508-979-4085, or email FairhavenTours@aol.com.

Consultant “befuddled” by Bella Vista violations

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Allegations of numerous violations to an Order of Conditions issued to Bella Vista Island owner Heiam Alsawalhi created a stir among the Fairhaven Conservation Commission members at the 12/5 meeting, resulting in two opposing motions by commission members conflicted about how to respond.

“I’m disgusted,” said ConCom Chairperson Andrew Jones, after hearing a scathing report presented by Lenore White of Wetland Strategies of Plymouth, who performed the 11/30 inspection of the Bella Vista Island property.

According to Ms. White, a number of different unpermitted activities were executed on the property, including the tearing-out of a section of wetlands which is now an empty lot, the construction of a dock and pier without a permit, and a new driveway that runs right through where a sand dune once was.

Ms. White reported that the dune is totally gone and the wetlands were mowed completely down. She accused property owner Ms. Alsawalhi and her husband, Anwar Faisal, of “willful and repeated non-compliance,” pointing out that Ms. Alsawalhi and Mr. Faisal have violated the Wetlands Protection Act.

She urged the commission to approach the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection for enforcement under the Administrative Penalties Statute. Under the statute, the DEP could issue a penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for what Ms. White termed “willful and repeated actions.”

Ms. White told the commission that in the past, she had explained the regulations to Ms. Alsawalhi and Mr. Faisal and said she thought they had an understanding. Ms. White commented that the violations were “egregious and willfull.”

“I’m just befuddled,” she said.

The commission looked over photographs taken by Ms. White at the time at the inspection and proceeded to address Rich Rheame of Prime Engineering, who represented the owners.

“This is serious business,” said Mr. Jones, offering Mr. Rheame the chance to rebut.

Mr. Rheame disagreed that the dunes had been leveled and argued

that none of the work was done in violation of the prior Order of Conditions issued by the commission. When Ms. White stated the example of the roadway having been built through the sand dune, Mr. Rheame shook his head, saying, “No.”

“There’s a photo of it right here,” rebutted Ms. White.

Regarding a Letter of Denial drafted by Ms. White for the commission, Mr. Rheame requested two weeks time to review the document before the commission makes a vote to deny the Notice of Intent application, and possibly issue an Enforcement Order.

Mr. Faisal was present at the hearing and requested permission to speak to the commission. He begged the commission to visit the property, saying he was confident that the commission would disagree with Ms.

I know you own this land,
but you only own it for
the duration of your
lifetime [Cora Peirce]

White’s findings. He said the cleared-out lot of wetlands that Ms. White described was actually just “dead brush” he had removed that had been damaged by Tropical Storm Irene.

“We haven’t done anything wrong,” he said.

“You can’t look us straight in the eye and tell us you haven’t done anything wrong,” replied Mr. Jones. “You do a little and say, this is what I have permission for... It’s a pattern.”

Mr. Jones acknowledged that during a public meeting held months ago, neighbors and abutters had “given him [Mr. Faisal] a hard time,” and that Mr. Jones had once felt bad for Mr. Faisal.

Mr. Jones acknowledged that at that time, Mr. Faisal promised that he would be a “good neighbor” and go about his project respectfully.

“But you just do what you want to do,” Mr. Jones told Mr. Faisal.

Mr. Faisal continued to plead to Mr. Jones to come visit the site to “go over it piece by piece.” He reiterated that the wetlands and vegetation he

had cleared was only dead brush, which had to be removed because he was worried about mosquitoes.

Again, Mr. Jones expressed that he did not think anything would change from a site visit, stating that he had hired Ms. White to be the “eyes and ears” of the commission. He commented on the numerous phone calls he had received over time about Bella Vista Island, with residents reporting activities and questioning whether or not they were permitted.

“Then you see photos like these,” said Mr. Jones. “You can’t just do what you want.”

Commission member Cora Peirce confronted Mr. Faisal about the removal of the sand dune, remarking that if Mr. Faisal was to continue to clear the vegetation and dunes that prevent erosion, the island would eventually wash away.

“This is why we want you to protect this land,” said Ms. Peirce. “I know you own this land, but you only own it for the duration of your lifetime.”

Ms. Peirce stated that it was important to protect the land for future generations, and informed Mr. Faisal that Bella Vista Island was once a sacred island to the Wampanoags. Ms. Peirce said she would entertain a motion to do a site-visit but added that she was “almost dreading going to it.”

“Should we extend that invitation to the DEP?” Mr. Jones questioned Mr. Rheame.

“Sure,” replied Mr. Rheame. “I think it would be helpful.”

ConCom member Jay Simmons stated that the commission should accept Ms. White’s Letter of Denial and send the DEP to the site. Ms. White said that the work that was done did not meet the performance standards and the sooner they alert the DEP, the better. She said she did not think the DEP would get involved while the Conservation Commission was still debating the issue.

Mr. Simmons went ahead with a Motion for a Denial, which was not seconded by another commission member.

“I hate to keep issuing you orders,” admitted Mr. Jones. “I’d just rather have it not be. You have a great piece of property. We rely on you to be honest...and when it comes back to

CONCOM: cont’d on page 22

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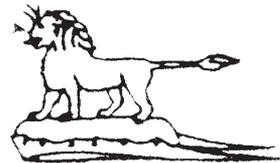
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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Old Time Holiday

The second weekend in December is the time to visit Fairhaven if you want to feel a sense of old-time holiday spirit as the town celebrates its Old-Time Holiday Weekend. Holiday marketplaces and crafts fairs, a pancake breakfast and book fair, and luncheons are among the ways to enjoy the season of good cheer. For children, there are many chances for photographs with Santa or Father Christmas. **See page 3 for details.**

Christmas Concert

St. Joseph Church of Fairhaven, 74 Spring St., Fairhaven, will be conducting an **Advent/Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11, at 3:00pm.** We will be serving refreshments after the concert. Please enjoy a joyous concert. Accessible.

EFS Concerts

East Fairhaven School Concerts, Wed. Dece. 14, at 9:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., East Fairhaven School, 2 New Boston Road, Fairhaven

Students of East Fairhaven School will present their winter concerts with the theme "How Can I Keep From Singing." Preschool will participate in the afternoon performance. Students in Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 5 will perform in the morning and the afternoon. All are invited to attend!

The students will be performing vocal and instrumental selections under the direction of Ms. Chirigotis, the string specialist, Mr. Young, the instrumental specialist, Mrs. Hamric, music specialist with Grade 3 Recorders, and Mrs. Campoli, music specialist with vocal selections. Art work is under the direction of Mrs. Cashman, the art specialist. The concert will be dedicated to the memory of Ms. Elizabeth Close who served as an elementary music teacher for the town of Fairhaven since 1993 and passed away April 10, 2011.

Douglass Family

ALS tree sale

Dick & Vivian Douglass of Sciticut Neck Road will continue their unique approach to fighting a family member's diagnosis of ALS, "Lou Gehrig's Disease." They will hold the 10th annual **Douglass Family**

Christmas Tree Sale on Saturday, Dec. 10th & Sunday, December 11th from 9:00am-3:00pm

All proceeds go to ALS TDI, the world's largest ALS research institute.

All trees are \$40.00. Also offering live emerald green arborvitae for table trees at \$20 each or 3 for \$50. These are between 2 to 4 feet tall, potted and suitable for replanting.

For more information, contact Dick Douglass at dickdouglass@comcast.net or 508-990-8592 or Libby Reynolds by phone at 617-441-7266, or email at lreynolds@als.net

For more about ALS and our farm, visit, http://community.als.net/the_douglassfamilyeffort; for more about ALS TDI, visit www.als.net

Coat Drive

The need has never been greater and it's never been easier to make a difference in your community. Here is your opportunity to make sure that nobody goes without such a basic necessity as a coat this winter.

Hastings Middle School Community Service Class is collecting clean, gently used coats and jackets as part of the One Warm Coat community service project. Coats of all shapes sizes are welcome. One Warm Coat is dedicated to distributing reusable coats, free of charge, directly to local children and adults. The program is an easy way for you and your family to pass along coats and jackets that you no longer need.

