



# 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 48 • December 22, 2011

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

## Town Hall Sing draws enthusiastic bunch



The Fairhaven Improvement Association sponsored its annual Town Hall Sing on Saturday, 12/17 on the Town Hall steps. A small, but vocal group showed up to sing and greet Santa Claus who arrived in a Fairhaven Fire Truck. 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.

Okay, there's a reason I call this my weekly miracle. You just would not believe how much magic it takes to get this thing to press.

But, this is the season for miracles and magic, isn't it?

Speaking of which...

I had this cute little idea for a

Christmas story called "The Silver and the Good China," all about a silver spoon talking to the rest of the good silver and the China about being set out for Christmas day and what they saw, and the crazy relatives, and which one gets to go in the living room to see the Christmas Tree and all kinds of other quirky little things.

Then Gary Souza sent his story about Mother Wleh and her 52 orphan children who do not get three meals a day.

Need I say more?

See his story on page 4.

In keeping with the Christmas theme, albeit not the spirit, someone vandalized the creche at Benoit Square (see page 16). What a rotten thing to do. Police say it's pretty clear the driver deliberately jumped the curb to hit the creche. The best part, though, is that pieces of the vehicle fell off. And, since the creche was put back together, with a new little barn built in a matter of hours by some awesome North Fairhaven Improvement Association volunteers, it appears the vehicle sustained more damage than the creche.

That, my friends, is the meaning of "poetic justice."

And I hope that driver gets nothing but coal in his stocking. Are you listening, Santa?

On another note....the Town Hall sing was a lot of fun this year, but it is getting smaller and smaller, it seems. I remember a few years back when the whole area in front of town hall was filled with people singing. This year, a hardy crowd showed up in the cold, and the young ones were absolutely agog with delight to see Santa as he rode in on the Fire Engine. It was worth the trip just to see little Elle Boucher jump up and down with delight in front of the Big Man. See page 16 for that.

Now, about those wind turbines.

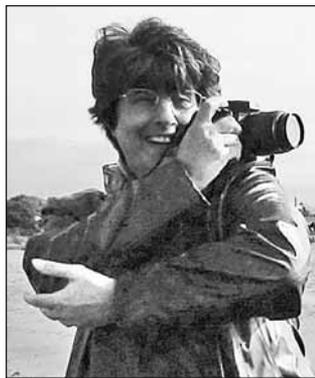
I had a chance to get a real tour of one in Charlestown. It's the same model as the two that Fairhaven is slated to get, just a little shorter. See page 17 for a story on what I learned.

Last week, in this space, I took a poke at selectboard member Brian Bowcock and long time nemesis Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis. Neither one is thrilled with me, but I've got to say, Ann had quite the sense of humor about it. Bravo to you Ann!

Dr. Bowcock, on the other hand, left one of his signature nasty phone messages, with veiled threats, demanding that I apologize and run a correction.

He will get neither. I have nothing to apologize for. His behavior was despicable and I have a right to say so.

As for the correction, he said he wanted it because he claims we accused him of shutting off the cameras at the selectboard meeting. We did not. My Selectboard reporter,



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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## Contents

Acushnet Conservation Commission.....	12
Classifieds.....	21
COVER: Town Hall Sing.....	16
Fairhaven Board of Health.....	13
Fairhaven Board of Public Works.....	30
Fairhaven Conservation Commission.....	29
Fairhaven School Building Committee.....	18
Fairhaven School Committee.....	22
Gary Souza from Liberia.....	4
Happenings.....	6,7,8
Legal Notices/Public Hearings.....	27
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
Wind Turbine in Charlestown.....	17

## CORRECTIONS

In last week's editorial we indicated that Selectboard member Brian Bowcock left his seat and entered the cable access doorway after the meeting was in recess. He left his seat before the recess. Dr. Bowcock said he called to the operator to make sure the cameras were still on. The cameras were shut off after the recess vote was taken.

Cont'd next page

## Letter: cont'd from previous page

Mali Lim, is a seasoned professional who knows her job. She did not assume anything about what happened behind that door, she simply described the behavior she saw in the room.

I made a mistake in my editorial when I said he left his seat after the recess was called, when, in fact, he left his seat before the recess was called. I have put in a correction on that. How it helps him, only he knows.

He said that he went behind the door to check with the camera operator to make sure the cameras were still on.

In my emailed response to him, I asked if there was reason that they would not be on. In that email I offered him space for a letter, unedited, to make his case.

He did not acknowledge my email.

So, my question now is, if you did go behind that door to check with the camera operator to make sure the cameras were on, why didn't you simply say so when people asked?

Instead, you didn't answer, you sarcastically answered that you didn't know if the cameras were on because you didn't have a TV in front of you. In essence, you let everyone believe you had shut them off.

What is this, fifth grade?

The entire incident shows a lack of respect for the people in the room, shows a lack of respect for the constituents watching on TV who were confused about what was happening, shows a lack of respect for the press (okay, that's a given), shows a lack of respect for the process. It shows a lack of respect for the issues and it shows an abhorrent lack of respect for the people who are, quite simply, afraid of the wind turbines. And it shows

a lack of respect for your fellow board members who also did not know what you had done behind that door.

People are afraid. Some town officials have asserted that certain people are whipping up the fear and using it for their own agenda. Maybe that's true, but the point is that people ARE scared, and you are supposed to allay those fears, not treat people like dirt because you believe their fears are unfounded.

The Board of Health this week gave the concerned citizens a full hearing on their fears (see page 29). In the end, they didn't take a vote, but at least they listened.

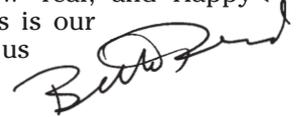
Jeannine Lopes, who was so vocal at the last BOH meeting, when the Windwise people were turned away, was noticeably quieter this time. She said almost nothing.

I'm not taking a stance on the merits of the wind turbines. I'm not telling the BOH what to do. I will only remind people that Ms. Lopes works for Dr. Bowcock, a point that came up more than once during her campaign for Board of Health. She was asked how she would act if her board clashed with the selectboard on an issue. At the time, the question was purely academic. She assured everyone that she would be her own person and put the best interests of the town first.

After hearing Dr. Bowcock's threatening tone on my voicemail, I can only wonder at the water cooler talk in that office.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to all my readers. This is our last issue of the year. Look for us on 1/12.

See you next year...





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from  
Fairhaven Planning Board Member

**JAIME DESOUSA**



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# A Liberian Christmas Story: Mother Wleh



By Gary Souza  
**Special to  
the Neighbor  
News**

The vast majority of Liberians are Christians. For most, all day Sunday is devoted to

church and church activities. Their practices and services are reminiscent of southern American Christianity mixed with African fervor. Not surprising as Liberia was founded by freed American slaves who brought American customs and beliefs with them.

The "Festive Season," as it is called here, begins December 20th wherein all government buildings, schools and all but essential businesses are closed until January 3rd. Unofficially, many begin the Festive Season on December 15th.

There are Christmas trees in homes, artificial of course, and some buildings have Christmas lights on



them that stay lit until the generators are shut off for the night.

In America, much of Christmas focuses on our children so it's appropriate to mention Mother Wleh (Wuh-lay) and her orphan children.

