



# 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 47 • December 15, 2011

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

## Old Time Holiday fills center with Christmas



Office of Tourism Director Christopher Richard, dressed as an old time Father Christmas, chats with someone on the stage of the Town Hall Auditorium on Saturday, 12/10, during Fairhaven's Old Time Holiday celebration. The auditorium was reserved for non-profit organizations only, and had 25 groups this year, a new record. Other festivities throughout the weekend included several opportunities to visit with Santa Claus, craft and other booths at the Unitarian Church and the First Congregational Church, luncheons, and activities for children. The center of town was filled with people, parking was scarce for many blocks around. Mr. Richard said the day was on track to make records for vendors, too. Story on page 16. Photo by Beth David. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://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.

Oh my, how to begin? First, let me be clear, I am not taking a stand for or against the wind turbine project with this editorial. I am taking a stand against boorish behavior (see page 4). How embarrassing for our little town with its big history.

A group of angry residents attended the Selectboard meeting demanding answers to questions they have about the wind turbine project. They claim the project was done under the radar, so to speak. That claim, frankly, is insulting to my little sheet. One of them told me that because the ad for the last public comment period ran "only" in my paper, that it was not properly noticed.

Bah. So there. But I digress.

Angry residents disrupted the meeting, which made the board members angry, which in turn disintegrated the entire affair into a lesson in how NOT to do anything.

The board recessed the meeting, a practice I find reprehensible. At least one other board in town has used the tactic recently. It's simply an excuse to stop the recording secretary from taking minutes. It's wrong. And it's a practice that should stop.

When a board is in recess, the members are supposed to leave the room and STOP talking about any issues.

But, that is clearly not the intent when Fairhaven boards do it. They do it to suspend the public record, to stop the minutes from being recorded.

On Monday, the board recessed, then board member Brian Bowcock left his seat and entered a door behind the desk that board members sit at. It was the door one uses to access the government access cameras.

He did not say he was going to have the cameras shut off, nor would he say whether or not he did so when asked point-blank. Of course, he personally would not flip the switch, anyway. He would tell the operator to shut the camera off.

No board members left the room, the discussion continued, and then, when a motion had to be made, the board re-convened and finally admitted that the cameras were off.

And they wonder why people don't trust them.

Really folks. A little respect on both sides would go a long way.

Are the anti wind turbine people being boorish? Yes, of course they are. They are engaging in mob mentality because when they are respectful and reasonable, they just get the brush-off.

It all goes back to an issue I addressed a few weeks ago: residents have the right to be heard. It shouldn't matter if the board members don't like what people have to say; people have a right to say it.

The animosity between Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis and Brian Bowcock is no secret. It's palpable. It's spontaneous combustion about to happen whenever they are in the same room together. It at least goes back to a contentious election in 2007 when Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis ran against Dr. Bowcock for Selectboard. It's also the same year this project was approved by Town Meeting. Go figure.

So, big deal; grow up, both of you. And those of you who didn't know their history, well you know it now. Try to distinguish between what is a real issue and what is simply needling and button-pushing by both of them. I swear, they could be an old married couple who both want out of the marriage but stay in it because neither one will give up the old sofa.

Does this mean Ann P-D has no right to have her voice heard? Of course not. She should be heard just like anyone else. Does this mean Dr. Bowcock has the right to dismiss the argument simply because she's the one making it? Of course not. Maybe the two of them can't see clearly enough through their own foggy lenses to distinguish what's real and what's just old baggage, but others should have the sense to do so. Otherwise, every meeting will just deteriorate into nonsense. Legitimate concerns will never be discussed, and legitimate explanations of how potential health issues might be mitigated in this project will never be heard.

Well, there's other good stuff in here, of course. Lots of meeting coverage, fun Old Time Holiday pictures, and a special new feature: Former police chief Gary Souza will be writing periodically. He's in Liberia, helping to train the national police there. See page 3 for his first column.

Well, ran out of space, so....you know what to do. Until next week then...



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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## Contents

Acushnet Selectboard.....	12
Classifieds.....	21
COVER: Old Time Holiday in Fairhaven .....	16
Douglass Tree Farm.....	26
Fairhaven Board of Appeals .....	13
Fairhaven Selectboard .....	4
Gary Souza from Liberia.....	3
Happenings.....	6,7,8
Legal Notices/Public Hearings .....	26
Letter from the editor .....	2
Letters from our readers .....	24
A Little Bit of Sports.....	10
Recipe of the week .....	10
Recreation Center this week.....	14
Senior Center this week.....	14
Tides.....	21
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet.....	21

## CORRECTIONS

In our story on the School Building Committee meeting we incorrectly identified the speaker in two places. He is Phillip "Pip" Lewis (not Mr. Phillips). We also incorrectly explained about the curbing in front of the new school. There will be a mix of concrete and granite, with concrete on the straightaways, and granite at the corners.

# Former Fairhaven police chief on training mission in Liberia



By Gary Souza  
Special to the Neighbor News

I am posted to the Liberian National Police in the capital, Monrovia, as a U n i t e d Nations, Senior Police Advisor. I left the U.S. on December 1 after training in Virginia.

Liberia is a country that was devastated by a 13-year civil war that ended in 2003. Its former President, Charles Taylor, is in prison at the Hague in the Netherlands awaiting trial on War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. Over 250,000 people, including a great many women and children, were killed in the brutal, civil war.

Monrovia is a city of a million people living in crushing poverty. The vestiges of the civil war, both human and material, are everywhere.

There is no running water or

electrical grid anywhere in the country. The only available electricity is through generators. Destroyed buildings are everywhere. Bullet holes pockmark many buildings. Young men and women mutilated or crippled during the war are everywhere begging. Most people live in shanties or in the shell of a building with no doors or windows, exposing themselves to malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Even the Presidential Palace is an empty shell.

There are over 6,000 United Nations military peacekeepers and 1,400 U.N. police advisors in country with the responsibility to maintain the peace and train a new Liberian National Police with respect for the rule of law.

But despite these terrible conditions, the people maintain a dignity and pride in their person that amazes me. They take pride in keeping themselves and their clothes clean. The adults do without to pay their children's school fees and buy their school uniforms. They are rebuilding their infrastructure with the help of the U.N. and donor countries.

They recently re-elected Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as President. She is the first ever democratically elected, female President in African history and received the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10, 2011.

So there is reason for optimism in this country.

My job is to work as one of four U.N. senior advisors to mentor the command staff of the L.N.P. My duties will take me to police "depots" around the country, from the urban capital to the countryside ("leeward" as it is called here), where the terrain is mountainous or thick African jungle inhabited by elephants, monkeys and leopards.

In later articles I'll relate to you my experiences and try to give you a view of what it is like to be a U.N. Peacekeeper in Africa.

I can be contacted by anyone at souzag@un.org

*Gary Souza retired as Fairhaven's police chief in 2009, and is now serving as a UN Peacekeeper training police officers in Liberia. He is deployed until December 2012, and will periodically update us on his activities.*



1812

2012

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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](http://www.shepherdspantry.org)



# Wind turbine opponents mix it up with Selectboard

By Mali Lim

## Neighb News Correspondent

A rowdy confrontation between Fairhaven town officials and opponents of the wind turbine project derailed Monday's selectboard meeting on 12/12 for nearly half an hour, as approximately 35 protesters called for a halt to construction until health impact questions are answered.

Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch was giving an update on the new Wood School construction project when Fairhaven resident and attorney Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis, who is representing a group of residents seeking to stop the controversial wind project, asked the selectboard if the turbines' impact on the proposed school was considered during the study.

The selectboard made no comment, leading Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis to repeat her question several times. Selectboard chair Michael Silvia attempted to curtail questions from the residents until Mr. Osuch's report was finished, but Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis and other residents continued to press the board for answers.

"I'm entitled to a response to my question," said Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis, at which point selectboard member Brian Bowcock called for a point of order.

An argument over meeting protocols broke out between the two, and the room erupted with angry comments and questions directed to the board, while Mr. Silvia attempted to restore the meeting to order.

The discussion disintegrated into a shouting match, prompting Dr. Bowcock to call for a recess, eight minutes into the meeting. The motion was immediately met with derisive comments from the residents about the board's transparent attempts to avoid answering questions.

At that point, Dr. Bowcock got up and walked into the chamber behind the meeting room, and Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis called out that she wanted it on record that Dr. Bowcock left in the middle of an open meeting session. When Dr. Bowcock returned a few minutes later, Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis demanded to know if his reason for leaving the room was to turn off the cameras that were televising the meeting.

When he refused to answer,\*\* the mood in the room turned even angrier, with an unidentified man yelling at Dr. Bowcock to "wipe the smirk off" his face, and several others demanding that the

cameras be turned back on.

"We have over 75 seniors on our list who couldn't be present tonight, and they're looking forward to seeing the televised footage of this meeting," an unidentified woman called out. "Why won't you let the town hear this discussion? This is basically what's been happening with this project — everything is being discussed behind closed doors."

Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis stated she would be filing a complaint regarding the board's violation of the open meeting law with the Office of the Attorney General, and Mr. Silvia pointed out that the turbine opponents were not on the agenda, which in itself was a violation of

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Dr. Bowcock tried to make a motion that the selectboard forward the townspeople's questions to the developer, but the board realized they were still in recess and could not accept a motion.

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the open meeting law. He added that the selectboard was not prepared to respond to any of their questions that evening.

"You have many questions of a medical nature, of a scientific nature or technical nature that can't be answered by these three men here," said Mr. Silvia. "We're not sound engineers, and these are questions that are beyond our ken, but we would be more than happy to forward these questions to the developer for his answers."

"I would ask you to pick up the upcoming issue of the *Neighborhood News*, which has a lengthy response\* to many of your questions from the developer," he continued. "Let's have a forum where these questions can be answered by mutually respected experts in the field."