Just take your clean, gently used coats and jackets to **The Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, December 10th.** You may also drop off coats at **Hastings Middle School during school hours from 8am-3pm Monday- Friday** at 30 School Street in Fairhaven. For more information you can contact Ann Richard at the school 1-508-979-4063 or email at arichard@fairhavenps.org.

Food Drive

The Fairhaven Business Association (FBA) is sponsoring a Holiday Food Drive to benefit both M.O.L.I.F.E. Inc. food pantry and the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, **now through December 15.** Anyone wishing to donate canned and dry goods may drop off at one central

location at What a Find! Consignment Furniture, 154 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM-5:00 PM. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

For more information regarding the Fairhaven Business Association please contact Debra Perrin, President at 508-994-9971 or Diane Tomassetti, Secretary/Treasurer, 508-326-2567.

Book Discussion

The book "Garlic and Sapphires," by Ruth Reichl, is available at the Millicent Library for the **Thurs., Dec. 15th, book discussion.** The meetings, held at 10:00 a.m., are held in the downstairs conference room, Walnut Street entrance. Accessible.

Ruth Reichl's entertaining book recounts her adventures as the New York Times food critic, reviewing high end restaurants. So as not to be recognized by staff, who would then give supreme service hoping for a favorable review, she changed her appearance for each visit with the use of make-up, wigs, etc. Her colorful descriptions of her treatment and reviews make for good reading.

Toys for Tots

Once again this holiday season, Sullivan Tire will participate in the Toys for Tots program by collecting new, unwrapped toys at **10 Plaza Way, Fairhaven.** Toys can also be dropped off at any of their stores, offices and wholesale locations throughout New England. Customers and employees can drop off toys **through Dec. 12th.** The toys will be distributed to needy children in the community by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

Vigil

Christmas Vigil for loved ones who were taken away from us from violence will be held at Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven, on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30pm. Accessible.

Health Clinic

Southcoast VNA, will hold a health clinic for seniors 60 and older **on Mon., Dec. 12, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Atria Assisted Living, 391 Alden Road, Fairhaven.**

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Holiday House Tour

The 20th Annual Holiday House Tour by the New Bedford Preservation Society will be held on **Sat. Dec. 10 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 11 from 1 to 5 p.m.** Start at Tour Headquarters, The James Arnold Mansion (Wamsutta Club), 427 County Street, New Bedford. **ADMISSION: \$19 advance purchase w/ \$2 discount to society members; \$23 at the door.**

Contact Catherine Potter, Preservation Society office, phone/fax 508/997-6425, e-mail: NBPS2000@yahoo.com; website: www.nbpreservationsociety.org

Artist Holiday Sale

Support local artists by purchasing handmade gift items for the holiday season from art students at UMass Dartmouth at the **Star Store, 715 Purchase St., New Bedford, 508-999-8904.** Proceeds go directly back to the students in order to augment their education in the arts.

Ceramics, textiles, jewelry, drawings, wood. Thurs., Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Dec. 9 & 10 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sing-Along & Dinner

Join the third annual Christmas Sing-A-Long at the **Centre Trinity United Methodist Church, 473 County St., New Bedford, on Sat., Dec. 10. Free Shepherd Pie Dinner at 5 p.m., Sing-Along from 7-9 p.m.**

St. Anthony Sing

Have you ever wanted to sing along in public with the Hallelujah Chorus? You can get your chance to do just that on Sunday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m. The Spirit of St. Anthony Choir will be joined by the Bridgewater State University Chamber Singers in a Christmas concert.

To get to the event, the community is welcome to hop on the free trolley from Downtown, and then join in the caroling sing-along portion of the program. Complimentary hot chocolate served in the church hall, provided by the North End Business Association. This is a benefit concert for St. Anthony of Padua church's Historic 1912 Casavant Organ Renovation Fund. Although no

admission is charged, donations are collected during the concert, and participation in the "adopt an organ part" program is encouraged.

Free parking is available at the Whale's Tooth (ferry) lot in Downtown New Bedford. From there, trolley transportation is provided between the hours of 2 to 6 p.m. compliments of the Saint Anthony of New Bedford Federal Credit Union. The church is located at 1359 Acushnet Avenue in New Bedford.

For information, contact Fr. Roger J. Landry, at (508) 993-1691, or visit the church web site at www.saintanthonynewbedford.com.

Auditions

SECOND ROUND OF AUDITION FOR "NIGHT OF THE IGUANA"

Auditions for Your Theatre, Inc.'s March 2012 production of Tennessee Williams's emotionally charged *Night Of The Iguana* will be held at **7:30 PM Tues., Dec. 13 and Thurs., Dec. 15.** Anyone interested should arrive at The Playhouse, 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford.

Director Robin Richard must fill 14 roles including: 6 men ages 18 -70, 2 Hispanic young men ages 17-21 and 6 women ages 20-60. No experience necessary For additional information, on line visit www.yourtheatre.org, call YTI at 508-993 0772, or email ytinc@verizon.net

NY Eve at Whaling Museum

Give 2011 a grand finale with music and a festive feast at New Year's Swingin' Eve, Saturday, December 31 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, as members of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra fill the museum's halls with music for everyone. Americana recording artists, McCarthy & Legge, will also perform. Dance to a swinging jazz quartet, listen to a classical trio, enjoy some rock 'n roll - or do all three.

Russell Morin Fine Catering will provide an array of petit open-face sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, seasonal pasta, and sweet pastries - served with freshly brewed Colombian coffee, decaf, gourmet teas and a cash bar. Tickets: \$50 per person (children: \$15, under 18 years), includes

entertainment, food, and kids activities. Call Alison Smart: (508) 997-0046 ext. 115.

At 8:30 p.m., view the city's fireworks display from inside the Museum's newly restored Bourne Building. The evening includes a silent auction of wonderful gifts and keepsakes. Proceeds of New Year's Swingin' Eve will support the education programs of the orchestra and the museum.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is the world's most comprehensive museum devoted to the global story of whales, whaling and the cultural history of the region. The cornerstone of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown and is open daily. For a complete calendar of events, visit the Museum online at www.whalingmuseum.org.

NB Holiday Parking

In an effort to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping in New Bedford, the City is offering a special Holiday Parking Program. Effective through Sunday, January 1, 2012 the City of New Bedford will offer **FREE 2-hour parking** at metered spaces in both the Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue and 2-hour FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, the Zeiterion Garage and Custom House Square!

Anyone parked at a meter in either the Downtown or on Acushnet Avenue while doing holiday shopping who receives a ticket as a result of parking in excess of the 2-hour limit, may mail or present their ticket along with a copy of a sales receipt for \$10.00 or more from a Downtown or North End Business District restaurant/merchant to the City of New Bedford Traffic Commission Office. The parking ticket will be forgiven with the presentation of the same day receipt.

Questions regarding the Holiday Parking Program should be directed to the Traffic Commission Office at (508) 961-3153.

Sponsored by the Office of the Mayor in partnership with Downtown New Bedford Inc. and the North End Business Association.

Cont'd next page

STILL OVERTOWN

NB holiday events

The following community events will take place throughout the City of New Bedford during the month of December to celebrate the holiday season.

South Central /South First Association Tree Lighting: Dec. 12th at 6:30pm, Monte Park, corner of Russell Street and Acushnet Avenue

Pictures with Santa: Dec. 10th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm, The Ashley Room on the first floor of City Hall,

133 William Street

Goulart Square Association Tree Lighting: December 11th at 6:30pm, Ashley Park on the corner of Rivet Street and Bolton Street

Rockdale Avenue Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting: Dec. 15th 6:30pm, Park on the Corner of Court Street and Liberty Street (across from Hathaway School)

Bullard Street Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting: Dec. 18th at 6 pm, Riverside Park on the corner of Belleville Avenue and Coffin Avenue

Lions Club dance

The City of New Bedford will host a series of **FREE dances** on selected Sunday afternoons this fall and winter from 1:30–4 p.m. at the Fort Taber Community House. Accessible.