Mother Wleh is a woman of 62 years who runs an orphanage on the outskirts of Monrovia. She has been taking in orphans since she was 18 years old.

She cares for 52 children in the 30'X30' orphanage building with no air conditioning, running water or windows and doors, leaving Mother and the children susceptible to malaria carrying mosquitoes, particu-

larly during the rainy season.

The children sleep on the cement floor or wooden pallets. Mattresses are a luxury Mother cannot afford. A volunteer conducts classes for the children to teach them how to read and write, but mostly the children play on a rusted slide or a crude swing hung from a tree branch, or just run around the sandy courtyard.

The 12 American Peacekeepers here have "adopted" Mother and her orphans. They have no other source of food.

Yesterday, December 17th, Brian Pray of Topsfield and I delivered over 400 pounds of rice to the orphanage along with beans and some cash for Mother to buy cooking oil.

We can't bear to ask how many meals the children receive each day but it's clear it is not three. We also brought stuffed animals for the small children and soccer balls for the older kids to play with. Mother will distribute them on Christmas. It will be the only presents they receive.

All was bought with the monthly contributions from the American contingent.

Mother and the children were happy to see us. The children swarmed around us, jumped in the bed of our UN pickup truck and posed for my camera, their glee and smiling faces belying their Spartan living conditions. They know no other life and have no conception that there are children in the world who do not live like them.

We UN Peacekeepers will not get to observe Christmas, we work seven days a week and get no holidays off, not even Christmas. But it's impossi-



ABOVE: The orphanage building in Liberia where Mother Wleh, 62, takes care of 52 children. The UN Peacekeepers have "adopted" Mother Wleh, providing her and the children with the only food they have. BELOW LEFT: some of the children living with Mothe Wleh. BELOW RIGHT: Mother Wleh with some of the children. The children love Americans and having their pictures taken. Photos by Gary Souza. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

ble to feel sorry for ourselves when we look at the plight of Mother Wleh's orphans.

Mother Wleh has experienced conditions even worse than those of today. She will tell you how bad it was during the war when children were brought to her after their parents were murdered by one group or another. Those children, born between the years 1990 and 2003, not only do not know the names of their parents but do not know how old they are as no birth records were created during the civil war.

Mother Wleh's perseverance, generosity and almost 50 years of dedication to the welfare of orphans embodies the meaning of Christmas year round to us Americans here.

Merry Christmas to you and your family from Africa.

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. He can be reached by email at [souzag@un.org](mailto:souzag@un.org).



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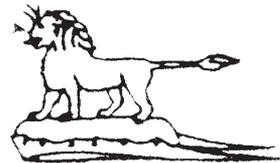
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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## At the Unitarian

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

### Christmas Eve Day

At 10:30 a.m. in the Parish House there will be a **readers' theatre of "A Christmas Carol"** with carols and songs. Bring the family (children over the age of 8 years)! All are welcome!

### Christmas Eve

At 7 PM in Unitarian Memorial Church Sanctuary: **A candlelight service.** All are welcome.

## Annual Polar Plunge

The 2nd annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 1st at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven.** It is held in memory of Fairhaven's Domestic Violence Victims, with proceeds from the event used for scholarships. The event is free, but participants do need to register. This can be done either at Day's Health & Sports, 86 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven on Thursday Dec. 29th between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m., or at Ft. Phoenix on the morning of the event between 9:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Fundraising is done through the sale of long sleeve T-shirts commemorating the event, and are available to both participants and spectators.

Be sure to have towels, warm clothes and secure footwear. Old sneakers are recommended for safety! We'll have changing tents, Port-a-Johns, warming fire, and hopefully refreshments. Contact Kathy Lopes at [lopeska@aol.com](mailto:lopeska@aol.com) or 508-991-2194 for more information.

## 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.

## FAME Coffeehouse

**Join us on Friday, January 13th, at 7:00pm** for a casual evening of music and poetry offered by students, faculty and alumni of Fairhaven High School to benefit the Fairhaven Association for Music Education (FAME), at the First Congregational Church, Babbitt Hall (wheelchair accessible), 34 Center Street, Fairhaven.

**Tickets: \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 students, available at the door.**

Refreshments will be available for sale. For more information, email: [essentialinfo@comcast.net](mailto:essentialinfo@comcast.net), or call 508-996-5176, or visit <http://f-a-m-e.home.comcast.net>

F.A.M.E. is the Fairhaven Association for Music Education, a parent run organization which provides scholarships for music students and supports music programs in the Fairhaven Public schools.

## Valedictorian Proj.

The Fairhaven High School Alumni Association, in a joint project with Principal Tara Kohler, is trying to generate a list of all class valedictorians throughout the years.

It seems that no valedictorian records are kept by the high school, and once graduation exercises have ended and printed programs have been discarded, there is no written record of such awards. The Alumni Association feels that since we honor athletes in a number of ways, it would

be appropriate to have a plaque placed in a prominent place in Fairhaven High School that lists the valedictorians by class.

If you were a valedictorian, or are related to someone who was, or if you remember who your class valedictorian was, please e-mail the information (name and year of graduation) to: [info@fairhavenalumni.org](mailto:info@fairhavenalumni.org)

## FHS Yearbooks

The Millicent Library maintains a collection of Fairhaven High School yearbooks. Unfortunately, we are missing 1998, 1999, and 2005. The school's collection is also missing these volumes.

If anyone has one of these years and would be willing to donate it or loan it for scanning, it would be greatly appreciated. We also always appreciate having extra copies of any year as well.

Call 508-992-5342 or email [dcharpentier@sailsinc.org](mailto:dcharpentier@sailsinc.org).

## Free Vascular

Southcoast Hospitals Group will hold free vascular screenings at Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care, 206 Mill Road, Fairhaven on Thursday, December 29 and Thursday, January 26. Appointments will be scheduled between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please call 800-276-0103 to schedule an appointment.

Regular vascular screenings can detect peripheral artery disease, or PAD, a potentially serious circulatory problem. The non-invasive screenings are performed by a trained nurse and take approximately 20 minutes. Patients should arrive 15 minutes prior to screening time.

The free vascular screenings are open to both men and women. Appointments are required and can be requested by calling the numbers listed above. Space is limited and appointments will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. No walk-ins will be accepted on screening days.

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

*Larry Wilde, The Merry Book of Christmas*

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## New Year's Eve NB

City Celebrates! New Year's Eve 2011, organized and presented by AHA! & the City of New Bedford

Arrive early and stay late! Ring in 2012 with fireworks in Custom House Square - and be home in time to watch the ball drop in NYC Times Square - during part of this FREE family friendly celebration in Downtown New Bedford!

City Celebrates! NYE FREE highlights include: • Opening Ceremony with Mayor Lang, Showstoppers & UMass Steel Drum Band • Ecumenical Service for the New Year @ Seamen's Bethel • Fire & Ice! Fire Eaters & Live Ice Sculpting • Street Performance with The Suspenders. **For Kids:** • Toe Jam Puppet Band • Crafts & Games with the 19th Century Ladies • Crafts & Storytelling with Artworks! • Family Magic Workshop & Show with Jedlie's Magic Circus • Symphony Tales • NBHS Drama Club present "Little Women" play & tea **Live Music!** ♪ Folk Music @ Cafe Arpeggio • Eddie Dillon @ Celtic Coffee House • Jazz @ NBAM • Jim Robitaille Trio @ NB Whaling Museum Theater • Hip Hop @ UGLYgallery • Modern Human @ the Garage • Celtic Music @ Seamen's Bethel • Fado with Ana Vinagre @ NB Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center • Community College Collective @ Ginger Grill • Swing Dancing with the Fairhaven Hepcats in Bristol Hall • Pumpkin Head Ted @ Gallery X • Early Fireworks in Custom House Square • City Celebrates! New Year's After Nine: • AHA! partner eateries are open late with live music & great food! Perfect for counting down to 2012!