A number of written concerns were submitted to the board, including questions on whether or not the fire department has been trained on how to handle fires involving turbines, and whether or not the town considered the rate of industrial accidents involving blade failures when locating the turbines close to the school.

Several residents also wanted answers on the process of getting on the

meeting agenda, stating that they had made attempts to get placed on the night's agenda but were rebuffed. Mr. Silvia promised that all questions would be answered at a future forum and that the selectboard office would work with those requesting speaking time at meetings.

Dr. Bowcock tried to make a motion that the selectboard forward the townspeople's questions to the developer, but the board realized they were still in recess and could not accept a motion. The board voted to reconvene in open session and attempted to make the motion then, but one of the residents asked for confirmation that the cameras were filming the vote.

Mr. Silvia admitted that the cameras had indeed been turned off, prompting the residents to demand that the cameras be turned back on before letting the board continue. Board member Charles Murphy then stepped into the adjoining chamber to have cameras turned back on, and the motion carried.

When Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis asked the board to indicate when the open forum would be held, Mr. Silvia would not give a definite answer, only promising that "it would be done in a timely fashion."

"Will wind turbine construction continue while we're waiting for this forum?" asked Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis. She repeated her questions several times, and continued to press Mr. Silvia to name a time frame for the forum.

Dr. Bowcock interrupted her, and addressed Mr. Silvia, saying, "Mr. Chairman, you are not under cross-examination. This is not a court of law and you do not have the right to be interrogated by the speaker."

Mr. Silvia refused to set a time frame for the forum, and only repeated that it would be held in a timely fashion.

"We've already gone beyond what's supposed to be done under open meeting law for a matter that's not even on the agenda," he said. "You've already accused me of violating open meeting law once tonight; the fact that you're not even on the agenda means I could be violating it even again. We have other business to conduct here, and you need to show respect to those who have scheduled appointments with us."

He called for the first scheduled appointment for the evening, a hearing

**SELECT: cont'd on page 17**

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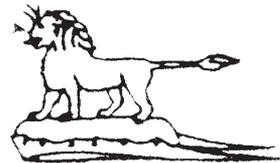
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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Fairhaven Students Earn Honors

Two Fairhaven residents have achieved Honor Roll status for the first quarter of 2011-12 at Bishop Connolly High School in Fall River.

**Matthew Ferreira, class of 2013**, achieved Second Honors. A student achieves Second Honors when all grades earned are 85 and above.

**Ryan Paiva, class of 2015**, achieved Third Honors. A student achieves Third Honors when all grades earned are 80 and above.

Congratulations to both students.

## Town Hall Sing

Fairhaven's Annual Christmas Caroling event will be sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. on the Town Hall steps, 40 Center Street**. Come raise your voices and greet the Holiday Season with family and friends in this fun activity for those of any age! A "surprise" visitor is scheduled to make an appearance. FIA Board member, Mary Elizabeth Boucher, will lead the group in the songs of the season.

To provide warmth and good cheer, hot chocolate and doughnuts will be available inside afterwards.

## Final Farmers Market

This Sunday, December 18th, will be the final Fairhaven Farmers Market. Please join us and find your last minute local produce and gifts for the holidays. The market will be held indoors at The Nemasket Gallery on 56 Bridge Street, in Fairhaven from 1-4 pm. We will have bread, cookies, meat, honey, jam, eggs, chocolate and of course lots of veggies and fruit!

Some wonderful crafters will also be joining us! Spread the word, tell your family and friends! There will also be music provided by the FHS Drama Club and cookie decorating.

For more information please contact Ann Richard 1-508-991-8315 or ann.richard@gmail.com

## Christmas Concert

Fairhaven High School will be holding its annual Christmas Concert in the Performing Arts Center on

**December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for seniors and students.** The Concert band, Jazz band, Orchestra, Mixed chorus and Concert choir will all be performing; including a combined piece. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy such Christmas classics as "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," "Greensleeves," "March of the Nutcracker," and "Sleigh Ride."

## Winter Solstice

The following Winter Solstice events are being held at the Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven. Accessible. Call 508-992-7081, or visit [www.uufairhaven.org](http://www.uufairhaven.org) for more information

**Wednesday, Dec. 21st 7-8:30 PM**, Winter Solstice Spiral/Meditation. A meditative candle-lit hour of walking the solstice spiral. Free. To register, please call the church 508-992-7081.

**Thursday, December 22nd 4-5PM**, Family Winter Solstice Spiral. A family event centered around the winter solstice, including a candle lit walk through the solstice spiral. Free. To register, please call the church (508) 992-7081. For more information visit us at [www.uufairhaven.org](http://www.uufairhaven.org).

## New Book by Local Author

Fairhaven native Don Viera has published another book, "A New Beginning." The story revolves around Jack Webber, a police officer who leaves the force after his partner is killed in the line of duty. Jack finds a little cabin in Wyoming where he plans to just hang out and go fishing, but something happens at the airport that changes everything.

Published by Xlibris. To order, call 1-888-795-4274, Ext. 7879; or order online at [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com). Also available in bookstores.

## 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.

## Bicentennial Pageant

Attention Fairhaven Ladies of all ages. As the Bicentennial year fast approaches, one of the first events to take place will be to select our Bicentennial Queens for 2012.

Applications are now available to be a contestant for the Bicentennial Princess (ages 6-9), Miss Fairhaven Bicentennial (ages 15-22) and Senior Bicentennial Sweetheart (ages 50+). Winners of the titles will attend various Town Ceremonies and events as well as ride in the Grand Parade in July.

The Pageant will be held at the Performing Arts Auditorium at Fairhaven High School on Saturday-February 4, 2012 at 4pm. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door.

Interested parties should contact the pageant committee at [RBQ52@Comcast.net](mailto:RBQ52@Comcast.net) or [Wayne.Oliveira@Comcast.net](mailto:Wayne.Oliveira@Comcast.net) to obtain an application. Contestants must be Fairhaven residents.

**Application must be returned by Friday, January 4, 2012.** A meeting will be scheduled with all applicants early in January to review rules and requirements for participation in the February 4th Pageant.

## Save the Date! Polar Plunge

The Second Annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge will be held on Sunday, January 1 at 10 a.m. at Ft. Phoenix State Beach Reservation. To establish a scholarship at Fairhaven High School in memory of Fairhaven's domestic violence victims.

The Plunge is a free event. Twenty-five dollars buys a long sleeve T-shirt. We'll have changing tents, Port-a-Johns, warming fire, and hopefully refreshments. Contact Kathy at [lopeska@aol.com](mailto:lopeska@aol.com), or 508-991-2194.

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## Winter Concert

The Greater New Bedford Choral Society will hold its Winter Concert at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 635 Purchase St., New Bedford, on Saturday, January 7, at 3:15 (snow date, Jan. 14). Tickets \$15 (12 and under, \$5), from singers or at the door.

Presented by music director Gerald P. Dyck and Christopher Ricci, accompanist, with Elizabeth Grace, soprano, Gabriel Alfieri, Baritone.

Featuring Echoes of Christmas, *Te Deum* by Antonin Dvorak. World premieres of *Lines from Ulysses* and *The Rubaiyat* by Gerald Dyck, *Rythmic Spirituals* by William Grant Still. Visit [www.gnbcs.org](http://www.gnbcs.org).

## Singers Invited

The Greater New Bedford Choral Society invites singers to join. Requirements: blend with your section, pay for music and nominal dues. No private audition.

Rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, corner County & Union Streets.

Starting date: Tuesday, January, 10. Contact 508-644-2419, [www.gnbcs.org](http://www.gnbcs.org)

## Free Movie for Kids

Bank Five's canine mascot Nickels, with Radio Disney, would like to invite all families to a special movie event of Disney®'s *A Christmas Carol* & *Mickey's Magical Christmas* at the New Bedford Whaling Museum on **Saturday, December 17th at 1pm**. Admission is free and all are welcome! New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, Accessible. **Pre-Movie event from 1-2 p.m., movie from 2-4 p.m.**

## 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.

## Dock-U-Mentary

The Dock-u-mentaries film series continues **Friday, December 16th at 7 PM with "A Fish Story,"** a 54 minute film by Courtney Hayes and Tim Gallagher. "A Fish Story" is the tale of two women who lead their communities in a battle for control of the ocean. At the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park's Corson Maritime Learning Center, 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible. Free. Dock-U-Mentaries is a co-production of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the Working Waterfront Festival.

"A Fish Story" delves into the behind-the-scenes world of politicians, environmentalists, journalists, and fishermen. The film first aired on PBS as part of the Independent Lens series.

For more information, call the visitor center at 508-996-4095, go to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), or visit the park's Facebook page.

## 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. 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.

## Ornaments for Blood

The Southcoast Blood Bank will be giving away free Southcoast Hospitals' "I gave the gift of life" ornaments to blood donors during the month of December to thank and celebrate the critical role blood donors serve in helping to ensure blood is available to patients in need.

The ornament will be available throughout the month at all Southcoast blood donor locations, including the Southcoast Health Van.

Southcoast uses more than 16,000 pints of blood a year. Currently through the local donor program, the Southcoast Blood bank collects 6,500 pints a year, which is less than half of the blood needed to supply the three Southcoast hospitals. The remainder of the blood is purchased from external sources and therefore dependent on the national blood supply.

The Southcoast Blood Bank is located at St. Luke's Hospital, 101 Page Street, New Bedford, off the main lobby. Walk-ins are welcome Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 2:30 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment call 508-961-5320. More information is available online at [www.southcoast.org/bloodbank/](http://www.southcoast.org/bloodbank/).