This **Sunday, Dec. 11,** features **Wonder Who Featuring Jack Gomes.** Snack bar with refreshments available; proceeds to benefit the New Bedford Lions Club. Sponsored by the City of New Bedford; John R. Lopes, Music Director, 508-994-4173.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Dance Marathon

UMass Dartmouth students have been busy since last May planning for its first annual 12-hour Dance Marathon to benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Children's Hospital Boston. The UMass Dartmouth Dance Marathon will take place Saturday February 25th 2012 from 11 AM to 11 PM at the Woodland Commons located on campus. The dance will be a celebration of the funds raised throughout the year.

Dance Marathon's slogan is, "We dance for those who can't!" The event will include student organization performances, music, food, contests, giveaways, and of course, dancing.

The last fundraising event planned before the dance marathon is **Dec. 13 from 5-8 PM at Pub 99 in Dartmouth. Pub 99 has agreed to donate 15% of each bill of those who present a Dance Marathon Flyer.** For a flyer please contact Meghan, Mmanning1@umassd.edu or Jessica, Jcandido@umassd.edu

If you are interested in donating, you can visit their Online Donor Drive with a credit/debit donation at www.helpmakemiracles.org and choose Massachusetts Events, then UMass Dartmouth. Or donations can be accepted by making a check payable to Children's Hospital Boston. You can also contact Meghan or Jessica to make a donation.

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is a non-profit organization that supports affiliated children's hospitals across the country. The funds that are raised locally stay local, benefiting the member children's hospital in that region. Therefore, the funds raised by UMASS

Dartmouth's Dance Marathon will directly support Children's Hospital Boston.

Mattapoisett Lib.

The following events are being held at the Mattapoisett Free Public, 7 Barstow St. Accessible.

Gently Used Book Sale

In addition to the great buys available every day on the Gently Used Book Shelf, the Friends hold a monthly book sale on the second Saturday. This month the sale will be Saturday, December 10 from 10 am to 1 pm. Stop by and browse the wonderful selection that is new each month.

Junior Friends Can and Bottle Drive

Take your redeemables to the library on **Saturday, December 10 from 9 to 10 am** and support the Junior Friends of the Library.

Holiday Open House

Holiday Cheer at the Library sponsored by the Friends will be held on **Tues., Dec. 13, at 6:00 pm.** Join the Friends for refreshments, hors d'oeuvres and some holiday music. You are invited to help close out the "go green" theme this year by creating a recycled ornament to adorn the holiday tree in the main room of the library. Everyone is welcome to join us for the tree decorating and lighting. Making an ornament is optional but encouraged. Be sure to create your ornament at home and bring it with you on December 13 to be hung on the tree. We are encouraging both adults and children to participate. Multiple ornaments are welcome.

Authors party

Authors Without Borders is hosting a Holiday Party **for authors and aspiring authors at the Country Club of New Bedford on Saturday, December 17, from 11 am to 3:30 pm.** This is a great opportunity to network and share your writing journey. Featured guests, menu and more information are listed on our web site: www.awb6.com or contact us at 6authors@awb6.com.

Please reply no later than December 12. Prizes include a year's associate membership or a chance to showcase your work on a local cable television show!

Networking event

"Annual Holiday Networking," featuring Mark Roberg, VP of Sales at HubSpot, sponsored by Southern New England Entrepreneurs Forum (SNEEF) at **UMass Dartmouth, Thursday, December 8, 5:30 p.m., Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center, 151 Martine Street, Fall River. \$20, \$25 at door. Register at www.sneef.org.**

Insulin Pump Educ

Southcoast Hospitals Group Diabetes Management Program will hold a free insulin pump education session on tips for enjoying holiday eating and testing basal rates on **Tues., Dec. 13, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** at the Diabetes Management Program in the Durfee Union Building, 283 Pleasant Street in Fall River. Please call 508-324-3260 to register. Hosted by Medtronic Minimed. Light refreshments will be served.



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Recipe of the Week

Dijon Pork Loin

- 1/4 cup dried steak seasoning
- 2 tbsps all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 2 tbsps Dijon mustard
- 1 (3.5-4 lb.) boneless pork loin roast, trimmed
- Garnishes: fresh basil leaves, cherry tomatoes

Preheat oven to 475°. Combine first four ingredients in a small bowl. Rub mustard mixture evenly over roast. Place roast on an aluminum foil lined broiler pan.

Bake at 475° for 20 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° and bake 50-55 minutes or until a meat thermometer inserted in thickest portion registers 155°.

Remove from oven and let stand 15 minutes or until thermometer reaches 160° before slicing.

Garnish, if desired.
Makes 6-8 servings.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighbnews@comcast.net

A Little Bit of Sports

By Bob Hobbs

Special to the Neighb News

Kaleigh Charette shines at Worcester State

Kaleigh Charette, former Fairhaven High School hoopster, is leading Worcester State in scoring with a 13 point average. Kaleigh is 105 points away from joining the 1,000 point club at Worcester.

Kaleigh had 15 points in 62-57 loss to UMassDartmouth last week.

Tyler Hemingway Makes super ST golf team

Fairhaven High's Tyler, only a sophomore, was selected to the ST Super Team. The #1 golfer at FHS also made it to state individual finals.

Congratulations, Tyler.

Dan Mc-Claughlin was an honorable mention on the super team for FHS.

Prose on Pros

Sox have a Valentine for Christmas

Bobby Valentine was named Red Sox manager for 2012 season. Sox needed change and i think he will be a good fit.

Pats

Pats & Brady had super game against Eagles, but defense is still

questionable. How about putting Ochocinco on defense??!!

Four Dartmouth High Grads in Division I Football

Four players from the super Dartmouth High team of 2009 are now playing Div. I college football which has never happened in this area, of course Jordan Todman played with Conn. and then to Chargers.

Art Lynch, a tight end who's at Georgia, Justin Mello at New Hampshire as wide receiver, and red shirt freshman Sean Sylvia a D-Back starting at Boston College.

Congratulations to those gridders. That's quite a feat to have four DHS grads in Div. I football.



Fairhaven High School alum Kaleigh Charette goes up for a jump shot, playing for Worcester State College. Photo courtesy of Richard Orr Sports Photography. See it tin color at www.NeighbNews.com

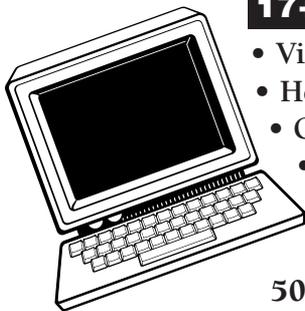
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Hundreds turn out for Acushnet holiday lighting celebration

Text & Photos By Diane Kozak
Neighb News Correspondent

At about 6:30 pm on the night of Sunday December 4th Santa Claus arrived at the Acushnet Fire station in a screeching fire truck where he was greeted by a few hundred carolers.

Led by the Ford Middle School chorus, the crowd sang *Here Comes Santa Claus* as he made his way to his seat where he immediately began welcoming children to share their wishes with him. Acting as his elf was Miss Apple Peach, Hannah Le Blanc.

Adding to the festivities firefighters and their helpers served hot

chocolate and cookies to a steady stream of holiday spirited folks.

Although the annual event had many of the traditions it has every year, the celebration was noticeably different this year because of the 9/11 memorial located on the fire station grounds.

Throughout the night there was always at least a handful of people standing at the memorial speaking in hushed voices. Parents did their best to explain what the steel beam and the glass panel with the etched names on it represented to their young children, for whom the date

9/11 has yet to hold any significance.

Some people bowed their heads in silent thought. Many looked upon the lighted memorial holding the hands of loved ones. More than one onlooker wiped their eyes as they turned away.