## 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, Jan. 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, *Rhythmic*

*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)

## NB Holiday Parking

The city of New Bedford 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 Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue and 2-hour FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, the Zeiterion Garage and Custom House Square!

Anyone who receives a ticket may mail or present it along with sales receipt for \$10 or more from a Downtown or North End Business District restaurant/merchant to the Traffic Commission Office.

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

## 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.

## Moby Dick Marathon

The New Bedford Whaling Museum's 16th annual Moby-Dick Marathon celebrates the 160th anniversary of Herman Melville's literary masterpiece with a 25-hour nonstop reading of the book during a weekend of activities and events, **Jan. 6 - 8**, including a performance by the critically acclaimed American tenor, Jonathan Boyd. Admission to the marathon is free.

### Moby-Dick Marathon Weekend Schedule

*Friday, January 6*

5:30 p.m.: Ticketed buffet dinner and cash bar, Jacobs Family Gallery. For tickets to the dinner (\$25), call (508) 997-0046 ext. 100.

7:15 p.m.: **FREE Public lecture**, "Moby-Dick in American Popular Culture," with Dr. Timothy Marr, Cook Memorial Theater.

**Saturday, January 7: FREE Events**

10:00 a.m.: Stump the Scholars II, Cook Memorial Theater.

11:30 a.m.: Moby-Dick "Extracts," Bourne Building.

12:00 noon: *Moby-Dick Marathon begins*, Bourne Building.

1:30 p.m. (approx.): Chapters 7-9 in the Seamen's Bethel with tenor Jonathan Boyd.

2:30 p.m. (approx.): Marathon continues, Jacobs Family Gallery.

3:00-5:00 p.m.: Chat with a Melville scholar, Wattles Family Gallery.

3:00-5:00 p.m.: "Imaging Moby!" tour with Dr. Robert Wallace, Centre Street Gallery.

7:00 p.m. (approx.): Chapter 35 to Chapter 40. "Midnight, Forecastle" performed by Culture\*Park, Cook Memorial Theater.

8:00 p.m. (approx.): Marathon continues, Jacobs Family Gallery.

**Sunday, January 8**

1:00 p.m. (approx.): Marathon concludes with the Epilogue.

Ongoing related exhibits: "Imagining Moby!," "Visualizing Melville" and the 1956 Moby-Dick publicity panels. Moby-Dick slide show, Cook Memorial Theater.

The Museum's website [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org) will provide live streaming of the marathon throughout the weekend. Tweet the marathon with hashtag #MDM16.

# HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

## Singers Wanted

The Sippican Choral Society welcomes singers for its 2012 Spring Concert, with rehearsals beginning January 9, 2012. Rehearsals are held weekly at 7:30 PM at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church's Reynaud Hall, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. New members are welcome to join until January 23, 2012. Accessible.

Songs of Inspiration & Remembrance, featuring Fauré's Requiem, will be the focus of the 2012 Spring Concert, which will be held April 27-28.

Please arrive 15 minutes early to register. Semester dues are \$35. For more information: osuch1@aol.com, or visit our web site at [www.sippicanchoral.org](http://www.sippicanchoral.org).

## Free Medical Transportation

Elders 60+ from Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester may be eligible for free medical transportation. Call MO LIFE at 508-992-5978.

## Mattapoisett Library

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

### Winter Story Times

Registration will begin for the Winter Story Time series on December 27th. New this session will be the addition of a Thursday afternoon preschool session instead of the Thursday morning session. For more information, call the Children's Department at 508-758-4171.

### Movie Day

Everyone is welcome to attend Movie Days, sponsored by the library's Junior Friends, who have raised money for a movie license. Bring your children and relax at the movies in the library's Meeting Room. **Wednesday, December 28th will be "Polar Express" at 1 pm and at 3:30 pm "Elf" will be shown.** The Junior Friends ask that you bring a canned good for donation to Damien's Pantry.

### Children's Room

Saturday, January 21, will be Snow Globes making from 2:00-4:00 pm.

Come explore how science and art can blend together to create a lasting memory. Participants will sculpt their own winter scene and preserve it in individual hand-made globes.

### Technology Workshops

Confused about whether to buy a Nook or a Kindle? Wondering what all the hype about e-readers means to you? Do you have an iPad and want to learn how to download books from the library?

Join the library staff at one of our informal technology workshops and get your questions answered. E-readers will be available to try, and staff will show you how to download books and audiobooks. **Workshops will be held every Tuesday at 6:30 pm and on Thursdays at 3 pm through January.** For an individual appointment with technology questions please call Liz Sherry at 508-758-4171 or email her at [esherry@sailsinc.org](mailto:esherry@sailsinc.org).

### Family Storytime

Families with children of all ages are welcome to enjoy some favorite stories together. If you have a favorite story, please bring it to share in this casual and fun storytime. Family Storytime is held on the first Saturday of each month, from 10:30-11:00 am. **NO REGISTRATION required.**

### For the Food Pantry & Shelters

The library is accepting non-perishables to help stock local food pantries. Feel free to bring your items to the library throughout the year. Also welcome are hats and gloves and new socks to be distributed to area shelters.

## 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

## 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.

## 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.

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 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 develop, her gift.



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



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

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit [www.shepherdspantry.org](http://www.shepherdspantry.org)



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# Recipe of the Week

## Prosciutto Wrapped Figs

- 4 large whole figs (or 16 small mission figs), quartered
- Goat cheese
- 1 (3-ounce) package prosciutto
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside.

Cut a small hole in the center of the flesh of each fig. Fill each hole with 1/4 teaspoon of goat cheese.

Take a prosciutto slice and tear in half. Use 1 half to diagonally wrap around the fig, starting from the top. Tuck underneath at the ends. Repeat until all figs are wrapped. (Secure with toothpicks if necessary.) Place wrapped figs on prepared baking sheet, evenly spaced.

In a small bowl, combine honey and pumpkin pie spice. Drizzle honey evenly over each fig.

Place in the oven on the top rack and roast for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove and serve immediately.

*By Leilah Moses Silveira*

**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

### FHS girls open with win

The Lady Blues got the season started with a big basketball win last week 69-42 over Wareham. Kara Charette led scoring with 26 points. Coach Jeff Perry used his whole bench and got super play from newcomers Mariah Nicholas, Madison Shields, Tae Kojima, Kyana Alfaite and Kate Langlois.

Next game Friday at Case. Tuesday at Dartmouth.

### FHS Boys vs. Diman

FHS played first basketball game at Diman Voke and lost a toughy 55-52 in OT. Seth Jardin and Billy Lessa had 15 points and Dan McLaughlin had 12.

Friday the Bluemen are home vs. Case.