### Blood Drives

**Tuesday, December 20:** Kennedy Donovan Center, 19 Hawthorn Street, New Bedford, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 22:** New Bedford Police Department, 871 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The blood drive schedule can be found online at [www.southcoast.org/van/](http://www.southcoast.org/van/) or by calling 508-961-5320.

# HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

## Bruins Tickets FR

"Night at the Bruins," Raffle Package to benefit Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity. Saturday, January 7, at 1:00 p.m. Offering (2) Tickets to Bruins vs. Vancouver Canucks, TD Garden Loge 4, Row 11 (\$600 value). Deluxe Water View Room at the Fairmont Battery Wharf in Boston (\$400 value), \$150 Gift Card for Breakfast & Dinner at the, Aragosta Bar + Bistro, Round Trip Limo Transportation by Access Express (\$200 value)

**Tickets: \$25.00 / 5 for \$100.00. (Only 500 tickets to be sold!!!) Winner's name will be drawn 12/13.**

Reserve tickets on our website: [BuzzardsBayHabitat.org](http://BuzzardsBayHabitat.org), or by calling our office: 508-758-4517

## Cards for Cancer

This holiday season, get into the spirit by purchasing a cheerful array of original **holiday cards, candles, and ornaments** to support adult and pediatric care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Warm the hearts of your loved ones, friends, and colleagues with 12 new holiday card designs created by area artists and Dana-Farber patients, featuring bright and cheery depictions of winter scenes and décor.

**Priced at \$20, customers receive a package of 20 cards and 21 envelopes**, and both cards and envelopes can be imprinted with personal messages or company logos for an additional fee. Also available are photo cards, e-packs and customized corporate e-cards, which can be created out of any holiday card available.

The collection also includes **three different candles and two ornaments that feature a Boston Red Sox or New England Patriots theme for \$20**. The exclusive Dana-Farber Holiday Greetings collection can be viewed and ordered online at [www.JimmyFundHoliday.org](http://www.JimmyFundHoliday.org).

Area retailers offering Dana-Farber's holiday products in the fall include Stop & Shop, The Paper Store, Circle Furniture, The Crafty Yankee, Shubie's, Cooper Jewelers and the Friends' Corner Gift Shop at Dana-Farber. Other important corporate partners include RR Donnelley, and holiday program sponsor, Fed Ex Ground.

LookLoveSend.com will partner with Dana-Farber for photo cards.

Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Visit [www.dana-farber.org](http://www.dana-farber.org)

## Alzheimer's Benefit

Featuring Mediums Anastassia Grace & Candace Dalton, Friday, March 23, 2012, 7:30pm -9:30pm, Country Club of New Bedford, 585 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA

Tickets are \$40.00 each. Contact sponsors Surprenant & Beneski at 508.994.5200, or Maria Lawton at 508.717.2754 for more information. Proceeds to benefit the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter-Research for a Cure.

Makes a great Christmas gift!

Anastassia Grace is a Spirit Medium. Known for her exceptional accuracy and compassion for others, Anastassia has been delivering messages from Heaven since a young age. Having this gift runs through generations of her family, she is the niece of nationally renowned medium Maureen Hancock. Anastassia is featured monthly on several radio stations, including Fun 107, and has been featured on national television. .

Even as a young child, Candace Dalton believed in after life. For as long as she can remember, Candace has had an awareness of things before they happened, including details and messages from the other side. When she was 14 years old, her cousin Sean Ewas passed unexpectedly. After his passing, her ability to communicate with the other side grew stronger. Candace's aunt, Maureen Hancock, nationally renowned Medium has helped her discover, develop, and channel her gift.

## Stocking Stuffers

Once again, **Dinner for Two Dining Books** are available at the Mattapoisett Council on Aging. If you buy three books, for yourself or to give as gifts, you'll receive a fourth book FREE. **Original Scrimshaw Print** sets of four by the artist Kjeld Jensen are also available. These are suitable to display individually or as a collage. **Historic Note Card Sets** consist of six Mattapoisett historic

scenes. Some single cards are available which can be assembled into packs of your choice.

Sales help the Friends of the Elderly to support the Council on Aging and Mattapoisett seniors. For more information, call the Council on Aging, 508-758-4110.

## Relay for Life mtg

Relay For Life of the Tri Town will join over 5,200 other Relay events across the nation in celebrating the ones that have survived, remembering those that we have lost and fighting back against cancer.

**The Relay For Life of the Tri-Town will hold a planning meeting on Tues., 12/20 at Old Rochester Regional High School Library on 135 Marion Rd, Mattapoisett.**

Call Heather, 774-634-9301 or email [tritownrelay@comcast.net](mailto:tritownrelay@comcast.net), or visit [www.relayforlife.org/tritownma](http://www.relayforlife.org/tritownma).

## Giving Goose Contest

The Giving Goose™, a company that produces a line of clothing and gifts featuring the drawings of children, is currently seeking young artists to submit their artwork for consideration to be used on future products.

The brainchild of six-year-old Bethany Sawyer, The Giving Goose is a family business overseen by Bethany's parents, Dan and Nancy Sawyer of Falmouth, MA.

Ten percent of all proceeds from The Giving Goose line are donated to non-profit organizations, including Boston Children's Hospital and the Joslin Diabetes Center.

And now The Giving Goose is encouraging young artists everywhere to submit their original artwork, with selected entries to appear on future company products. The chosen artists will select a charity of their choice for addition to the company's current group of benefitting non-profits.

Artwork submissions can be uploaded to the company's website, [www.thegivinggoose.com](http://www.thegivinggoose.com), or can be mailed to The Giving Goose, 6 Little Brook Road, West Wareham, MA, 02576. **All artwork submitted by December 31, 2011.**

For additional information, please call 508-295-3876 or visit [www.thegivinggoose.com](http://www.thegivinggoose.com).

# Fairhaven Pee Wees take fourth place

Press Release

"We may be small, but we have the fire!" they shout out in unison as they jump, dance and cartwheel across the floor with energy, enthusiasm, and vigor. Fans call them "Devilicious" — the 23 sixth and seventh grade girls from Acushnet and Fairhaven who make up the Fairhaven Pop Warner Pee Wee Cheerleading team.

To say the team has had a banner year would be an understatement. On October 22nd, the girls won first place in the Rhode Island South-eastern Mass. (RISMA) regional competition. They were also awarded the additional title of "Grand Champions Overall," having received the highest score of all teams who participated in the challenge.

Medals in hand, the girls moved on to the New England Pop Warner Qualifying Finals in Springfield, MA, on November 6th. There they competed with teams from Rhode Island, Eastern Mass., and Connecticut. Earning second place in the qualifying round allowed them to move on to the New England Pop Warner Regional Championships in Worcester on November 19th.

At the regional championships, they faced an even tougher challenge from an expanded group including finalists from New Hampshire and Central and Western Massachusetts, along with their closest competitors from the Springfield Qualifiers. The girls put on a great show and performed their routine almost flawlessly, bringing home a fourth place trophy and scoring within two points of making it to the Pop Warner National competition.

While the girls won't be heading down to Florida this year, spirits are high, and the team, under the leadership of coaches Heather Costa, Tracy Rousseau & Nancy Viveiros, is already looking forward to continuing its winning streak next season. As the girls say in the

cheer that brought them this year's trophies, "Fairhaven at its finest, and this is just the start!"

The Fairhaven Youth Football Association (FYFA) is a non-profit organization that has supported Fairhaven and Acushnet youth cheerleaders and football players for the last four years. For more information, visit the website at [http://home.comcast.net/~stpierre2/Fairhaven\\_Youth\\_Football\\_files/index.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~stpierre2/Fairhaven_Youth_Football_files/index.htm)



The Fairhaven Pop Warner Pee Wee Cheerleading came two points shy of making it to the finals in Florida this year. They won fourth place in the regional championships. Submitted photo.



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## Recipe of the Week

### Trifle for Chocoholics

1 box chocolate cake mix  
2 boxes chocolate pudding  
1 qt. heavy whipping cream with  
sugar & vanilla extract to taste  
Prepare cake and pudding mix  
as directed.

When cake is cooled, cut into 8  
pieces per layer or if made in 8 x13  
baking dish, into approximately  
4x4 inch squares.

Whip cream after adding sugar  
and vanilla extract to taste (I  
usually put 2 tablespoons of  
vanilla and about 8 tablespoons  
sugar) into stiff peaks.

Layer footed glass serving bowl  
starting with cake, then pudding,  
then generous layer of whipped  
cream, then cake, pudding,  
whipped cream again until all is  
gone. (Approx. 2 layers).

Garnish with maraschino  
cherries.

If you want a REALLY chocolate  
concoction, add one cup  
chocolate chips to the cake mix  
before baking.

*By Bea Long*

*Variation:* Use white cake with  
butterscotch pudding and butter-  
scotch chips in the cake.

### To share a recipe with your neighbors

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

## A Little Bit of Sports

*By Bob Hobbs*

### Special to the Neighb News Girls Have Historic Fall Sports Season

The fall of 2011 will go down in  
history as having the best girls sports  
teams to play at Fairhaven High  
School. Volleyball, soccer and  
cheerleading met with tremendous  
team efforts. These girls not only  
achieved super success, they did it  
with class and sportsmanship, making  
FHS and the whole community so  
proud.

### Kara Charette named ST player of the year

The Southsectional Volleyball  
Champs 23-3 were led by Kara  
Charette, who was selected as  
Standard Times player of the year.  
Selected to ST all super team were  
Kelsey Perrone-Sovik, Kayli Moniz,  
Ashley Brown, and Kay Mullen. Katie  
Leidhold and Rebecca Larson were  
honorable mentioned.

### FHS Cheerleaders Division Four State Champs

Another super achievement from  
FHS Girls. Co-captains were Tori Paiva  
and Leeanne Swire. Also Seniors  
Megan Haaland, Erin Rego and Alysha  
Gomes.