Surrounded by light displays of toy soldiers, reindeer and Christmas trees, the memorial stood as a reminder to many to make the traditional holiday wish for peace on earth.

The lights will stay lit from 4-10 p.m. every night through Jan. 3.

More photos next page.



LEFT: Ryan Latuilippe gets his time with Santa while his Elf, Miss Apple Peach Hannah LeBlanc, keeps an eye on things, at Acushnet's annual holiday lighting celebration on the front lawn of the fire station on 12/4.

ABOVE: Dennis Giampa and young Ethan take a moment at the 9/11 memorial. *Photos by Diane Kozak. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Visit us on Facebook to see more photos of this and other events.*



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More photos of Acushnet lights



ABOVE: The Ford Middle School choir gets ready to sing at Acushnet's holiday lighting celebration on 12/4 on the front lawn of the fire station. TOP RIGHT: Donna and Kevin Layton marvel at the lights. BOTTOM RIGHT: Keathan Tevenal enjoys some one-to-one time with Santa. Photos by Diane Kozak. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com Visit us on Facebook to see more photos of this and other events.

Recreation Center gym floor project moving along



The gym is closed at the Fairhaven Recreation Center while the floor is being replaced. According to Program Coordinator Rachel Martin who has been watching the process closely, the floating floor consists of a layer of plastic under a layer of foam and topped by two layers of maple crisscrossing for a basket weave finish. After the wood is laid down, the floor will be sanded and the lines painted. The basketball hoops will also have to be raised because the floor now a few inches higher. LEFT: the floor as it was on Monday, 12/5. ABOVE: a decal of the artwork that will be painted on the floor. The work is being done by O'Sullivan Flooring, a Mass. company specializing in gymnasium floors. The work should be done by the end of the year. Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com



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ATTENTION: Rec Center Construction

Due to the start of construction, the gymnasium will be closed from **Nov. 24 to Dec. 26**. We will be unable to accommodate Birthday parties and rentals until after that date. The Wellness room will remain open and we will continue accepting rental applications and Birthday Party dates. Also the Craft Fair/10 Year Anniversary Event has been cancelled.

Kool Kids Christmas Vacation

This six-day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities such as hockey, basketball, tag games and arts and crafts. The last day of the program we will be having a New Year's day celebration. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn every day. DATES 12/27-12/30. COST \$100.00 member \$125.00 non-member Ages K-6

Youth Basketball

Cost:\$10 until Dec. 1t. Age is determined as of December 1. Divisions will be as follows with sufficient numbers: Pee Wee (Co-Ed) Ages 6-8; Junior Girls Ages 9-11; Junior Boys Ages 9-11; Senior Girls Ages 12-14; Senior Boys Ages 12-14. Open to all Members! (Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Acushnet).

Please have 2 proofs of residency and a copy of child's birth certificate at registration. Information on new evaluation schedule available at reg..

Attention!!!

We are looking for motivated, committed individuals to volunteer as basketball coaches. We are also in need of officials for the league, pay is roughly \$13 per game. For more information and to fill out a volunteer application please call or stop by the Recreation Center during league registration hours.

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MALL TRIP/WED:

Dec 7: Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's, Christmas Tree Shop

December Mall Trips:

Dec. 14: Emerald Sq. Mall

Dec. 21: Providence Place Mall

and Whole foods.

Dec. 28: Independence Mall and
Pembroke Christmas Tree Shop

Special Activities

Pedicare

Lisa Nuno will be returning to the Fairhaven Senior Center on **Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for pedicare**. She will return every second Tuesday of the month. Call for your half-hour appointment.

Dietician

Make an appointment with **Barbara Canuel, Dietician**. First and Third Tuesday in Dec. and Jan. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

You can make a half hour appointment to discuss one-to-one your specific dietary concerns. Call Senior Center for appt.

Yoga

Mon. Dec. 5, 12th, 19th, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Chair Yoga with Susan Ashley. Are you interested in a gentle, tranquil form of exercise for body and mind? Please call to sign up \$6.00 per class

Cardiac screenings

Cardiac Prevention Screenings
Mon. Dec.12 9:00-12:00. Courtesy of Southcoast Hospitals Group. Includes blood pressure checks, blood sugar checks, total cholesterol check. First come, first serve basis. Mark your calendar! Call Sr.

Center for more info. 508-979-4029.

Pizelle Party

Dec. 14, 12:30 p.m.: Come share this Italian tradition along with coffee, tea at the Senior Center.

Fuel Assistance

Now taking appointments for Fuel Assistance. Call the Senior Center for an appointment to learn how you can get help with this winter's heating bills: 508-979-4029.

Volunteers needed

Medical drivers, friendly home visitors, newsletter delivery, trip planner. Call phyllis at the senior center, 508-979-4029.

Celebrate our 10th anniversary with Cookies with Santa

Combine two great activities. Celebrate our 10th anniversary and with Cookies and Cocoa With Santa at The Senior Center **Dec. 10 from 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.**

Part of the Fairhaven Old Time Holiday Celebration

Event will include raffles for handmade stockings, holiday wreaths & Holiday baked goods table.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

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Clasky Common lights are for families to enjoy

By Beth David

Editor

The City of New Bedford held its annual holiday lights celebration in balmy weather for these parts on Sunday, 12/4.

"Some years it's so cold your teeth chatter," said Mayor Scott Lang, who presided over his last lighting of the park. He did not run for re-election.

"I'll be out in the crowd next year," said Mayor Lang.

He said once the lights are lit the park is a destination for families of all religions, and has been for 60 years.

"No matter what you believe or worship, it's a family event, it's a family display," said the mayor. "This is geared towards the holidays and family, and we respect everyone's beliefs, Christmas, Chanukah, Three Kings Day, Kwanzaa."

He said when it gets colder and snows, the park is filled with the holiday spirit, especially when families visit.

The mayor spoke to the crowd of several hundred that had gathered around the fence, waiting for the lights to go on. Several city

councilors and state representative Keiko Orrall also addressed the crowd.

Miss New Bedford Marlena Johnson and the Parker Street School choir sang Christmas Carols, and Santa and his elves were also on hand to talk to the children. Students at New Bedford Voc-Tech built the stage and put up the lights with the help of city workers.

The display will be lit every night through January 6, 2012. It is free and open to the public.



LEFT: Santa and his elves told the children to have a happy holiday season on Sunday, 12/4, at the lighting of the Clasky Common Park in New Bedford. RIGHT: Miss New Bedford, Marlena Johnson, sings Christmas songs with the children of the Parker Street School Choir. BELOW LEFT: The display includes Santas from around the world. This year features 10 Santas from different countries, including France's "Pere Noel" (BELOW MIDDLE) and Ghana's Santa, "Father Christmas" (BELOW RIGHT). Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com. Find us on Facebook to see more photos of this and other events.



Arrest date set for alleged hit-and-run driver

By Beth David
Editor

A clerk magistrate in New Bedford Third District Court found probable cause to arrest Renee Andrews, 35, of Fairhaven, with four charges in connection with a car accident that resulted in the death of Katelyn "Katie" Brienzo, 29, of Fairhaven, and caused injuries to her boyfriend Ellery Reynolds, 38, of New Bedford, as they were walking in a crosswalk on Sciticut Neck Road in Fairhaven on November 8.

Ms. Andrews will be arrested on January 25 facing the charges of motor vehicle homicide, leaving the scene of an accident with personal injury — death resulting, leaving the scene of an accident with personal injury, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

About 20 friends and family members went to the courthouse to support Katie's mother, Karen Fostin, and Mr. Reynolds during the proceedings. The hearings are not typically open to the public, however, and Clerk Magistrate James Sheerin asked everyone except immediate family members to leave the room.

The hearing lasted nearly an hour, while about 12 people waited.

A visibly upset Ms. Andrews would not comment to the press as she left the courthouse.

Members of the Brienzo family

voiced anger and frustration at defense attorney Shane A. Carlson's explanation of why Ms. Andrews did not stop after hitting Katie and Mr. Reynolds.