### Standard Times Super All Stars

*Ryan Baldwin*

Chosen for offensive all stars from FHS was Ryan Baldwin at offensive guard and throwing 48-yard passes to Billy Pires to win Turkey-Day game over Dartmouth. Ryan, a junior, was also an outstanding linebacker. He also plays basketball and baseball.

*Tanner Kisla*

Tanner was an outstanding deensive and offensive full back who scored 13 touchdowns and really unforgettable 5-yard touchdown dash in Dartmouth win. Tanner won two-time all conference, and was Otto Graham award nominee. Tanner will be going to URI next year

Congratulations on an outstanding career here at FHS.

*Billy Pires*

Billy was FHS's most versatilbe back offense and defense, punt returns, kick off.

You name it, he did it.

Bill the kid was also selected to all conference team, also plays basketball and lacross. And the junior will be back next year.

*Christian Bragh, Brandon Lincoln*

These two outstanding two-way FHS gridders were honorable mentions in the ST All Star selections.

*Jane Lamarre-DeJesus*

*ST Field Hockey Super Team*

Jane broke the FHS record for goals: 12 avg pts w ith 23

She was all conference and MVP voted by team.

*Alica Rego and Alex Fonseca*

Were Standard Times super tam honorable mentions.

### Magalhaes-Skolis shine for Stang

The Stang Hockey team had two big wins last week in Christmas tournament, 8-3 over Dartmouth and 7-1 over NB Voke. Fairhaven's Kody Skolis had the hat trick and Dan Magalhaes two goals and two assists in the Voke Romp. Also outstanding were goallie Tim Magalhaes and Luc Sauve of Acushnet.

Eric and Chris Labonte, former FHS hockey stars are coaches at Stang.

### FHS Hall of Fame

Nomination papers are available at Fairhaven High office for the 19th induction banquet held in the end of June. Athletes, achievers, memorable teams and booklet dedications are up for selections. So if you know any FHS grad who belongs in the hall, please get an application and retun it to AD Scott Francis.

### Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year

From the sports staff at the Neighb News: Bob Hobbs, Anne Bobola, Pat Prenda, and AJ Brunette.

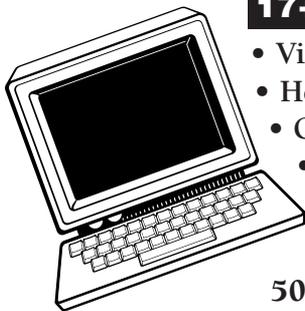
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# Acushnet ConCom approves Hamlin Street, passes on Ventura

By Diane Kozak

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Conservation Commission approved plans to repair and stabilize the Hamlin Street Fishway at its meeting on 12/14.

Steven Block and Tom Cook, representing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, presented a Request for Determination to make repairs and stabilizing improvements to the Acushnet Fishway Garden Wall at the Hamlin Street Fishway.

Mr. Block told the ConCom that the Acushnet Restoration Project, which includes the Hamlin Street Fishway, has been very successful in increasing the numbers of fish that make it upriver and into the New Bedford Reservoir.

He said more than 4,000 fish of eight different species made the trip last year. The majority were river herring, the species targeted.

The repairs needed to the stone wall on the east bank of the river were likely caused by erosion. In regard to the actual repair work Mr. Block explained that the area would be excavated upwards and the missing and damaged capstones would be replaced. The work would not be done until after the fish run next year.

ConCom member Kevin Dakin asked if the neighbors who have expressed concerns with the fishway in the past are aware of the proposed work. Mr. Block replied that they were fully informed and in favor of the plans.

Mr. Cook explained that part of the back side of a wall needs to be replaced using new filter fabric and riprap. Loose stones have fallen into the stream causing large voids in the

wall. Mr. Cook said they would excavate behind the wall to the stream bottom and then fill with gravel stone to prevent future erosion.

Prompted by Commission member questions Mr. Block stated that one new red cedar tree would be planted in the area and one existing one would be relocated. He also said the project will take approximately three weeks to complete.

The Commission approved the request.

In another matter, Steven Gioiosa, President of SITEC Engineering of Dartmouth, presented an abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation which was filed by Fleming Building & Development Corp. for property located on Hathaway and Mattapoisett Roads.

The notice includes a plan which identifies the wetlands on the property and the 100-foot buffer zone area. He told the Commission that he is looking verification of the wetland and buffer zone lines before any construction work is to take place.

Merilee Kelly, Conservation Agent, requested that the line be moved in two locations; one request expanding the buffer zone by 15 feet and the other by two feet.

The commission also asked Mr. Gioiosa about the marketing signage on the property which advertises that nine house lots will be available for sale. Mr. Gioiosa responded that the property plans do not include any subdivision roads, but rather will have just frontage lots. He added that his client is "jumping the gun" a bit with the signage as no plans for the property will be formalized until the Commission is comfortable with

them.

Ms. Kelly questioned what was planned for the old foundations that are currently on the property.

"It would be nice to do something with the old foundations besides sink them into the ground," said ConCom member Everett Philla.

Mr. Gioiosa stated that there are no specific plans for the foundations, but that he would like to try to work around the stone walls that are on the property.

Robert Rocha, Commission Chairperson, stated that neighbors of the property were already asking questions about the plans because of the signs, including if a new road was to be built.

Ms. Kelly cautioned Mr. Gioiosa that the property may have a spring on it and she requested that he look further into the possibility. She noted that the rut marks made by the heavy construction machinery are still full of water even though it had not rained for a few days.

The Commission voted to approve the wetland and buffer zone lines proposed after the recommended changes have been made.

Mr. Rocha presented the Commission with the proposed plans for the Ventura property which is a 17 acre lot near Quaker Lane. The plans call for the land to be subdivided into two lots; one will be six acres and the other over 10 acres.

Ms. Kelly stated that even though the town has the right of first refusal on the parcel, the proposed plans are, "the best we can do with this piece of property which is not of high conservation interest."

The Commission voted not to make an offer on the property.



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# Board of Health listens to Wind Turbine foes; takes no action

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Board of Health gave wind turbine foes a chance to lay out their case against the placement of two industrial wind turbines (IWTs) behind the wastewater treatment plant on Arsene Street.

IWT foes say they were taken by surprise when trees were cleared to make way for the turbines in November. They say they believed the project was dead due to a lawsuit brought by them against the town in 2008, challenging the special permit. With a change in legislation, the special permit was not needed and the project moved forward. A recent challenge in court failed. Work is ongoing.

The opposition group Windwise has mobilized a growing number of residents to oppose the project. They appeared at two contentious meetings in the last month, one with the selectboard and one with the Board of Health. The BOH promised to look at the research submitted and to allow Windwise to speak at a meeting.

Curt Devlin spoke to a packed banquet room in town hall, with approximately 100 people spilling out into the hallway, on Monday, 12/19.

Mr. Devlin pointed to a new study, the Bruce McPherson study, that used different ways of measuring sound and effects of the IWTs in Falmouth, Mass., where residents close to the turbines have complained of headaches, sleep disturbances, nausea, and other

ailments.

The group first showed a video featuring Falmouth residents and other studies pointing to adverse health effects of IWTs.

"Thank you for the presentation," said BOH chairperson Peter DeTerra. "This board is very concerned, too."