### Emmy Moorehead-Kayli Berche Make ST Super Soccer Team

Fairhaven High's Emmy made 33  
goals this year, tops in the area. May  
even be an FHS record. Kayli had 13  
goals and 18 assists and was the  
super playmaker for FHS. Both girls  
were also selected to southcoast  
conference all stars. Ashley Pereira

was named to ST soccer all stars.  
Ashley was an outstanding midfielder.  
Old Colony High's Alex Gorden was  
also named to ST soccer all stars.  
This versatile junior defensive player  
was outstanding as sweeper and  
goalie, and also selected to  
Mayflower League all stars.

Congratulations to all the girls for a  
great season.

### UMD Basketball

The Corsairs got come-from-  
behind win over Worcester State  
69-67 last Tuesday. Colin Burns tied  
game with three-pointer with one  
second left. Jeff Tagger and Zar  
Clayton were outstanding for UMD.

Last week they also knocked off  
Curry College 66-56. Home against  
Plymouth State Saturday, the Corsairs  
rocked the rocks 62-40 behind 25  
points from Lance Greene.

Home vs Johnson and Wales on  
Tuesday.

### UMD Hockey

John Rolli's Corsairs lost a toughy,  
3-2, to Plymouth State Saturday.

Home against Framingham, the  
Corsairs rolled to a 9-4 win. Mike  
Owens had the hat trick, Billy  
Colclough added 2 goals and goalie  
Ryan Williams made 22 saves.

### UMD Women's Basketball

The lady Corsairs now six and  
three rolled over Plymouth State  
73-56 last Saturday. Super freshmen  
guards Kelsey Garrity and Nicole  
Grassi, and New Bedford's Steph  
Houtman led the way. Were to play  
Johnson and Wales on Thursday.

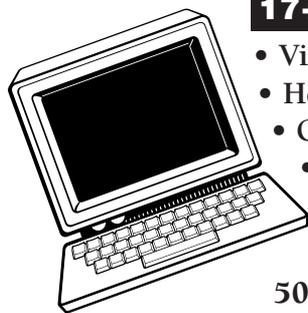
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### This Week's Specials, 12/16-12/20

**Thurs.:** Smothered Pork Cutlet w/ choice of starch and veg .....\$7.99 & veg..... \$9.99  
**Fri.:** BBQ ribs w/choice of starch of starch and veg...\$6.99

**Sunday:** Football specials

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Friday, Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER contest this week. Prizes for first & second place  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION:** Featuring the Portuguese Fireman, The Kulprits, buffet dinner/champagne toast at midnight. Tickets: \$75 pp w/dinner; \$50 general admission at 9 p.m. Buy at desk or call 508-997-1281, or visit [www.seaportinnandmarina.com](http://www.seaportinnandmarina.com)



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# Audit gives Acushnet clean bill of health; no maint. worker yet

By Diane Kozak

## Neighb News Correspondent

At the Acushnet Selectboard meeting on 12/5, Michael Kelligan, partner in Powers and Sullivan Certified Public Accountants of Wakefield presented the 6/30/11 audited financial reports.

He stated that the audit went very smoothly and that Cathy Doane, Director of Finance, and her staff fully cooperated with the firm. Mr. Kelligan reported that there is no management letter this year because there are no significant financial issues that the town needs to address.

He noted that all comments regarding accounting weaknesses from previous years have been addressed. The town spent 97.5% of the FY11 approved budget during the year which Mt. Kelligan stated was a "typical level" for a town. He also reported on the Special Education audit which relates to the spending of the Special Education grant. That audit also received the okay.

In another matter, the selectboard met briefly with the three finalists for the Building Maintenance Worker position.

Peter Boutin told the board that he worked for Amica Insurance for 17 years, eventually becoming a second shift supervisor. He stated that he was laid off due to recent downsizing, at which time; he decided to try a different career by doing home improvement work.

Scott Alexander stated that he is a U.S. Army veteran with carpentry skills from the frame to finish stages. He said he also has plumbing and electrical knowledge as well as experience working on boilers.

Paul Levasseur told the board that he has 18 years of construction

experience and holds several state licenses. He stated that his last job was working in the maintenance department of three of the state buildings in Taunton. He said that he was laid off last July due to budget cuts and although he has "recall rights" in regard to getting his job back that he would be 100% committed to Acushnet if he accepts the position with the town.

Leslie Dakin, the only selectboard

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**There is no management letter this year because there are no significant financial issues that the town needs to address.**

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member who participated in the interview process, said that he was impressed with all three candidates although he noted that Mr. Levasseur was unable to answer some simple contracting related questions during a previous interview.

The board decided that they will each consider the final candidates independently and rank them as to their preference for filling the position before the 12/19 meeting.

The board also approved individual business licenses.

Exceptions noted for non-renewal status included The Country Whip and Seafood Hut, which are seasonal and will get their licenses when the season opens. Coelho Liquors was also denied until their real estate

taxes are paid.

Town Administrator Alan Coutinho presented several matters to the board. He reported that he needed to fill a Payroll Benefits position as the employee holding the position has accepted a job opening at the school department. He stated that he hopes to fill the position by the end of the year.

Mr. Coutinho thanked the Parting Ways Beautification Committee for the decorations on the town hall.

He asked the board to send a letter to the Board of Public Works in regard to proposed legislation regarding the implementation of e-waste in the state. He explained that the legislation requires manufacturers to bear the cost of recycling of used computer equipment. He stated that the BPW should be in contact with SEMASS about the possible changes and how they could affect the town.

In other matters:

- Board member Kevin Gaspar, Chairperson, announced that ACTION (Acushnet Citizens Working Together to Improve Our Neighborhood) has two clean-up events scheduled for 2012; March 18th and April 28th.
- Mr. Gaspar announced that the Council on Aging is collecting toys for the "Hope for the Holidays" program and anyone wishing to donate should drop off toys at the COA building on South Main Street.
- Mr. Coutinho presented a grievance hearing request from Firefighter Captain Alfred Robichaud. He stated that the selectboard needs to respond to the request within ten days. The board voted to have an open hearing with Captain Robichaud at the next meeting.



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# Wilbur's Point neighbors concerned about Ristuccia plans

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals heard from Bernard Ristuccia of 24 Nelson Avenue on 12/6, as well as several of Mr. Ristuccia's concerned neighbors who are opposed to the plan to demolish an existing house to construct a larger single-family home. Neighbors say the bigger house does not belong in their small-scale home community.

Resident Jane Brayton described the neighborhood as having small lots consisting of small houses.

"The scale of this house will change the neighborhood dramatically," Ms. Brayton told the Board.

She added that she appreciates that Mr. Ristuccia and his architect, Ken Ferreira, have met with abutting residents and have made concessions in an attempt to appease the neighbors, yet she worries too many questions have not yet been answered. She asked the board to continue the hearing so abutters, especially those who are currently abroad and unaware of the changes, could have the opportunity to receive information before moving forward.

So far, Mr. Ristuccia has altered his plan by removing a cupola from the design, which brings the height down to meet the 35-foot zoning requirement. According to Ms. Brayton, this was agreeable; however, she went on to suggest that moving the house forward another five feet would prevent the open-air deck of the proposed new house from blocking her southerly view of Wilbur's Point. Mr. Ristuccia agreed to this change, yet it will require asking the board for an additional variance.

Residents Barbara Dean, Harriet Didrikson, and Attorney John Markey also spoke out in opposition to the approval of the variance, suggesting a continuance.

A dialog between Mr. Ferreira and Building Inspector Wayne Fostin became complicated when a dispute over building coverage calculations ensued, based on discrepancies between Mr. Fostin's numbers and Mr. Ferreira's. Mr. Fostin formulated his rear setback calculations based on lot lines specified on the property deed, while Mr. Ferreira based his rear setback estimate on the mean low

tide.

"This is a serious issue," said Chairperson Peter DeTerra after the discussion progressed into debate.

Board member Rene Fluereant, Jr. expressed his need for clarification and commented that only an agreement between Mr. Fostin and Mr. Ferreira would suffice. Mr. Fostin added that in light of the pending calculation adjustments and the plan to slide the house forward five feet, a request for a new variance would have to be filed and re-advertised.

"I think they think it's [the house] bigger than it is," said Mr. Ristuccia. "It's not a monstrous house."

He expressed that he wanted his neighbors to be happy.

"I just wanted to say that I don't intend to build a large mansion. I just want a nice house."

Mr. Ferreira asked the board to

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Mr. Fostin formulated his rear setback calculations based on lot lines specified on the property deed, while Mr. Ferreira based his rear setback estimate on the mean low tide.

---

consider the possibility of approving the requested variances with a special condition on the five-foot forward revision, but that was denied.

"This isn't going to pass tonight," exclaimed Board member Francis Cox, Jr. loudly.

Mr. Cox stated that until the numbers regarding rear setback are agreed upon, the motion to approve would have to wait.

The board voted to continue until calculations are verified. The date for the continuance is pending, due to the 14-day advertising requirement and the time required to recalculate the measurements.

The board also heard from Stevan and Faith Piazza of 10 Shady Drive, requesting a variance for a front yard hedge exceeding the 42-inch height requirement. Mr. and Mrs. Piazza's property abuts the new Southcoast Hospital expansion of an ambulatory care center and the couple are concerned about privacy.

Mr. Piazza stated he would like to keep the hedges high to shield their home from new pedestrian traffic caused by the Southcoast expansion. He showed the Board photos of the hedges, including a photo of a car exiting the driveway to demonstrate that there is no concern over safety since the entire front end of the vehicle was completely past the range of the hedges and vision is not impaired by them.

All but one of Mr. and Mrs. Piazza's Shady Drive neighbors signed a petition stating that they had no objections to the hedges. The next-door neighbors wrote a letter to the board stating that they did not believe that the hedges posed a safety risk to their children.