Mr. Carlson told the magistrate that Ms. Andrews was "distracted" and "inconsolable," according to Katie's sister Ashlee Brienzo, who was allowed to stay in the hearing.

Ms. Brienzo said that the attorney said Ms. Andrews thought she hit a mailbox. She went to the Pub 99 where she and her son met her mother. While there, she saw the emergency vehicles and realized she had hit a person, according to family members at the hearing. Ms. Andrews then went to her brother's house in New Bedford before going to police.

Ms. Brienzo's uncle was also at the scene of the accident, just a few steps ahead of Katie and Ellery, according to family members. Ashlee Brienzo and Mr. Reynolds said that attorney Carlson tried to disparage the uncle by saying he was confused in his account of the accident.

"They tried to say it was unavoidable," said Mr. Reynolds after the hearing. "They were trying to say if we weren't feeble, blind and short..."

Mr. Reynolds, who is well over 6 feet tall, is albino and is legally blind. Ms. Brienzo had Turner Syndrome and was characteristically short.

Mr. Reynolds said he was worried because they were "mixing so many facts and had so many facts wrong," including the assertion that it was a dimly lit area.

The crosswalk is next to the former Council on Aging building at 150 Sciticut Neck Road.

Charles K. Murphy, Sr., a close friend of the family and a Fairhaven Selectboard member, was among those present to support the family. He had a close personal and professional relationship with Katie Brienzo.

After a private meeting with Assistant District Attorney Stephen Butts, Mr. Murphy said the family was finally feeling a little better that things were "progressing."

Some friends and family members have been critical of police, saying that Ms. Andrews should have been charged and arrested sooner. They said they were afraid she was getting special treatment because her husband is a police officer in Mattapoisett.

Fairhaven police chief Michael Myers told the *Neighb News* in an earlier interview that police did not want to make any charges until the investigation was complete. The Bristol County District Attorney's office and the Mass. State Police were also involved in the investigation and the accident reconstruction. ●●●

Wind turbine foes organizing

By Beth David
Editor

More than 30 people attended a Fairhaven Board of Health meeting on Monday, 12/5, demanding that the board listen to evidence of adverse health effects from industrial Wind Turbines. Fairhaven is in the process of erecting two wind turbines near the wastewater treatment plant.

The proposal passed at town meeting in May of 2007. The group sued to stop the project, claiming that the Planning Board improperly approved the special permit. After new legislation passed designed to streamline municipal wind projects, the developer withdrew the special permit request. The town and developer reconfigured the project as 100% municipal use, allowing it to go forward.

Tree clearing for the turbines started the week of 11/7, and took opponents by surprise on Veterans Day, when the bike path was closed during tree cutting.

Opponents have been trying ever

since to stop work at the site. On November 30, Judge Renee Dupuis did not grant a restraining order.

Donna McKenna had asked to be on the agenda for the Board of Health, but when the court case was filed, town counsel Thomas Crotty told the board to remove her from the agenda.

Ms. McKenna told the board she was angry that no one notified her.

"Nobody called me, nobody emailed me, nobody phoned me," Ms. McKenna reiterated after the meeting.

Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis, a vocal opponent of the WTs from the beginning and the attorney for the group, told the board that the litigation had been disposed of in time for the issue to be put back on the agenda.

"We have a right to be here," said Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis. "You can't silence us."

Opponents clearly showed their anger and frustration by interrupting, shouting, and accusing the board members of lying. Two police officers

showed up in the hallway, but did not interfere with the meeting.

BOH chairperson Peter DeTerra told the group that open meeting laws prohibited the board from hearing the group's concerns because the matter was not on the agenda.

Grant Menard, who bought his house after the town meeting vote, said he had "no idea" the wind turbines were going up across the marsh from his home.

"This will devastate me," he told the board, and pleaded with them to "just look into it."

Board member Jeannine Lopes and Mr. DeTerra both told the group to submit scientific evidence for them to review before the next meeting.

Several of the opponents shouted that it was the job of the board to collect the scientific evidence to review.

Board members admitted that it was the first time the matter was before them as a board, which angered opponents.

WIND: cont'd on page 24

Model scouts will be at grand opening of Treasures Untold

Press Release

Treasures Untold, located at 556 Kempton Street in New Bedford is just that: a treasure, a thrift store that has gently pre-owned and new items at prices that are typically what you would see in a yard sale setting, not in a neatly displayed, quaint store.

At a time when the economy is not thriving but people are still in need of everyday items, as well as those desirable extras, Treasures Untold allows one to shop for a lot, but spend only a little.

We are currently open 6 days a week (Mon.-Fri., 9:30-5 p.m., until 7 p.m. on Thurs., and 9:30-4 p.m. on Sat.) and will celebrate our **Grand opening on Saturday December 10, with free give-aways, gift certificates, even bigger discounts, complimentary snacks and beverages, and a special event being held only at that day.**

Model Club Inc., one of the most prestigious modeling and talent scouts in the state, will be holding a model search right there! Babies ages 0-3 years of age are welcome to attend and meet the agent at 11:00 a.m., children ages 4 and up are welcome to meet the agent at 11:30 a.m.

Please take at least one picture (school photo or snapshot is fine) to give to the agent at the time of the meet-and-greet! This is an incredible opportunity that does not happen often in our area. Model Club baby model Serenitie-Love is the exclusive model used in all Treasures Untold ads, sites, and brochures.

Treasures Untold has something for everyone, literally thousands of items and new arrivals daily, and we accept cash, checks, and credit cards.

Clothing for all members of the family, household items such as wall

decor, coffee pots, dish sets, collectibles, Boyds Bears, toys, games, hundreds of holiday items, entertainment devices, books, furniture, and video game consoles and accessories!

Complete your shopping list for a fraction of the cost, but shop early because once an item is gone, the odds of ever getting another one are very slim, so it is a buy it when you see it store!

Also offering custom order diaper cakes, beautiful flannel baby blankets, and gorgeous handmade Swarovski crystal jewelry. Nobody leaves empty handed!

We are constantly asked how we get such a wide variety of great items and how we can sell so inexpensively. Well, the answer is we attend many auctions and travel near and far to find the best items at the best prices so that we may in turn pass those incredible savings onto the customers.

We strive to have new items on the shelves every few days, and in order to do that, we must sell what is in stock to make room for the new items! We are not your typical second hand store, we work hard to find those most wanted and unusual items! We have received many compliments and **t h a n k - y o u s** regarding some of the items we carry. We have been able to allow gift givers to find that truly wonderful gift that they cannot wait for



Treasures Untold of New Bedford will have a model search at its grand opening on Sat., Dec. 10. Serenitie-Love is the exclusive model used in all Treasures Untold promotional materials. *Submitted photo.*

the receiver to open on Christmas day, including the complete collection of the Waltons, or that impossible to find retired Boyds bear!

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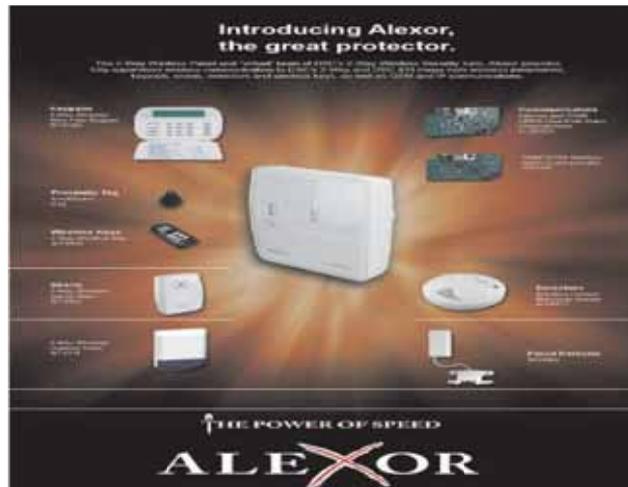
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Fairhaven Snow Parking Ban

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 am and also during the time of any snow-fall or snow removal operations.