Mr. Devlin used a slide presentation to highlight the way sound is perceived in the ear. His main points were that previous studies only measured audible sound, not "infrasound," which is sound just below the audible level, and not "vestibular" sounds, which is felt by the inner ear

He said the inner is not "just an organ of hearing," but is used for motion and for balance, the things most affected by IWT disturbances.

The "hair cells" of the inner ear react to the disturbances causing "all kinds of strange effects," said Mr. Devlin, pointing especially to tinnitus and adding, "you're hearing something that doesn't even exist."

He pointed to the WT Spectrum of noise and explained how it is actually magnified when people go indoors, according to the Falmouth study. It's called "amplitude modulation," or AM, and is not measured with the usual instruments or "A-weighted" scale, but needs to be measured on the "G-weighted scale."

"So you're completely missing the thing that's making people sick," he said of the A-scale.

He said the effects of infrasound are

like seasickness, and everyone knows that some people get seasick and others do not.

"Imagine trying to explain seasickness," he told the board, "especially if others are not sick."

Mr. Devlin also said that vestibular sounds also create pressure on the inner ear fluids and that infrasound can travel for miles underground.

His main point, he said was that what you can't hear can hurt you.

Mr. Devlin also showed a slide that pictured the brain before and after six minutes of exposure to WT noise.

"This is your brain," said Mr. Devlin. "This is your brain on wind turbines,"

He said, that because of AM, the usual response to getting away from the noise, going inside, was not an option for people living close to IWTs.

"So your home, which you expect to be your refuge....guess what? It's not going to protect you from wind turbine noise," said Mr. Devlin.

He told the board that 30-40% of the population would experience the adverse health effects of IWTs, a number he said makes it an "epidemic."

He urged the board to take action before the IWTs are erected and not wait until after, when people's health would already be affected.

Mr. Devlin also said that researchers in the McPherson study began to suffer the same effects as the residents they were studying. Some researchers did not recover for weeks, although they

BOH: cont'd on page 29

## New boat christened at Fairhaven Shipyard



LEFT: Mattapoisett resident Brian Kvilhaug stands in front of the new scallop boat he will skipper during its launching ceremony in Fairhaven on Friday 12/02/11. The 95 foot, 199-ton steel vessel is the first new scallop boat built in the area in the past 50 years. The boat was built at Fairhaven Shipyard in Fairhaven. It replaces the original "Concordia" built in 1946. Brian resides in Mattapoisett with his wife Sue, daughter Allison and son Nathan. RIGHT: The skipper's daughter Allison Kvilhaug, christens the new scallop boat "Concordia" at Fairhaven Shipyard, where it was built, on 12/211. Submitted photos. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

# 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.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

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## MALL TRIP/WED:

**Dec 28: Independence Mall and Pembroke Christmas Tree Shop**

### Mall Trips:

**Jan 4:** South Shore Plaza  
**Jan. 11:** Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's and Christmas Tree Shop  
**Jan. 18:** Emerald Square Mall  
**Jan. 25:** Providence Place Mall and Whole Foods

## Entertainment

### Fabulous Overtones

The Fabulous Overtones every **Thursday at the Senior Center** with Carl Bissonnette, Chuck Brillon, Ron LaBrequé, Jerry Theodore & Charlie Belliveau.

## Special Activities

### New Activity

**Tap n Time** (seated activity). Starts Wed., Jan. 11, from 10-11 a.m.

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

### Dietician

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

You can make a half hour appointment to discuss one-to-one

your specific dietary concerns. Call Senior Center for appt.

### Chair 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 \$3.00 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 your favorite activity.

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## Town Hall Sing draws small but enthusiastic crowd

The Fairhaven Improvement Association sponsored its annual Town Hall Sing on Saturday, 12/17, on the steps of town hall. A group of Fairhaven students and their adults sang Christmas Carols, while music teacher Ricchard Brejca played the flute. A small, but enthusiastic crowd joined in the singing.

Santa arrived in style in a Fairhaven fire truck to hand out candy canes and chat privately with children. Hot chocolate with marshmallows and munchkins warmed everyone up after the singing.



FAR LEFT: A group of children sing on the town hall steps at the annual Town Hall Sing sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association on 12/17. TOP: Elle Boucher shows her delight at getting a chance to tell Santa Claus what she wants for Christmas. LEFT: Karen Flannery helps her mother Emma read the words to the Christmas Carols. Photos by Beth David. Find us on Facebook to see more photos

## Benoit square creche vandalized

A vehicle jumped the curb on Main Street and ran over the creche in Benoit Square in North Fairhaven between 3 and 4 on Monday morning, 12/20. Police say it appears to be deliberate because the vehicle drove head on facing the creche and crossed the square to Adams Street.

Fairhaven Police spokesperson Kevin Kobza said there were no skid marks indicating loss of control.

The wooden building was

completely destroyed. The plastic figurines were still usable, though, and volunteers had a new structure with the Holy Family in place by Monday afternoon.

Two residents have donated a total of \$200 for a reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who did it.

Police believe it was a pickup truck or SUV because of the curbs it had to drive over. The vehicle sustained

damage that would be noticeable, according to police.

"It appears that the vehicle sustained more monetary damage than it created, judging by the vehicle parts left behind," said Sgt. Kobza.

He said he has never seen this level of destruction to a town Christmas display during his 10 years on the job.

Anyone with information should call Fairhaven police, 508-997-7421.



LEFT: The creche, wooden building, and figurines lie in a pile on the sidewalk at Benoit Square in Fairhaven. Police say a pickup truck or SUV deliberately drove into the building to destroy the Christmas display in the square early Monday morning. The vehicle suffered noticeable damage, leaving parts behind in the rubble. Anyone with information is asked to call Fairhaven police at 508-997-7421. RIGHT: The tire tracks go from Main Street to Adams Street. Photos submitted. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

# Charlestown WT is same model headed to Fairhaven

By Beth David  
Editor

It rises above the building that sits just a few feet away, and no more than 200 feet from the cars driving by on Route 99 near the traffic circle at the Schrafft's building in Charlestown. It is a Sinovel SL1500/82 industrial wind turbine (IWT), able to produce up to 1.5 megawatts of electricity at any given moment, the same model as two turbines slated to go up in Fairhaven.

The turbine is at the Mass. Water Resources Authority's pumping station on Alford Street/Route 99. It has a 70-meter tower (about 230 feet) with 41-meter blades (about 135 feet); Fairhaven's will be 80 meters (about 265 feet) with the same 41-meter blades, for a total height of about 397 feet.\* The MWRA IWT has three sections on its tower, the Fairhaven IWTs will have four; other than that, they are the same machine.

And it is the pride of the MWRA. "We're making some power today," announced Frederick Laskey, MWRA Executive Director, during an informational tour on 12/16.

On that day, sustained winds blew at about 30 miles per hour with gusts of more than 40. The IWT was producing at its maximum: 1500 kw, or 1.5 megawatts.

He said the whole project has been positive, the turbine is "working



LEFT: The hatch to the inside of the tower looks like a space ship entrance. RIGHT: The inside of the tower's ground section of the Industrial Wind Turbine at the MWRA in Charlestown. The ladder leads to the top of the first section. Workers can climb along the ladder through all three sections to the top of the 230 foot tower for maintenance. The heavy cables carry the 1.5 megawatts of electricity to a circuit breaker, then to a transformer, which then sends it to the grid for use by NStar. The MWRA is then credited for the amount of electricity the IWT creates.

well," and being close to the state house is great PR.