Speaking out in opposition to the variance was neighbor Laurie Boucher. She stated that she was not even aware that there was a height restriction for hedges, but argued that the height of the hedge does pose a safety issue to children.

"It's a big safety issue and concern," she asserted.

Ms. Boucher said that Mr. Piazza runs a business out of his home, and claimed that the higher flow of business traffic exiting the driveway is already a safety concern, only exacerbated by the hedges. Mr. Piazza gives piano lessons at his home.

Kathleen Boucher disagreed.

"I have young teenagers. No one has ever said the bushes are in the way," she said.

The board reviewed the photos and then voted to approve the variance.

In other business the board:

- Approved a variance for Katherine Faria to construct an addition to her house a 2 Day Street, short three feet of the required ten feet west side setback. When asked what the intention was for the addition, a tearful Ms. Faria told the board she wanted the extra bedroom for the future, so her daughter could stay and take care of her in the event Ms. Faria falls ill.
- Approved a variance requested by Michael Ristuccia of 156 Cottonwood Street to construct a deck on the south side of his house, short ten feet of the required 20 feet south side setback.

APPEALS: cont'd on page 21

# Fairhaven Recreation Center

**Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-  
2 p.m.; Closed Sunday • 227  
Huttleston Ave, 508-993-9269  
[http://fairhavenma.virtualtown  
hall.net](http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net)**

## 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. 1st.** 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.

# Fairhaven Senior Center

508-979-4029 • 229 Huttleston Ave  
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[http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index)

## MALL TRIP/WED:

Dec 14: Emerald Square Mall

**December Mall Trips:** Dec. 28: Independence Mall and  
Dec. 21: Providence Place Mall and Whole foods. Pembroke Christmas Tree Shop

## Entertainment

### Fabulous Overtones

The Fabulous Overtones every **Thursdat** at the Senior Center with Carl Bissonnette, Chuck Brillon, Ron LaBreque, Jerry Theodore and Charlie Belliveau.

## Special Activities

### Earn \$500.00 off your property tax

Call phyllis at the senior center to learn how you can get \$500 off your property taxes, 508-979-4029. Seniors only.

### Pedicare

**Lisa Nuno will be returning to he 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

### 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.

### Holiday Schedule

There have been some changes to the schedule because of holiday activities. Call Sr. Center if you want to confirm you favorite activity.

## Ongoing Programs

**Call 508-979-4029 for days and times**

A/G Consumer Mediator; Bingo; ; Board Meeting/monthly; Bridge; Caregiver Support & Education Group; Computer Training; Friends of Elderly/ monthly meeting; A Grant is available for heating your home; Grocery Shopping; Line Dancing; Live Band; ; Medical Transportation; Nutrition Program/ meal served; Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coordinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch; Reassurance Program; Shopping; Supportive Senior Social Day Program; Tai Chi; Walking Clubs.

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from Louise Dupre

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[www.whalerscove-assistedliving.com](http://www.whalerscove-assistedliving.com)

# Old Time Holiday spreads Christmas cheer through center

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven's old time holiday celebration spread the cheer of the season throughout the center of town, with Christmas lovers of all ages traipsing through the streets to enjoy one activity after the other.

The Town Hall held 25 non-profit organizations selling a multitude of hand-made and unique items on Saturday. From toys that children would have played with in revolutionary times to t-shirts supporting the Vietnam Moving Wall coming to Fairhaven as part of next year's Bicentennial activities, the choices were interesting and often unique to

Fairhaven.

Baked goods, cookbooks, hand-knitted items, raffles and a chance to talk to Santa were also part of the festivities in the Town Hall auditorium while Fairhaven music students entertained.

Outside, the Boy Scouts sold hot chocolate and hot dogs. Inside they sold baked goods.

At the First Congregational Church across the street, more tables and lobster rolls greeted all comers.

At the Unitarian church, just up the street, the "original" St. Nicholas kept vigil over the tables, which included more hand-made and unique items by local businesses.

Other events throughout the weekend included the lighting of Benoit Square in North Fairhaven, a pancake breakfast with Santa, cookies and cocoa with Santa, and lots of carol singing.

Fairhaven's Tourism Director Christopher Richard, well known for his many old-time costumes, dressed as old time Father Christmas and greeted people as they entered town hall on Saturday.

"Sadly, I no longer have to spary my beard white," lamented Mr. Richard. He is growing his beard extra long this year as part of the Brothers of the Bush contest for the Bicentennial celebration in 2012.



LEFT: Benoit Square in North Fairhaven is all lit up until after the first of the year. The square is at the junction of Main and Adams Streets at the top of Howland Road. RIGHT: Santa with some of his elves at the lighting of Benoit Square on 2/9. The girls are from North Pole High School. They are the "local contingent" of Santa's elves and will remain local until Christmas Eve, when they will all have dinner together and then return to the north pole. BELOW LEFT: Ireland Nordstrom tells Santa what she wants for Christmas in the auditorium of Fairhaven Town Hall during the old time holiday celebration on Saturday, 12/9. BOTTOM RIGHT, L-R: Boy Scouts Brian Campos, Owen Gallagher and Joshua "Bryce" Vargas, stop selling baked goods to pose for the local free rag. Photos this page by Beth David. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com). Visit us on Facebook for more photos of these and other events.



## SELECT: cont'd from page 4

on a change of manager for the VFW, and would not discuss the turbine issue any further. Disappointed residents filed out of the meeting room, although a few stayed behind to observe and even to apologize for the way some protesters had behaved during the meeting.”

“I was really shocked by some of the outbursts,” said Fairhaven resident Ted Lorentson. “I didn’t think that it was fruitful. Whether you’re for this [project] or against this, I don’t think this behavior should be allowed in an official meeting. On behalf of the townspeople, I want to apologize. I didn’t think it was appropriate at all.”

Mr. Murphy thanked him, and pointed out that no one was deliberately seeking to harm the town of Fairhaven.

“When people are screaming and shouting, the board has no other choice but to call for a recess. If you want to work with us, respect is a crucial matter,” he said.

The rest of the evening’s business seemed anti-climactic after the explosive first half hour.

The board voted to accept the VFW’s change of manager to Jeffrey Cardoza, pending proof of TIPS certification of all employees and the submission of required paperwork. They also approved an application from the New Bedford Youth Symphony Orchestra to use the town hall auditorium for an upcoming fund-raiser, and to waive the usual usage fees because of the orchestra’s non-profit status.

After receiving bids from Athol Press, Mallard Printing and Monaghan Printing, the board voted to award the printing job for the town’s annual report to the lowest bidder, Mallard Printing. They invited residents to submit ideas for the annual report cover, and someone in the audience jokingly suggested a picture of the wind turbine, a comment which Dr. Bowcock did not find amusing.

“As 2012 is the town’s bicentennial, I think it would be more appropriate to have something along that theme,” he replied.

In other business, Harbormaster David Darmofal had a number of items to discuss with the board, including a hearing, which the board voted to hold in open session, concerning repeated waterfront violations involving local fisherman Eric Moniz.

According to Mr. Darmofal, he has had to issue several warnings to Mr.

Moniz for leaving containers of petroleum products and other debris on the docks.

“He keeps promising to remove them, but he’s a habitual offender. He leaves bait, he leaves materials, he leaves oil. It just has to stop,” said Mr. Darmofal. “We recently had to repair some planks at that dock, and out of all 10 spaces, the only area where planks are rotted out is his area, and I think it has to do with all the junk he leaves out.”

Mr. Moniz was not present at the hearing.

“He said missing a day at sea would be too costly for him, so I suggested that he write a letter saying that he

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...one of the residents asked for confirmation that the cameras were filming the vote. Mr. Silvia admitted that the cameras had indeed been turned off, prompting the residents to demand that the cameras be turned back on before letting the board continue.

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understood there was a problem and wouldn’t do it again,” said Mr. Darmofal. “I’d like to give people the opportunity to change. He’s a town resident, he’s an active fisherman. He’s hard-working, he just doesn’t follow all the rules.”

Dr. Bowcock acknowledged that Mr. Moniz was a busy man, but pointed out that if his habit of leaving oil on the docks led to a spill, he would be responsible for fines, clean up and other associated damages. The board agreed to accept his letter of apology, but made it clear that the violations would cease or he would be summoned back for a hearing on the termination of his contract.

The board also met with Rob Shields of the Shepherd’s Pantry, which must move from its current location in Acushnet. The organization, which distributes nearly 9,000 food items weekly to 125 to 150 families, serving about 620 individuals altogether, began in the Church of the Good Shepherd in North Fairhaven twelve years ago. The program moved to various locations over the years and is now looking for a new location in Fairhaven.

“Currently we’re housed in Long Plain

Church in Acushnet, but we’re going to be displaced, literally by the end of January,” explained Mr. Shields.

Board members expressed their support for the work and community services that the program has provided over the years, adding that they hoped a local property owner might step forward with a suitable location.

Mr. Murphy, who also runs the MO LIFE food pantry took part in the discussion, saying that if the Good Shepherd Pantry closed, his pantry would not be able to absorb those clients.