On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west. The only exception is the block on Centre Street from Pleasant Street to Chestnut Street where parking is permitted on the north side of the street.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this Parking Ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

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Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Health

Mon., 12/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/3, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/19, Arsene St., 6:00 p.m.

Commission On Disability

Wed., 1/11, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Community Preservation

Thurs., 12/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 12/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council On Aging

Mon., 12/12, Senior Center, 9:30 a.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 12/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Building Committee

Thurs., 12/15, FHS Library, 6:00

School Committee

Wed., 12/14, FHS Library, 6:30

Selectboard

Mon., 12/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., 12/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Appeals

Mon., 12/19, Comm. Ctr, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Health

Tues., 1/17, Parting Ways Sch, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/19, BPW Bldg, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Tues. 1/3, Ford Middle Sch., 5 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/19, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	December 2011	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Friday	9	0643 1905	----	1247
Saturday	10	0719 1944	0022*	1328
Sunday	11	0756 2024	0104*	1407
Monday	12	0835 2106	0144*	1443
Tuesday	13	0917 2151	0225*	1518
Wednesday	14	1003 2239	0307*	1554
Thursday	15	1052 2330	0352	1632
Friday	16	1145	----	0442 1717
Saturday	17	0022 1239	0542	1812
Sunday	18	0118 1337	0656	1916
Monday	19	0216 1438	0822	2022*
Tuesday	20	0318 1543	0936	2123*
Wednesday	21	0421 1646	1037*	2218*
Thursday	22	0522 1744	1133*	2311*
Friday	23	0617 1838	----	1226*

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

CONCOM: cont'd from page 4

us it flies in our faces. It's disgusting."

"I feel like I've been hoodwinked," said Commission member Steve Pereira. "I left here supporting what you were doing, now I'm feeling like somebody's had something over on me."

The ConCom continued the hearing to 12/19, with a site visit on 12/18.

Mr. Rheume also presented to the board on behalf of Jose DeMedeiros, 25 Bayview Avenue, with a Notice of Intent to construct a freestanding wall, slate patio, encasement of a sewer line, regrading of a driveway, and regrading and seeding of a lawn.

Mr. Jones told Mr. Rheume that he could not put a wall in a velocity zone, to which Mr. Rheume replied, "I wasn't aware of that."

"I had a lot of concern yesterday," said Ms. Peirce, referring to the site-walk. She accused Mr. DeMedeiros of having destroyed a dune, then "Bob-cattin'" it over to fill his yard.

"Oh, that washed up there," replied Mr. Rheume.

Ms. Peirce disagreed, and maintained that Mr. DeMedeiros removed the dune and used it as fill. She said a neighbor reported that there was indeed a Bobcat on the property.

"It used to be a dune. Now it's a beach; a nice beach they don't even own," added Ms. Peirce.

The commission members referred to Google Earth software to view images of the property taken months ago that showed details of the property that did not match up with the current photos of the property. The commission concluded that there already had been a two-foot wall on the property that has since been removed. In addition, the older images did not show a current wall

that is now located diagonally across the beach. Ms. Peirce again pointed out that the beach did not belong to Mr. DeMedeiros.

Abutter Herbert Eisenberg attended the hearing and told the commission that there used to be vegetation that went all the way down to the water.

"I grew up in that neighborhood," he told the commission. "I know that beach very well."

He said Mr. DeMedeiros has a crew that works for him and had been doing a lot of work on the property.

"I don't see how we can act on the vertical wall," said Mr. Jones.

The commission voted to hold a site-visit on 12/18 and continue until 12/19. Mr. Jones abstained from voting due to his absence on 12/5 when the issue was first presented.

In another matter, Todd Eisenberg, owner of a plot of land referred to as SE 23-1054 Washburn Avenue, applied for a Request for an Amended Order of Conditions. Steven Gioiosa of SITEC addressed the commission and reminded them that in March of 2009, the commission issued Mr. Eisenberg an Order of Conditions for a single-family dwelling. He stated that the Planning Board approved the plan with modifications, and the BPW approved the utility system and made its own recommendations.

Mr. Gioiosa told the commission that he was there to present the highlights of the changes requested by the BPW and the Planning Board, and sought to match the plan approved by Planning with the one Mr. Gioiosa hopes the ConCom will approve.

Modifications included changing the location of a proposed sewer line,

installing fire hydrant, and using a different method of gravel for the road known as "chip seal."

The commission was reluctant to approve the chip seal method, stating that they did not know enough about it and were wary of the process which entails the spraying of various coats of a petroleum-derived oily substance between layers of gravel.

The commission was concerned about water washing through the gravel, possibly causing an oil sheen throughout the surrounding wetlands. The commission voted to approve the utilities changes and the installment of a fire hydrant, but not the road surface change.

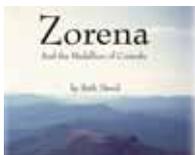
"This might work in some areas, but...If they want to do that in their jurisdiction that's fine," said Mr. Jones about the BPW's chip seal recommendation. "This can't be an arbitrary decision by BPW and Planning."

In other business the Commission:

- Approved a plan, with eight special conditions for Alice Yeaton to repair a seawall at 4 Bayside Ave.
- Continued to 12/19 a Request for Determination from Antonio and Valentine DaCunha of Windward Way
- Accepted the boundaries of a wetlands verification line filed by the selectboard for the Wood School building project. •••

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From our readers

Listen and you will hear

Those in Fairhaven's town government that have decided to turn a deaf ear to the health and well being issues related to the Fairhaven Wind Turbine project at Little Bay should listen closely. What you will hear, what will resonate louder than the sound of the spinning blades, will be the voices of the residents, the victims! Those who have elected and entrusted you to make decisions that are in the best interest of the hard working honest people of our town.

What you will hear will be the voices of those that will have to live in the shadow of and with the health concerns related to these four-hundred-foot power plants in the sky.

You will hear our voices loud and clear and if the turbines are erected you will clearly hear us over the sounds of the mammoth spinning blades.

What you will hear will be the questions. Questions like how did you position us as guinea pigs and put the best interests of those who live here, those who have entrusted you, in the hands of a private developer and financier who has no experience in the wind industry? How do you ignore our voices and rubber stamp a project in the secretive halls of executive session?

This is a project such as those that have been proven to harm the physical and mental well being of residents that live in their shadow. Shadows that can be thrown over a thousand feet and jet-like rumbles that can be heard up to a half a mile away.

You will hear us ask how you would approve an elementary school project knowing that the school will be built within the turbines effect zone. You will hear us question how you would allow the developer to use stimulus funding in the purchase of turbines that were manufactured in China. General Electric manufactures the quietest turbine available while China manufacturers some of the loudest most inefficient, using sub standard materials and earning the industry's worst track record in design and manufacture.

You will hear us ask why you fast tracked the project. Is it because there is sensible legislation pending on Beacon Hill that will require setbacks of three thousand feet? You

will hear us ask how you could ignore the nightmare that the residents of Falmouth are living. Those victims have convinced town officials to shut the turbine down based on health concerns. These are the same turbines that were to "grace" our skyline just three years ago. That decision will cost the town of Falmouth millions.

How can you not hear the towns of Dartmouth and Mattapoisett make the compassionate decision to forgo their project in the best interest of the towns' people? You will hear us today, tomorrow and every day those blades spin.

If you are under the mis-conception that once the turbines are rushed through and operational that the only sound you will need to be concerned about is the swoosh of the turbine blades, you are wrong. You will hear the voice of your constituency from one election cycle to the next as this will certainly be one of the biggest and loudest issues that our community will have ever heard.

You will hear neighbors town wide react as other town sites are considered. Neighbors from Main Street to Green Street from the Center to West Island. Prime sites like Atlas Tack, the West Island reservation and Fort Phoenix are sure to be considered. You will then hear those residents as they stand up and fight!

It will ring loud and clear that the siting of industrial wind turbines in residential neighborhoods while delivering huge tax benefits for the developer and a political "atta' boy" from our Governor is a travesty and an injustice to the good people of Fairhaven.