"There's a huge wow factor," said Mr. Laskey. "It's one thing to see one in the middle of a corn field somewhere."

He added that the power production has been "very, very reliable," so far. The turbine went online in October.

All power goes to NStar and the amount is then credited back to the MWRA. Fairhaven's IWT production will work basically the same way. With the new net metering law in effect, Fairhaven will be able to use the credits for all its municipal buildings.

In the control room inside the MWRA building that sits across a driveway from the IWT, Sumul Shah, president/manager of Lumus Construction & Solaya Energy, which erected

and will operate the turbines at the MWRA and in Fairhaven, explained the various data that the instruments monitor constantly. All data can be retrieved remotely, including on his hand-held device. Fairhaven will have the same system.

Surprisingly, Mr. Shah explained, the wind does not "push" the blades. He said wind creates an "uplift" which causes the blades to spin, which causes more uplift, which keeps the blades going. The instruments read the wind and adjust resistance to the blades to keep them from spinning too fast.

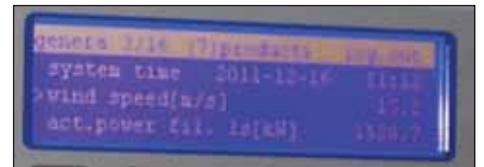
He said the equipment can handle high winds that are sustained, it's the big gusts that can cause problems. If gusts are too high, the system will shut itself down. Other systems monitor output, wind direction, etc.

When the turbine senses a shift in the wind, it will move to catch the best angle. If it moves too often in one direction, the wires may get tangled, so it stops and "unwinds itself." For optimum power generation, blades need to move at 13-20 rotations per minute.

To maintain that range, the blades will constantly "pitch" to grab more wind or "feather" to grab less, as the wind varies.



This Sinovel SL1500/82 is the same model that is slated to go up in Fairhaven on Arsene Street, off the bike path. This one in Charlestown is 70 meters (about 230 feet) to the nacelle, where the generator is. The blades extend another 41 meters (about 135 feet). Fairhaven's will be 80 meters to the nacelle and 41 meters more to the tip of the blade for a total of 397 feet. BELOW: The instrument panel shows the turbine is producing at its maximum 1.5 megawatts with a wind speed of 13.8 meters per second (around 31 mph). Photos this page by Beth David. See them in color at [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com). See more photos on our Facebook page.



"The blade does its own regulation. This machine is smart," said Rob Desharnais.

If the blades start to go faster than 20 RPM, a series of safety mechanisms kick in to slow them, and shutting them down at 22 RPM. The blades need to be moving at least 11 RPM to generate power.

In a nutshell, it works like this: the blades spin at a controlled speed causing a much faster spinning motion inside the nacelle (which houses the generator), which turns the generator to create electricity. It's a lot like the gears on a bicycle, with the smaller gears spinning faster than the larger ones. Thick copper wires carry the electric current from the generator down through the tower into a large circuit breaker. From there, the wires travel underground to the transformer outside. The left side of the transformer is the "low" side (from the turbine), the right is the "high" side, where power goes to the substation to be used by the

**CHARLESTOWN: cont'd on page 26**

# One Step Closer to Removing Historic Tree

By Joyce Rowley

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven School Building Committee came one step closer to voting on whether to remove the historic oak tree in the back of the Wood School, after hearing from Chairperson Christopher Bunnell, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, Owner's Project Manager Joseph Sullivan of Daedalus and Phillip "Pip" Lewis, architect for HMMF on 12/15.

Mr. Bunnell had discussed the tree's likelihood of survival with civil engineering consultant Scott Goddard of Garcia, Galuska, and de Sousa, Inc. of New Bedford during the Conservation Commission field walk.

"If you leave the tree, there will be a large swale from the tree extending west to the wetland with a fairly significant slope and an inappropriately sized play field," said Mr. Bunnell. "I suggest that the SBC remove the tree on that basis."

Filling in around the tree would likely cause it to die, in which case the school play yard would be left with a four-foot deep hole and 70-foot wide swale leading to the wetlands, said Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch. He also said that grading would essentially funnel water to the tree's base, weakening it. To fill it in the future, a new access road would need to be built to bring in fill material.

Mr. Osuch said that regrading the play field now had other benefits. The second play area could be moved to the west. The play field would be larger and the detention basin could be moved closer to the wetlands behind the school. He suggested that the SBC find a place that could be planted with new trees in lieu of keeping the oak tree.

SBC member and Wood School Principal Amy Hartley-Matteson suggested that rather than an open play space, she'd like to see a learning play space, similar to the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.

Mr. Sullivan said he had spoken to the arborist but the report was not

available for the meeting.

"I'd like to see the report from the arborist," said SBC member David Gonsalves, who is also on the School Committee. He asked if not removing the tree would affect the building plans, and asked for specifics of who had recommended removing the tree and why it needed to be removed.

Mr. Lewis said removing the tree would help lower the building to meet grade, but not removing it would not affect the plans. The tree would likely not survive the new grading in the plan.

"It's a beautiful canopy," said Mr. Osuch. But he said the roots go out to the edges of the canopy and would have to grow into the slope after the school was built. "By altering the grade you put a load on the roots."

The matter was continued pending

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Filling in around the tree would likely cause it to die, in which case the school play yard would be left with a four-foot deep hole and 70-foot wide swale leading to the wetlands

---

the report from the arborist.

SBC members Stasia Powers and Pamela Kuechler presented plans for an educational nature trail system for the wetlands in back of Wood and East Fairhaven schools.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition owns 50 acres behind EFS that it offered for use in outdoor educational programs. Ms. Powers said the BBC would assist with trail layout and construction of the trails and with establishing and running the educational programs at both schools. They will seek approval for the project from the SC in January and hope to have the trails open for the 2013-14 school year.

The board also discussed many of the remaining details of the new

school building — fiberglass vs. aluminum window frames, single hung vs. rotary opening windows, horizontal vs. vertical louvers on the HVAC system, and how to avoid buying a \$5,000 sound-proof door for the music room.

Mr. Lewis used a 3-D computer model of a typical Grade 1-5 classroom to help with some of the decisions; paper plans helped with decisions on grading and room locations.

The window issues were not decided as additional cost estimates were needed. Mr. Osuch said that it appeared that fiberglass was less expensive and fiberglass wouldn't pit in the salt air, an advantage over aluminum. Whether the windows will be single-hung or rotary also depends on costs. Mr. Osuch asked that the architects find out exactly what the cost difference was for the 80 windows if they may be opened only half a dozen times a year. He said the new HVAC displacement system does not require opening windows for comfort.

SBC members were concerned about the space requirements of the two HVAC ventilation louvers in each classroom rather than their cost. A quick consensus on vertical louvers came when Mr. Lewis presented a 3-D model of the classroom that helped show that installing them vertically allowed for two additional vertical cabinets and additional under-the-counter shelving.

The software also allowed board members to see other elements of the classroom such as where the white boards, tack boards, shelving, doors, and windows would fit in.