In other business the board:

- Approved 11 contracts for the Union Wharf Lobster Basin upon Mr. Darmofal’s recommendations, and also agreed to send a letter of support for a proposed program to replenish bay scallops in the Southeast.
  - Appointed several residents to the new Oxford/Rogers School Study Committee, an ad hoc committee that would help explore potential uses for the Oxford and Rogers buildings.
  - Announced that there would be job vacancies at town hall in the veterans office and the selectboard’s office, as their secretary will be retiring in January. Deadline for applications is December 20th. The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities is also looking for a new member, and letters should be sent to the selectboard.
  - Met briefly with town treasurer John Nunes to discuss a shortfall in the FY12 water budget that has to be addressed before the tax classification packet for Fairhaven can be submitted to the state. He said water revenues had not reached expectations. The board accepted his recommendation that they add an article for the May 5, 2012 special town meeting warrant, seeking a transfer \$33,000 to supplement the FY12 water budget.
  - Reconvened in executive session to discuss solar panel project contractual issues, issues concerning UMass Dartmouth, a discussion regarding information on the legal action about the building permit for the turbines, and the contract with Taylor Seafoods.
- \* See page 21 for ad from developer.  
\*\* Residents at the meeting shot video.  
An edited version is available on their website at [www.Windwise.org](http://www.Windwise.org)

## Hawk Medeiros awarded Marian Medal

*Submitted*

Antone "Hawk" Medeiros, a lifetime parishioner of St. Mary's Church in North Fairhaven, is a recipient of the Marian Medal Award.

Medeiros was among the 79 people from churches in the Fall River Diocese who were recognized for their dedicated service to the Catholic Church.

Bishop George W. Coleman presented the medals at a service of prayer and Eucharistic adoration and benediction held Nov. 20 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fall River. Family, friends and clergy filled the cathedral.

Medeiros, who is 89, has served St. Mary's Church in a number of ways, including collecting the offering since 1959. He, his wife Algerina, and family members participated in the church's annual fundraising show every year it

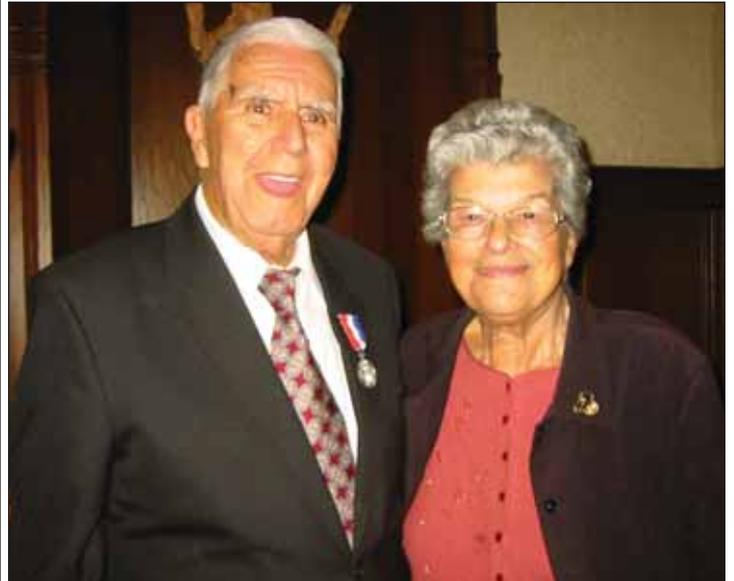
ran.

Since the 1960s, Medeiros has been one of the men chosen to carry the statue of Our Lady of Angels during the annual Labor Day feast's parade. He attends Mass every morning.

In addition, Medeiros has been involved with area adult and youth sports for many decades. The town of Fairhaven named its recreation center in his honor.

Bishop James Connolly began the tradition of the Marian Medal Award in 1968.

Since then over 2,000 people have been recipients. The medal, cast by Creed of Attleboro, has an image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal on one side and the diocesan coat of arms on the other.



Antone "Hawk" Medeiros, wearing the Marian Medal, and his wife, Algerina Medeiros, stand inside St. Mary's Cathedral in Fall River following the award ceremony Nov. 20. *Submitted photo.*

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I do like Christmas on the whole.... In its clumsy way, it does approach Peace and Goodwill. But it is clumsier every year.

E.M. Forster

### APPEALS: cont'd from page 13

- Approved variances for Paul Schoffield looking to build a house at 14 Crescent Drive, short four feet of the required 30-foot setback, short two feet on the west side and four feet of the east side of the required 20-foot setback. The plans are also two-percent over the maximum allowed building coverage of 15-percent within a RR district.
- Approved a variance for Antonio and Valentina DaCunha, for two additions to their home at 8 Windward Way, short three feet of the required 30-foot front setback and ten feet short of the required 20-foot north side setback. The intention is for a second stall for an existing garage and an additional family room. ●●●

## Fairhaven Meetings

### Bicentennial Committee

Sat., 12/17, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

### 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., 1/12 Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Conservation Commission

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

### Planning Board

Tues., 12/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Wed., 1/11, FHS Library, 6:30

### Selectboard

Tues., 12/27, Town Hall, 5 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		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
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*
Saturday	24	0709	1930	0003*	1316*
Sunday	25	0759	2020	0055*	1403*
Monday	26	0848	2110	0146*	1444*
Tuesday	27	0937	2159	0234*	1522*
Wednesday	28	1026	2249	0321*	1558*
Thursday	29	1114	2338	0406	1635
Friday	30	----	1202	0453	1714
Saturday	31	0026	1249	0547	1759

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



December 9, 2011  
 An Open Letter to the  
 Residents of Fairhaven:

Being the private part of the public-private partnership that is involved in the implementation of the wind turbines in Fairhaven, we have been dismayed about the reaction of some residents in Fairhaven (and outside of Fairhaven) who are seeking to castigate the public officials of the Town who have continued to move the wind project along as approved by a majority of citizens at the Special Town Meeting on May 15, 2007. Some of these people even seek to discredit these officials and the project by spreading misinformation in the papers, at Town hearings and on the web. We appreciate this opportunity to set the record straight with the following facts.

**The Public Process** – Some have alleged that this project has circumvented the public process. Nothing could be further from the truth. The development of this project by the Town of Fairhaven commenced with an amendment of the Town's by-laws in May 2004 to allow for siting of commercial and municipal wind facilities. Any such by-law amendment has to be vetted through a series of Town committees, approved by a majority of the citizens at a Town Meeting, and approved as lawful by the Massachusetts Attorney General. The Town followed these approvals with a publically-noticed request for proposals in the spring of 2006 and, after a series of presentations, an overwhelming majority of residents at a Special Town Meeting voted to proceed. The project then went through a series of permitting hearings which required the notification of abutters. When the permits were granted, opponents appealed the permits as well as the Town's ability to issue the permits. This was well-covered in the local press.

It is important to note that the Commonwealth's Green Communities Act of 2008 did not override local authority or allow one to "sidestep some permitting" as has been reported. Rather, the Green Communities Act allowed the Town to exercise its option, already included

in the 2007 lease, to purchase 100% of the power rather than just the power that could be used by the Town's adjacent waste water treatment plant. Indisputably, the project qualifies as a "municipal" wind project under the Town's 2004 by-law and the project is allowed to proceed as-of-right after obtaining a building permit. Because a special permit was no longer required, there was no need for the Town to spend funds defending the appeal of a special permit. Moreover, at the same time, CCI Energy clearly stated in the press that it planned to continue to develop the project.

The project progressed, albeit slowly, as it awaited regulations from the Department of Public Utilities to implement the Green Communities Act and for an agreement with NSTAR for the interconnection. Lease amendments (to ensure consistency with the regulations) were negotiated with Town officials and discussed in properly-noticed meetings. In the February 10, 2011 special "Green Side" edition of the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, it was reported that the Town "is also pursuing the construction of two industrial sized wind turbines that could generate enough electricity to power all town buildings at a lower rate." The necessary amendments to the lease were signed at a duly-noticed Selectmen's meeting on March 14, 2011.

The Town's efforts were well-publicized for anyone taking an interest. Agenda and minutes of the Selectmen's meetings are posted on the Town's website, and Selectmen's meetings are broadcast live and then re-broadcast throughout the week. A September 2011 posting to the opponents' Facebook page, referencing Palmer Capital's website, further alerted the opponents with the following statement – "For those of you concerned with the Fairhaven Wind Project it seems like it's back on." On September 29, 2011, an advertisement was placed in the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News* alerting residents that there was a "Request for Amendment of a Superseding Order of Conditions to the MassDEP Southeast Regional Office to approve minor modifica-

c/o Palmer Management Corp.  
 13 Elm Street, Suite 200  
 Cohasset, MA 02025  
 Tel: 781-383-3200

tions to the locations of the two proposed wind turbines at the Town of Fairhaven property on Arsene Street" and that there would be a 21-day public comment period. No comments were received during the comment period or the subsequent 10-day appeal period.

The opponents have even falsely accused the Town of commencing construction on Veterans Day to avoid public scrutiny. In fact, site work had commenced almost 3 weeks earlier with soil investigations where the turbines are going to be located and work adjacent to the Town's recycling center where the turbines' communications will be connected into equipment at the waste water treatment plant. There was no conspiracy of silence on the part of Town officials.

**Equipment Height** – There have been statements alleging that Town officials are lying to residents about the height of the project, since the project has an approval from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to build taller turbines. Taller turbines were contemplated at one time and the FAA did provide the project permission to build such turbines. However, that is not what has been ordered. As you can imagine, the FAA is not concerned if the Town builds something lower than its flight plan analysis allows.

Each turbine will be on an 80-meter tower and have an 82-meter rotor diameter. Therefore, the total height of each turbine is 262 feet and the maximum extension to the tip of the blades is 397 feet. For comparison purposes, the nearby WJFD radio tower, at 600 feet, is over twice the height of the turbine tower and 50% higher than the tips of the blades. Hence, the turbines are not even close to being the tallest thing in the neighborhood.

**Shadow Flicker and New School** – Whether by opponents of the new school or the turbines, a few people have raised the issue of the impact of the turbines on the recently-approved Leroy L. Wood Elementary School located at 60 Scoticut Neck Road. One concern mentioned is the

See next page

impact of shadow flicker, although there is no recognized health effect from turbine flicker and turbines are currently operating directly on many school properties in the region, including Portsmouth Abbey, Hull High School and Medford Elementary School. Fortunately, shadows are easy to predict and we have done so for that specific location. Given the school's position west of the two turbines, 70% of the school's exposure to shadows from the turbines will occur during the summer months of June through August. More importantly, no shadows are projected to occur on school property after 6:54 am on any day.