And it is the voices of those good people that you are starting to hear loud and clear!

John Methia, Fairhaven

Selectboard member disagrees with WT foes

I have, over the last few weeks, read articles by Ken Pottel, his wife and others concerning the wind turbine project in Fairhaven. On November 11, 2011, Ken Pottel was on television, stating that the clearing process was proceeding in a clandestine manner, working on Veterans' Day, when Town Hall was closed and no public officials were available. Wrong Ken, your public officials were honoring the brave men and women

who have sacrificed and, in some cases, gave the ultimate sacrifice so that you may have freedom of speech, even though you choose to disseminate misinformation, lies and deceit.

Your elected officials were honoring the Veterans on Veterans' Day. The fact is, the clearing and site work had been ongoing all week, and preconstruction work had been ongoing for a couple of weeks prior to your "discovery" that roads were being prepared and site work cleared, all done with the appropriate permits and authorization.

You and others of your group stated that abutters were not notified. First of all, the public should be made aware that you are not an abutter. You live more than a mile away from the proposed site of turbine construction. The turbines pose absolutely no health hazard to you or your wife. You should be honest and tell the people that you just do not want to see them. Not in my back yard (NIMBY).

Another member of your group was concerned about noise issues. When I explained to him that two noise studies were done and where he lives there will be no noise from the wind turbines, when I told him that flicker could be controlled in modern turbines, he finally stated he has an expensive house, pays a lot of taxes and does not want to see them.

The health issues that you raise are unsubstantiated, not based in science and not reproducible. Headaches, vertigo, seizures and other health issues that you cite, exist now. How do you blame these issues on wind turbines? Are these individuals suffering from pre-turbine construction syndrome? A reasonable mind needs to ask is there any correlation, any facts to substantiate the so-called adverse health effects of wind turbines.

There are enough wind turbines in this area so that anyone can judge for themselves. Portsmouth, Rhode Island, has two turbines, one very similar to the Fairhaven turbines, and town officials will tell you this has been a positive experience in Portsmouth.

There are two wind turbines in Hull, Massachusetts. Both turbines have proved to be a positive experience. Presently, there is an industrial wind turbine in Charlestown, Massachusetts, an urban setting, that

LETTERS: cont'd next page

LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

recently went online.

Also, there are plans for a wind turbine equivalent to Fairhaven's to be erected in Scituate, Massachusetts, within 500 feet of an apartment complex.

Wind turbine technology is not new. The world has experienced harnessing of this renewable energy resource and the overwhelming experience has been positive. Certainly people can be afraid of new technology, and fear the unknown. However, I believe the wind turbines in Fairhaven will prove to be a valuable asset for the town as well as a positive experience.

The present hysteria initiated by a small group of individuals who are more than willing to exaggerate, overstate and misrepresent the facts for their own purposes is not a new phenomenon. Not in my backyard (NIMBY) is always present, no matter what or how controversial an issue may be.

Brian K. Bowcock, DC., Vice-Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Fairhaven

Water bill unfair and hard to believe

Once again I find myself looking at my Fairhaven water bill in disbelief. Every six months or so I try to wrap my head around the fact that I am paying close to twice the rate per hundred cubic feet as (I'm assuming) the average Fairhaven resident.

I used 1200 cubic feet of water between my last reading (some time near the end of March) and the current one (10/5/2011). Fairhaven's water rate is \$3.24 per 100 cubic feet, so my water bill should be \$38.88. However, the minimum water charge is \$72.90 for 2250 cubic feet, nearly double what I used. Therefore, I am paying \$6.07 per 100 cubic feet. Instead of being rewarded for saving water, I'm being penalized for it.

I ask myself, when will Fairhaven begin rewarding those who are saving them money and penalize people who are wasting it.

Granted the amount that I am charged is minimal when looking at

the big picture of things, but I still can't grasp the concept of charging people who use less, more.

In this age of being environmentally friendly and considering all of the other environmental initiatives Fairhaven government is trying to push through, why aren't they making it easier for environmentally conscious constituents to be just that?

Considering they encourage their constituents to save water on their website, they may want to "put their money where their mouth is." I suggest that they should have a minimum water charge for an average amount of water used and charge those who go over the average amount double. For example \$72.90 minimum water charge for 2000 cubic feet and \$6 per hundred cubic feet over the minimum. This would encourage more careful usage and make constituents more aware of their waste.

Paula Daigle, Fairhaven

WIND: cont'd from page 17

Realtor Dawn Devlin pointed out that anyone buying a house needs BOH approval for septic systems, etc.

"How can any of this be done if the Board of Health does not have the information," asked Ms. Devlin.

Mr. DeTerra responded that the WTs are a municipal project and the Selectboard issued the permit.

"Why should I have to do all the work for them," asked Ms. McKenna after the meeting. "I pay taxes in town."

The group left town hall to meet again at the Northeast Maritime Institute where they heard from Falmouth resident Barry Funfar.

Mr. Funfar has been instrumental in getting Falmouth Wind 1 shut down, which is 1662 feet from his house. The Falmouth selectboard shut it down at the beginning of November in response to health complaints. Residents have complained of headaches, nausea, vertigo, and a litany of other ailments.

Mr. Funfar said "the tide has turned" in Falmouth after the turbines were erected and people heard and felt for themselves how destructive they are to the quality of life of those living nearby.

He said the Fairhaven story sounded much like Falmouth's and he was surprised that Fairhaven was planning to continue with the project.

"Can't you look at a town as close as Falmouth," he asked.

Now that Wind 1 is not spinning anymore, Mr. Funfar said "of course" he feels better.

"I can do anything now. I can go out in my yard," he said. "It's like a regaining of freedom. It's a regaining of rights to my own property."

During the meeting at NMI, the group discussed strategies to stop the project, which included sending a letter with 160 signatures to building inspector Wayne Fostin asking him to address some discrepancies with the building permit that was issued.*

The group also watched a video called "Too Close." John Methia was part of the team that created the video.

"We left Falmouth with a pit in our stomach," said Mr. Methia. "It wasn't good."

In the video, Falmouth resident Sue Hobart said she had to move to her basement. She said the noise causes ringing in the ears, nausea and "any number of primal reactions."

She likened the sound to driving with the back windows open.

"You have to close the windows," she said, but she can't.

She said the basement is the only place that does not vibrate, most of the time.

"It's underground, it's a nasty

basement, there's no sunlight and it's miserable."

Also in the video, Mr. Funfar states that the noise is not just the kind you hear with your ears.

"It gets inside of you and it does something to you," he said.

Fairhaven resident Ken Pottel is also featured in the video standing on the bike path where the trees were cleared.

"This is a path we all love," said Mr. Pottel. "This is a place we all love."

He said he was part of the group that fought for the bike path and they did not envision industrial wind turbines there.

Several other people are also featured on the video which is available at visit <http://vimeo.com/user8792371/review/33230727/cada4fd0d4>.

Mr. Funfar addressed the group and answered questions. He said at first he thought he could get used to the sound.

"You're not going to get used to this," he said, but also noted that it does not bother his wife.

"It's not a simple issue," he said, adding that he has combat PTSD. "Some people aren't bothered by the noise. Some people are brutalized severely by it...I would fight this thing tooth and nail," said Mr. Funfar.

*To download a copy of the letter, visit www.NeighbNews.com ●●●

BPW makes SMEO appointment permanent

By Joyce Rowley

Neighb News Correspondent

Justyn Stack appeared before the Fairhaven Board of Public Works on Monday, 12/5, to request that his Special Machine Equipment Operator position be made permanent. Mr. Stack was appointed as a temporary SMEO when Matthew Paulson left to take a job as a firefighter with the City of New Bedford. Mr. Paulson has since resigned, and the position can now be considered permanent.

"I'm doing a good job," said Mr. Stack. "When [Superintendent John Charbonneau] puts me in a piece of equipment, he knows I can do the job."