Two hours into the meeting, SBC members looked at door placement for connecting doors, which led to the discussion of the connecting door between the music and art rooms. As the members played with options on how to eliminate the specialized \$5000 door, Chairperson Christopher Bunnell said "Imagine if we were starting from scratch."•••

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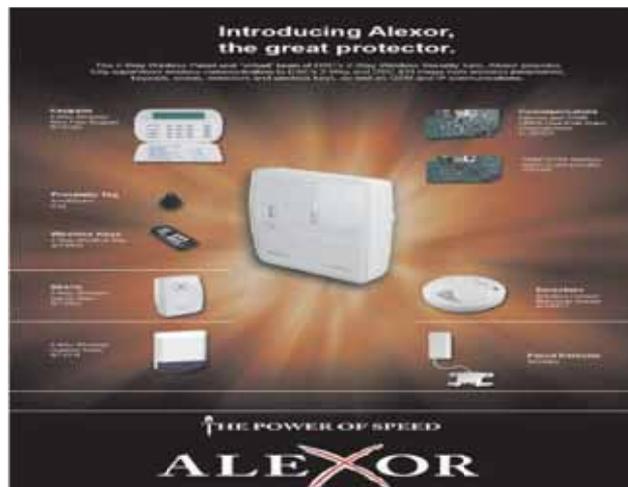
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No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 am and also during the time of any snow-fall or snow removal operations.

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

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

By Order of: FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS — GEOFFREY A. HAWORTH, CHAIRMAN

Christmas is a race to  
see which gives out  
first — your money  
or your feet.

Author Unknown

**LAST ISSUE** (of the  
year...see you on 1/12/12)

## Fairhaven Meetings

### Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/3, Town Hall, 6 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., 1/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Finance Committee

Thurs., 1/12, Arsene St., 7 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 Health

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

### Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/9, BPW Bldg, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

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

### Selectboard

Mon., 1/9, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

### Post office closure

Thurs., 1/12, Ford Middle, 6:30 p.m.

## TIDE TABLE

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

	December 2011	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW p.m.
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
	January 2012		HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.
Sunday	1	0115	1337	0654	1854
Monday	2	0205	1429	0820	1954
Tuesday	3	0259	1524	0926	2052
Wednesday	4	0356	1619	1016	2144
Thursday	5	0449	1711	1101	2231
Friday	6	0535	1756	1145	2317*
Saturday	7	0616	1839	----	1228
Sunday	8	0656	1920	0002*	1309*
Monday	9	0735	2001	0046*	1347*
Tuesday	10	0816	2044	0129*	1422*

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

# School Committee questioned on Wind Turbines

By Joyce Rowley

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven School Committee's new public comment period ran smoothly at the 12/14 business meeting when Chairperson Pamela Kuechler allowed several residents to speak on a non-agenda item.

Lisa Plante, Gayla Reilly, Louise Barteau, and Christopher Andersen spoke on the proximity and potential impacts of the town's two planned industrial wind turbines to the new Wood School site.

Ms. Plante began by asking if the SC, as elected officials and advocates for the children, had done any research about wind turbines and their effects on children when proposing the location of the new Wood School.

"Has anybody done that? Has anybody on this board looked into that," she asked.

"I really question the School Committee and School Building Committee's integrity in not raising these issues when discussing with the public where the new school should be built," said Mr. Andersen, who said he was also concerned that the wind turbines were not part of the new model school's feasibility study.

He asked if the issue had come up at discussions with the Mass. School Building Authority and what the effects of flicker and noise would be on special needs students with autism or seizure disorders.

Mr. Andersen also said that Bourne's Board of Public Health initiated new regulations on wind turbines, and hired an independent consultant to study the effects of wind turbines on people.

Ms. Barteau, an artist with a studio on Arsene Street, and who lives on West Island, said she was a former grade school teacher who cares deeply about children and the environment. She cited a number of studies on the potential for impacts on children, including one from Martin Shain of the University of Toronto, Ontario which concluded that the "current methods for governments evaluating IWT (Industrial Wind Turbines) do not meet most public health criteria."

Gayla M.D. Reilly, of Precinct 1 wanted to know whether the SC would send the special needs

children to another school such as East Fairhaven School, if in fact there were impacts from the wind turbines.

At the end of public comment, Ms. Kuechler said that the Selectboard and Board of Public Health were in the process of setting up a public forum for residents to ask questions.

"This was a Public Works project, [Public Works] was responsible for the projects. Like other projects, we rely on the Public Works department to inform us," Ms. Kuechler told the residents. She encouraged them to attend the forums that were being scheduled.

Although the Committee did not respond to the public comment when it was offered, Vice-Chairperson Louis Kruger brought the matter up later in the evening under the agenda item for committee member comment.

"I think we have a responsibility as a school district," said Mr. Kruger. "From my point of view, we need to

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**"I thought it [the wind turbines] was a dead project," said Brian Monroe, and thought that is why it was not brought up during the new school siting process.**

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make sure we have all the information."

He said that wind turbines were not discussed during the school siting process. "We never once talked about the wind turbines. It was never an issue."

Now that it had come to light, he asked for a meeting with the Selectboard or BOH to get answers.

"Then I'll feel comfortable that I know everything and can make a decision," said Mr. Kruger.

Member Brian Monroe, who said he has children at Wood School, agreed with Mr. Kruger.

"I thought it [the wind turbines] was a dead project," he said, and thought that is why it was not brought up during the new school siting process.

In their regular agenda business, the committee received updates from

Superintendent Robert N. Baldwin on the Race to the Top program, monthly enrollment and class size analysis. On the latter, Dr. Baldwin said that grades 6 through 12 met the class size goals. In the elementary grades, 14 met the goals, but eight did not.

Dr. Baldwin presented information on the Wood School transition process for the 2012-2013 school year. Wood School Principal Amy Hartley-Matteson met with 11 interested parents to discuss the options. Before the January SC meeting, a draft transition plan will be presented to the Parent-Teacher Organization with the understanding that the school district has the final say. Some of the issues will be the bus routes and transportation, moving classrooms, and where field days will be held, according to Dr. Baldwin.

Rogers School principal Wendy Williams presented updates on the Thanksgiving week parent-teacher conferences. She said parents were surveyed to find out if they wanted to continue the practice next year. Of the 800 conferees, 487 parents participated in the survey and 419 of those thought holding conferences that week was a good idea.

Ms. Williams also presented an update on the civil rights task force. The anti-bullying plan is being implemented and the task force is set to meet once a month.

In other business, Scott Francis, Fairhaven High School Athletic Director, presented a request for the cheerleaders to travel to Gaylord resort in Orlando for national competition in April 2012, having won the local, regional, and state competitions. However, it will cost approximately \$30,000 to send 22 students, which includes the cost of meals, lodging and transportation. The SC gave initial approval to start fundraising with a vote of 6-0.

The SC voted unanimously by roll call vote to authorize Dr. Baldwin to submit a Statement of Intent to the MSBA for FHS improvements outlined in the FHS feasibility study. The resolution did not authorize expenditure of funds, but allowed the school district to get in the queue for funding.

The SC reconvened in Executive Session to discuss non-union personnel contracts. ●●●



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Since the Fairhaven Club’s beginnings in 1976, we have raised and donated *nearly half a million dollars* to causes both local and worldwide.