**Noise** – Another concern voiced by opponents is the possibility of noise from the turbines. We do not deny the fact that wind turbines make noise, including the noise resulting from the blades cutting through the air as the wind pushes the blades, just as a household fan can make a noise. It has been alleged that turbines from China are “historically ... the worst as far as noise associated with the operations.” We do not know the source of this misinformation. We do know that the Danish-engineered Vestas turbines originally permitted for Fairhaven, but now operating in Falmouth, were modeled by the Town and the Massachusetts Technology Center and were projected to meet all of the state and local requirements in Fairhaven. As stated in that report, the maximum sound level from the Vestas turbines was 110 dBA. Since sound levels are reported on a logarithmic scale, this is substantially more than the manufacturer's published sound level for the turbines under construction in Fairhaven which is 104.7 dBA. A 5 dBA difference is the difference between normal speech at one meter and a vacuum cleaner at 3 meters. Hence comparisons to Falmouth and derogatory comments about the country of origin are unjust and inappropriate.

The fact that there are minimal complaints from the comparably-sized Hull turbine is discounted by opponents stating that the Hull turbine is lower in height than the ones planned for Fairhaven. Yet everyone knows that the farther away one is from a noise, the less one can hear it. For this very reason, we decided to move the south turbine almost 200 feet farther away from the

nearest residence than had been originally permitted by the Town for the Vestas turbines. Such a move not only directly reduces the noise at the closest residences, it also puts more trees between the turbine and the residences, which should further reduce the sound (and the visibility). This move prompted the MassDEP public notice in late September and the subsequent public comment period discussed above.

**Turbine Health Effects** – Unfortunately, anyone can publish anything on the web today and wind energy opponents have used the web to propagate a lot of misinformation on health effects that have no scientific basis. Dr. Nina Pierpoint has made a business out of her self-proclaimed “Wind Turbine Syndrome” which allegedly is caused by sound that humans can neither hear nor feel. Despite her statements that her work will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, to our knowledge, there has been no such publication. Others have looked into these and similar claims and have found only anecdotal, not scientific, evidence.

Nevertheless, two years ago the American Wind Energy Association and the Canadian Wind Energy Association were concerned enough with these allegations that they commissioned a panel of 7 international experts in their respective fields to look into these claims and any supporting scientific evidence. The executive summary of their 85-page report provides the following conclusions:

- There is no evidence that the audible or sub-audible sounds emitted by wind turbines have any direct adverse physiological effects.
- The ground-borne vibrations from wind turbines are too weak to be detected by, or to affect, humans.
- The sounds emitted by wind turbines are not unique. There is no reason to believe, based on the levels and frequencies of the sounds and the panel's experience with sound exposures in occupational settings, that the sounds from wind turbines could plausibly have direct adverse health consequences.

The entire report can be found at [http://www.awea.org/\\_cs\\_upload/learnabout/publications/5728\\_1.pdf](http://www.awea.org/_cs_upload/learnabout/publications/5728_1.pdf).

Since some will suspect any study commissioned by industry advocates, we also provide a reference to a

September 2011 article published in the peer-reviewed *Environmental Health*, which states that “annoyance appears to be more strongly related to visual cues and attitude than to noise itself; self-reported health effects of people living near wind turbines are more likely attributed to physical manifestation from an annoyed state than from wind turbines themselves.” In other words, self-reported health effects appear to arise due to being annoyed with the turbines and not due to a turbine-specific variable such as flicker, noise or infrasound. One can read this article at <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/78>.

**Economics** – The Town's officials did a superb job representing the Town of Fairhaven and seeking to obtain the best possible outcome for the Town despite the changing economic and regulatory conditions during the long development period for this project. The Town's starting electric rate of 7.43 cents per kilowatt hour is substantially lower than we have seen proposed for other municipally-based wind projects. The Town is also entitled to a royalty on production and to property taxes on the equipment, despite the project being located on Town-owned property.

Given today's electric rates, which are depressed compared to what they were only 2 years ago due to the economic downturn, the Town is projected to earn and save over \$200,000 per year. If rates return to 2009 levels, the Town's cost of energy from the project does not change and the Town is projected to save over \$600,000 per year.

In conclusion, we feel that Town officials should be congratulated and not criticized by Fairhaven residents. The Town has stuck with a long, drawn out and public process, as presented to and approved by its citizens back in 2007. While some may feel they were not fully heard and a few may even work themselves into frenzied complaints, in the long run, the Town of Fairhaven will benefit economically and environmentally from these officials' efforts.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fairhaven Wind LLC  
by its Manager,*

*Palmer Management Corporation  
Gordon L. Deane  
President*

## Letters from our readers

### Officials have history of “mindlessly” jumping in

Fairhaven town officials have again mindlessly jumped on the next new thing. Our executive secretary and his board are always ready and willing to offer up the people they represent as guinea pigs. In years past it was a regional dump, then regional sludge plants, one of which burned demolition debris. Now it's two massive turbines beside a pristine marsh next to homes and a school.

As before they proclaim, they've met all of the legal requirements and there will be no negative impacts. Led by Jeff Osuch they've come close to destroying what's left of this town's character and sense of place. As before they have ignored the neighbors, they've ignored the health impacts and have worked behind closed doors. They know opposition will be determined and multiplied exponentially by proximity.

As always they pit one section of this small town against another. Brian Bowcock, the selectman pushing this project, brands the opposition NIMBYs. I'm a NIMBY. I've been one for a long time. We and other NIMBYs have fought off projects, including Bio Safe, Netco and Azuix, remember those Brian. We are a safer, healthier, better town because of the NIMBY's.

Now it's two Chinese made industrial turbines. Brian says everything was done in full light. As with all the other projects the facts appear to contradict him. No abutters notified, project kept under wraps until after the Wood/Rogers School vote, clearing done over Veteran's Day weekend and erection of the turbines due to begin during Christmas.

Brian says there are no negative impacts, health or otherwise. He says one of the most vocal critics is not even one of the non-notified abutters. Brian writes in a letter to the Fairhaven Neighborhood News on 12/8, “You live more than a mile away. The turbines pose absolutely no health hazard to you and your wife.”

One can assume from his statement, Brian feels setbacks do make sense and he inadvertently admits there are health hazards for those within a mile. Brian writes in this letter, he was honoring our nation's Veterans while the developer ripped out the trees along the Bike Path to make way for Fairhaven's Chinese

turbines. He's quite a patriot, however one might think buying an American made turbine built by veterans would be a good way to honor them. But those pesky setback rules are problematic.

The American made turbines come with set back regulations from the manufacture, the Chinese turbines don't. As always, with this selectman, when expediency trumps honor. The setback distances protect the company against lawsuits. Who will protect the town if these Chinese turbines are erected?

If there is any hope it's at the Health Board. They have all the evidence they need to understand these 400-foot turbines do pose a risk. The turbines are too close to homes and to Wood School. The Health Board has the responsibility and power to stop them. Tom Crotty, the town's long time legal defender of these type projects, played the lawsuit card in the Standard Times on 12/8, “The Board of Health has the authority to make you stop doing something if they determine it is a public nuisance, but you have the right to sue them if they're wrong.”

I'm sure the Health Board has received this message. A lawsuit is unlikely; it would poison the well for the developer. Regardless the Health Board members need to ask themselves would they rather fight the developer or the people they've pledged to protect.

*Henry Ferreira, Fairhaven*

### Big Turbines Offer Small Value to Fhvn Residents

In 2001 Hull introduced the first industrial turbine to an urban area on the east coast, its blades reaching 241 feet high. In the pursuit of greater energy production and higher economic return, larger turbines are being built. The one recently shut down in Falmouth and the two going up in Fairhaven reach approximately 400 feet — or about half as tall as the 790 foot John Hancock Tower in Boston.

James Sweeney, president of CCI Energy, indicated in 2008 they were facing difficulty securing investors for Fairhaven because “The project has low returns” (The Standard Times, 02/22/2008). The ST reported, “If Mr. Sweeney can't attract sufficient investment with the project's current financial structure, he might...

purchase larger ones.”

I don't live near the turbines or have children who will attend The Wood School — so problem solved right?

Texas and Iowa lead the nation in wind power, where landowners typically receive \$3,000–\$5,000 per turbine each year in rental income while continuing to grow crops or graze cattle underneath (American Wind Energy Association, 2009).

It was previously reported the Fairhaven turbines would save the town \$150,000 per year — or about \$10 per resident. New estimates, net metering and renewable energy certificates can inflate that number a bit, but we're still selling out our neighbors for pennies on the dollar.

There is a place for big wind in our energy infrastructure, but this isn't it. We shouldn't volunteer to be another test case for the placement of large industrial turbines in the heart of a residential community.

*Patrick McGowan, Fairhaven*

### Projects depend on Feds

I am writing this letter to express some of my concerns and opinions about the two wind turbines presently being constructed at the waste water plant. Let me say from the outset that I am not against renewable energy such as wind turbines or solar panels. However there are some real concerns and issues that should be addressed and answered about these sources.

One is the economic reality and dependability of these sources. I will state the obvious. When the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine zero power is generated. We have to depend upon other sources.

The point I like to make is all these projects are dependent upon federal support and funding to support them. They are not economically viable. Consider the two turbines being built in Fairhaven. There is a million dollar subsidy to support them. Sure we can have everything we want just have somebody else pay for it. This fits into the larger picture of our present day administration of cap and trade were our businesses are being handicapped by these restrictions.