BPW members agreed. Vice-chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said that he spoke to Mr. Charbonneau and was told that Mr. Stack is on time and a good worker. Other members noted that Mr. Stack had had worked his way up to the permanent SMEO position. Chairperson Geoffrey Haworth agreed, saying Mr. Stack was the "right man for the job."

"I have the utmost confidence in him," said public works Superintendent Vincent "Vinnie" Furtado. "He's a good employee, a good worker. I wish I had more Justyns."

The Board also met with Michael Bachstein, construction manager for SouthCoast Hospitals, and Robert Field of Field Engineering regarding the need for a grease trap at the existing oncology medical building.

Mr. Haworth said that the Board of Health was looking into whether food preparation may be ongoing at the medical building. If so, the BPW would require a grease trap.

Mr. Bachstein said he had met with the BOH to demonstrate that it was not like a restaurant but there was a limited menu for patients. Everything is prepared at St. Luke's and taken to the site where it is reheated.

Mr. Freitas said that the concern was also whether it would be used to prepare food for the new building,

and wanted to make sure that it was clear that a grease trap was required if food were to be prepared. Also, if leftover food were disposed of from plate washing or otherwise, a grease trap will be required.

The board also reviewed several property issues. The 32-foot-wide driveway width waiver for 68 Howland Road was tabled pending a response from Mass. Highway.

The driveway waiver at 46 Balsam Road was approved after discussion of the 10-year-old problem. Poor drainage caused ponding and ice build-up along the road, said Mr. Furtado. On working out an agreement with the Town to allow a drainage easement through the property, the Ristuccias are requesting that they be allowed a 22-foot-wide apron and 22 feet of curbing.

Mr. Hobson said the problem has

He's a good employee,
a good worker. I wish
I had more Justyns
[Vincent Furtado]

affected four to five houses along the street. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the driveway waiver.

Mr. Furtado presented an update on the Howland Road project. He performed a final inspection with Mass. DOT from Alden Road to the beginning of the project. There is minor remaining work to be performed such as several NSTAR poles to be removed, trees to be removed and some curbing cracks to be repaired.

Mass. DOT presented Mr. Furtado with a bill for the \$583,000 in cost overruns, some of which he noted

were due to design errors and omissions by the design engineer. However, the Town must pay the \$583,000. The Town can amortize the cost over three. Mr. Furtado will research the procedure.

There was also another \$120,000 in sewer and water improvements due to poor design. Drain lines were designed over water or sewer lines, and those lines had to be replaced. Mr. Furtado was concerned that the \$583,000 may become \$704,000.

"Last June we put the engineers on notice [that] we have errors and omissions...They decided not to come before the Board," said Mr. Riley. "I want to make sure that doesn't fall through the cracks."

He asked that Town Counsel be given whatever figure is being presented to the Town, and said that the cost of BPW workers from all three divisions who spent weeks assisting Mass. Highway should also be included.

- In other business, the board
- Voted unanimously to set the last day for road work openings as 12/16/11 at the discretion of Mr. Charbonneau due to good weather
 - Voted unanimously to set the recycle fees for calendar year 2012 at the same rates as 2011
 - Noted that the parking ban is in effect and cars will be tagged even when it is not snowing.
 - Voted 4-1 by roll call vote to go into Executive Session to discuss a pending legal issue with Brad Souza regarding Cushman Park trees, contractual issues on the anaerobic digester, and to discuss the Mattapoisett Water Agreement. Mr. Hobson opposed going into executive session for the Souza issue. He had previously attempted to speak about the Cushman Park trees, but Mr. Haworth told him it was a legal issue that would have to be discussed in executive session.



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Ancient oak may have to go after all

By Joyce Rowley

Neighb News Correspondent

Phillip "Pip" Lewis, architect for HMMF, Inc., summarized the design development progress for the Fairhaven School Building Committee at its 12/1 meeting. Before Thanksgiving he had walked through the East Fairhaven elementary school with principals Wendy Williams, Amy Hartley-Matteson, and Geraldine "Gerry" Lucas to identify any changes that might be needed for the new Wood School.

"The nice thing about having a fully built school that's been lived in and worked in for a number of years is the level of detail [available]," said Mr. Lewis. He said that the principals were meeting with teachers to walk through East Fairhaven to get their perspective.

Mr. Lewis, Fairhaven Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch and the public works staff walked the site earlier on 12/1 to review grading issues with the detention basin and in the area of the large oak tree for the general play area, and curbing.

Mr. Osuch said that Scoticut Neck Road will need curb replacement and recommended all concrete curbing, instead of a mix of concrete curbing and granite curbing at egress points as called for in the schematic design. He also recommended that the curbing be placed a couple feet closer to the school to allow for snow build-up along the side of the road in the winter.

Mr. Phillips suggested that the SBC review the grading issue in the back of the school and return to vote on whether to remove the large oak tree. Fill placement in the back of the school will add four feet to the grade around the tree causing a large recess, according to Mr. Phillips and Mr. Osuch. The area will need to be drained by a swale up to 90 feet wide leading to the wetlands about 350 feet away.

Mr. Gonsalves asked why the decision on retaining the large oak tree behind the school was necessary. He said that SBC had promoted the project as saving the large tree and asked to see before and after

grading plans on the area.

"That tree is an incredibly beautiful resource for the school," said Mr. Lewis.

When the project began, the architects asked if there was a school program that required a big field and were told there was none. He also said that there may be a more naturalistic way to design drainage away from the tree.

The area is used for field days, free days, and physical education, said Superintendent Robert Baldwin. He asked if the recessed area would be wet, and whether that would harm the tree.

Mr. Osuch said that the tree would be in a hollow four feet below grade. The proposed swale would drain water from the tree. He said the fill

extreme weather events were likely to occur, Mr. Osuch said, and saving two or three weeks now would help meet the deadline of August 2013.

Richard Marks, principal of Daedalus Engineering, said that it might be possible, but the school would need to begin in April 2012 by identifying materials that would be surplus or moved to other schools. That way the district would have a week to remove furnishings after the close of school, and the work could begin July 1.

"We will fill our end of the bargain. We've done it a couple times," said Dr. Baldwin, adding that he wanted to make sure that the bid process began early enough that the work would start immediately following the close of school.

To start on July 1, the bid will have to be put out in April. Site work could begin in April under a separate contract.

Ms. Hartley-Matteson said that the school could hold a "destination field day" elsewhere, but asked that they have quiet in May 2012 during MCAS testing.

Principals Williams and Hartley-Matteson presented the teachers' input on the model school, based on the site walk of EFS. They recommended that the kindergartners get lockers in the hall rather than cubbies, which take up space and block the view to the sink areas.

Other recommendations included additional shelving for closets, more white board and fewer cork boards, and eliminating cubbies in the bathrooms. The teachers for the older grades made recommendations on the white boards and fixtures such as shelving, clocks, step stools, and flags in the rooms.

Computer carts were recommended for the older grades, while the kindergartners would have a fixed computer station. Ms. Hartley-Matteson also asked that the nurse's station have a window to the hallway facing administration to allow light.

Mr. Bunnell set the next meeting for 12/15 at 6:00 p.m. and then took a roll call vote for an executive session on contractual issues, which passed unanimously. ●●●

[Board member David] Gonsalves asked why the decision on retaining the large oak tree behind the school was necessary. He said that the SBC had promoted the project as saving the large tree.

would affect the root structure, as fill was already four feet higher than the grade when the tree was planted. Compression on the roots would eventually kill the tree, Mr. Osuch said.

After discussion on the existing health of the tree, Chairperson Christopher Bunnell requested that Mr. Lewis secure the services of an arborist to determine how best to address the situation.

Mr. Lewis also questioned whether resurfacing of Everybody's Playground would require subsurface drainage as with the new playground. Mr. Osuch suggested that test holes be dug before the ground froze to determine whether the subsurface material needed augmenting.

In discussing the project schedule, Mr. Bunnell asked if the site work could be separated from the rest of the contract to save time overall.

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