Consider the solarium out in California. It recently went bankrupt. It's a good example of what happens when you take the private sector, business, and competition out of the picture a half a billion dollars went

**LETTERS: cont'd on next page**

**LETTERS:** cont'd from previous page  
down the drain.

I believe the first step in energy production should be conservation in which we all can play a part, next we need a balanced policy of energy production. I believe nuclear power plants could supply a high percentage of our electric power; until recently for the past 30 years all new construction has been stopped. With present day controls I believe nuclear is safe and relatively non polluting and don't forget dependable.

There are several issues I find very disturbing about the two turbines being set up in Fairhaven, one is the way it was authorized. I believe decisions should be made by the general public and voted on that way all the issues can be discussed before hand.

One is the location. Why in a heavily populated area? Put it off West Island or on it where its impact would be less. There are some real concerns like vibration and flicker

One other I find is the way it was started. I consider it sneaky underhanded and disrespectful to our veterans to start it on Veteran's Day.\*

They are made in China I understand General Electric manufactures them here in the USA We need jobs here in a small way it boosts our economy. The idea they are made in China I find very disturbing.

*John Pond, Fairhaven*

### **Falmouth residents speaks from experience**

The back of my home is 1662 feet from Falmouth's first industrial wind turbine which started operation in March 2010.

I am certain that many, if not most people, have not a clue as to how "affected" with anxiety, stress, palpitations, panic attacks, depression, even suicidal tendencies some of us experience. Many others have only headaches, high blood pressure, irritability, anger, migraines, etc., etc. It becomes worse as exposure lengthens. I need to avoid the turbine, to stay indoors at my property, and to take frequent trips away from my home.

I could hear the Wind I turbine under nearly all wind speeds and directions, and I know that it makes varying noises depending upon a huge number of factors.

To subject myself to what is torturous for me is no longer going to happen. I have learned all I need to know about living too close to an

industrial wind turbine. If I were the only person affected I would simply move as all of my medical providers have suggested, but I am far from being alone, so I chose to fight. I intend to continue to live where I have for the past 32 years. But that can only be without the turbine.

I really do not understand why so many people find the problems with wind turbines so complex. What difference does it make just why some people living too closely to IWTs are so adversely affected? Dr. Malcolm Swinbanks explains the difference in human perception of sound quite clearly. Dr. Alex Salt's research shows that "what you do not hear can hurt you" (infrasound).

Dr. Michael Nissinbalm's recent epidemiological study in Vinalhaven Maine clearly shows the clustering of medical ailments of populations living close to IWTs. Many studies have determined that no one should be subject to living within 1.24 miles (2km) of an IWT. Some countries have adopted that standard. Most importantly to me, is that I know first hand what living 1662 feet from Falmouth's Wind I has done to me.

The Town of Fairhaven has the unique opportunity to see exactly what has happened in the Town of Falmouth with their failed wind project. Their two 1.65 Mwatt machines are now inoperative after Town Meeting (which had voted them to be built several years ago) was about to vote them out.

In Falmouth HEALTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY.

The Select Board, in a great effort to save face, decided they would shut them down instead of allowing Town Meeting to do it. There will be another Town Meeting vote in the Spring unless the Selectmen permanently close the turbines down before that.

\$11 million is the expected price tag [in Falmouth]. Is it worth the risk to Fairhaven to lose this amount of taxpayer's money?

If the town goes ahead with the project how can the outcome be expected to differ from that in Falmouth? Wind I in Falmouth is 1320 feet from the closest resident. Fairhaven would have citizens within 900 feet. Medical and nuisance lawsuits would quickly eliminate any generation gains.

Just who are the geniuses who proposed this project in your town?

*Sincerely, Barry Funfar, Falmouth*

### **Abutting towns should have been notified**

The main question is why wasn't there abutter notification to the Fairhaven residents and the abutter town residents of Mattapoisett or the Town of Mattapoisett?

I understand land based wind turbines are being built in Fairhaven. I oppose the turbines because of the lack of abutter notification in Fairhaven and I believe surrounding cities and towns should have received abutter notifications.

Many controversies have arisen related to the siting, permitting, and potential health concerns relating to two large turbines (1.5 MW, 397 feet tall) in Fairhaven.

These turbines are the height of the Bank of America building in downtown Providence, Rhode Island. Who is adopting regulations setting limits on the size of these turbines, and their proximity to development to the residents of Mattapoisett or any other city or town ?

The question is why the total lack of abutter notification? Fairhaven has not notified the abutter towns of the issues relating to the siting and abutter concerns to these facilities? Have the abutter towns been notified and how close and what effect these turbines have on my town? Will the bordering residents of Mattapoisett hear these turbines and be affected by shadow flicker?

*Frank Haggerty, Mattapoisett*

### **Go see for yourself**

With the Little Bay Bike Path Loop being closed since Nov. 11\* for the unannounced clearing of the two turbine sites, the path was finally opened. Recently, I got a chance to view the site. The reality of two 400-ft. turbines being built in close proximity to residents and the new Wood School is scary. I would strongly suggest to the residents of Fairhaven to take a walk to the Little Bay Bike Path Loop and observe the clearing for the turbines and try to visualize two 400-ft turbines operating. Fairhaven town officials need a reality check about the potential disaster that looms on the horizon

*Steve Bender, Mattapoisett*

*\*The site work did not begin on Veteran's Day, it began earlier in the week. Veterans Day was the day the bike path was closed.*

## Douglass Tree Farm continues tradition

The Douglass family continued the tradition of selling their home grown Christmas trees, with all proceeds going to fight ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, a fatal neurodegenerative disease.

Hundreds of trees grown at the Fairhaven tree farm on Sconticut Neck Road are sold nearly every year. Last year the event was cancelled, though, because the trees were not big enough.

"We have a good crop this year," said Chris Douglass. "It was a good decision to stop last year."

He said the family was on track to sell more than 400 trees. On Saturday alone they sold more than 200.

This year the all-volunteer crew included players from ORR/FHS Hockey and basketball cheerleaders from ORR.

Tree buyers need only pick out the trees they want. Volunteers cut, carry, and load trees onto vehicles.

This is the 10th year the family has donated all proceeds of the tree sales to ALS. Dick and Vivian Douglass have a son with ALS. All proceeds from the event benefit ALS TDI, an organization dedicated to developing treatment for ALS patients.

About \$114,000 has been raised in previous years by the Douglass family through their tree sale.

Most people taking trees on Sunday, 12/11, said the appeal included a good cause, a fresh tree, and a fun time.

"It's multiple good things," said

Glenn Giammalvo, who has bought his tree there two or three times, and cut this year's tree himself. "The money goes to a good cause. It's beautiful, and you can't say it wasn't fresh."

"It's awesome. It's an event. It's fresh air. You get to walk around," said Stan Ennis as he tied a tree onto his car.

He said if not for the Douglass family sale, he would probably just go to a lot to buy a tree.

"This makes it

feel more like Christmas," said Mr. Ennis. "And the best part is the money is going to a good cause."

For more about ALS and the Douglass farm, visit, <http://community.als.net/thedouglassfamilyeffort>; for more about ALS TDI, visit [www.als.net](http://www.als.net).



L-R: Members of the ORR/FHS Hockey team, Jake Jaskolkas and Anthony Cammarano, load a tree onto a pickup truck on Sunday, 12/11, at the Douglass Tree Farm on Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven. Members of the team volunteered in shifts, cutting, hauling, and loading Christmas Trees. All proceeds benefit ALS TDI, an organization that helps patients with Lou Gehrig's Disease. Photo by Beth David. See more photos on our Facebook page.

## Legal Notices/Public Hearings

### Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

1. Joann Gisborne for Doris Gallagher 57 Nakata Avenue Plat 43, Lot 105 Book 9195, Page 18  
Special Permit Special Permit is required for continued use of a grandfathered travel trailer in a VE

flood zone.

2. Peter & Dorothy Pinto 15 Daniel Street Plat 22, Lot 190-193 Book 5594, Page 66  
Special Permit Special Permit is required for continuation of a pre-existing two-family dwelling.
3. Michael Edwards 113 Cottonwood Street Plat 43A, Lot 194,195 Certificate #22549  
198-18 Short 5' on the north & south sides of the required 20' side

setback, 1% over the maximum allowed lot coverage of 15% in a RR District.

Special Permit A Special Permit is required for expansion of a non-conforming lot.

4. Linda Wordell 40 Point Street P28B, Lots 119, 120, 128, 129 Book 1678, Page 415

198-18 Short 4' of the required 20' front setback in a RA District.

Very Truly, Peter DeTerra, Chairman



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Two halls for rent: **Half price** in Jan. & Feb.

## Entertainment & Upcoming Events

**Karaoke with Eddie:**  
Friday, 8:30-mid.

**Dec. 10: Spaghetti &**

**Meatball Supper.** Karaoke to follow. Tickets at bar, \$6.50

**New Year's Eve Party**  
Pot Luck Dinner with DJ.  
No charge, take a dish.

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### Holiday specials

Kahlua 750ml All Flavors.....	\$19 <sup>99</sup>
Seagram's 7 1.75.....	\$18 <sup>99</sup>
Canadian Club 1.75.....	\$19 <sup>99</sup>
Beck's Loose Bottles.....	\$19 <sup>99</sup> + dep
Bud & Bud Light 30 pack.....	\$21 <sup>49</sup> + dep
Coors Light 30 pack.....	\$21 <sup>49</sup> + dep
Heineken 24 Loose Bottles.....	\$23 <sup>79</sup> + dep
Rubinoff Vodka All Flavors 1.75.....	\$10 <sup>99</sup>
Captain Morgan Rum 1.75.....	\$29 <sup>99</sup>
Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75.....	\$24 <sup>99</sup>
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