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Please join us as our guests on Thursday, January 19th at the Huttleston House Restaurant on Route 6 (111 Huttleston Avenue) from 7 pm to 9pm for fun, food and fellowship!

**RSVP to Ivan Brito at 508-992-5978.** Check out the Rotary International website at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) to find out more about Rotary, one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the world.

# Letters from our readers

## Reader thinks Neighb News lapsed in duty to inform

Thanks for your ongoing coverage of the wind debate in [last week's] *Neighb News*. A bit of constructive feedback for you regarding your editorial. It seems ingenuine of you to act offended when people say "things were done under the radar." It was not meant to be an offense to your paper.

If you and your paper published a notice regarding the turbines a couple of months ago, it should have occurred to you to announce to the public in a BIG way that two 400-foot turbines would be coming to town shortly! That certainly seems worthy of a headline and lengthy article!

You are showing your bias — look around you. How many people weren't surprised by the Veteran's day demolition event?

This is not the same project as 2007. This is now a municipal project. The last understanding most people had about the turbine project was that the contractor dropped their special permit in 2009.

How was anyone to know that this was going on? It certainly wasn't addressed or even hinted at during all the [new] school discussions. Would have been a nice tidbit of information to inform a \$25 million project.

In regards to the theory that we all voted on this four years ago and that makes this all run-of-the-mill, in practice a lot more research and personal accounts have come out in the last four years regarding the hazards of turbines in close proximity to residential areas.

Yes, things do change in the course of four years, especially when you are dealing with new technology.

*Chris Andersen, Fairhaven*

## Turbines a threat to all

Make no mistake. Everyone in Fairhaven is threatened by the specter of these turbines. They will destroy the quiet enjoyment of the marsh along this segment of the bike path, for example. The preparation has already destroyed huge swaths of sensitive and irreplaceable habitat there. More importantly, the Green Communities Act provides *carte blanche* to place additional turbines on any piece of public property without setback or notice of any kind. Maybe you are the next victim.

In an article on Nov. 15th in the Standard Times about the wind turbines in Fairhaven, Curt Brown reported that Jeffrey Osuch said no notice was given neighbors and none is required. Then on the 19th, Beth Purdue quoted him as stating "I talked to the owner of the turbines, Gordon Deane, myself; they are 80 meters (260 feet)." All these statements are utterly wrong. In fact, Curt Brown reported this same inaccuracy about 262 ft turbines. And now, so has Ch. 6 News. Too bad no one bothered to check the facts.

The technical specifications for the V82 wind turbines are well documented online. The height of the fixed hub is 80m, but the length of the blade is 40m. For the benefit of Mr. Osuch and the Standard Times, that is a total height of 120m or 394 feet. It's actually a bit more due the diameter of the hub, so let's round to 400f. It appears that CCI has opted for Sinovel turbines which have slightly smaller blades, but they are about the same overall height.

How big is 400f? The FAA requires strobes on the blades. The strobes are almost the size of a Volkswagen bug. These turbines are only 20% shorter than the 500f cooling towers at Brayton Point that dominate the view from the Braga Bridge. These turbines are absolutely colossal!

They are also noisy and fast-moving. The tip speed of these blades is nearly 140mph in moderate winds. The 3 blades rotating at 14.4rpm, will subject neighbors to a continuous flicker rate of nearly 1/s—and twice that when the two turbines are aligned. These are the nightmarish industrial monstrosities being erected without notice.

If you think the health and safety concerns of placing industrial power equipment too close to residential neighborhoods and schools are exaggerated, imagine this. Turbines hold large quantities of toxic, industrial strength gear oil (think of transmission fluid on steroids).

They must be braked in winds over 40mph to prevent overheating. What if a brake failure occurred in a winter nor'easter — the kind we often get each winter. Could an industrial fire occur in high wind 260f in the air (at the hub)? Does the fire department have the equipment and training needed to deal with such an

emergency? Ordinarily these questions are addressed before the project begins.

Unlikely? We have to hope so. That is the problem when you don't have open government. By the way, a nor'easter would blow sparks, flames and smoke to the South and West, in the direction of Wood School which will soon house 500\* elementary students and a large residential neighborhood between Teal Circle and Timothy Street which is even closer.

Town counsel, Mr. [Thomas] Crotty, is concerned that the town will be sued if we stop this turbine project. I wonder if he is equally concerned about the potential consequences if we don't stop them. If property damage or injury does occur, who is liable? Take a guess.

When considered at town meeting, Mr. Osuch minimized health concerns related to turbines, pointing to the study done by MassTech.org. Unfortunately, such studies are sponsored by organizations which have an interest in promoting wind power. There is a direct conflict of interest.

Contrary to Mr Bowcock's assertion, no health study by an independent, accredited health organization exists for turbines this close to people and private property. The few studies that have been conducted by such organizations invariably recommend far greater setbacks than those proposed here. Even these studies do not consider nuisance issues or property value. It is common sense. Wind turbines can be safe when placed far enough away from people.

Even GE, the manufacturer of the V82, requires a setback almost twice as far as those proposed here. Unfortunately, safe setbacks are simply not available anywhere in Fairhaven. No doubt this is one of the reasons CCI will use the Sinovel turbines which require no setback at all. Ironically, these Chinese-made turbines will be purchased with Recovery Act funding which was intended to create jobs in America.

I do not live near the proposed site, but I am appalled by the flagrant disregard town officials have shown for the health, safety and property value of those who do live in this vicinity. No wonder [Selectboard

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

## LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

member] Mr. Bowcock seems mystified about why some residents are concerned about others who live so close. In any case, it is not his place to pontificate about safety and health concerns.

These concerns belong to the Board of Health, who recently confessed to concerned citizens that they did not know whether the turbines were safe or not. Apparently, Mr. Deterra is willing to assume they are safe until proven otherwise. Does anyone remember BioSafe?

Regardless of whether town officials are legally right or wrong about giving notice; they are 100% wrong ethically. No law prevents them from giving notice, but they clearly prefer to keep us all in the dark. [Standard Times editor] Bob Unger is wrong too. Their underhanded behavior violates the most fundamental principle of open and honest government. They are not worthy of the public trust vested in their offices.

You can find out what town officials do not want you to know at <http://www.windwise.org/>.

*Curt Devlin, Fairhaven*

*\*Editor\* Note: The new Wood School is being built to accommodate a maximum of 370 students.*

### **Pro-turbine resident did his "homework"**

I was reading the [Fairhaven] *Neighborhood News* today and I felt compelled to write to the editor about the two turbines that are being erected behind the wastewater treatment plant.

It seems that there is a small group of individuals in this town who would like for this project to just go away. If I recall correctly, a majority of town meeting members voted for the wind turbines years ago. Unfortunately, a small group of individuals put a stop to the project leaving the rest of us without a voice.

Now, fortunately, the project is under way again and this small group is not happy with it. They are now pointing to the turbine in Falmouth and telling the rest of us that because of health effects they have shut their turbines down, for now. They talk of setbacks and flicker, dead birds and flying ice. I might buy into this if I hadn't done my homework on this important issue. I have been to Hull to

see their turbines, one which is located just 100 feet from the school.

I have also been to Bourne where there is a turbine on the campus of Mass Maritime Academy, also located right behind the school. There is another turbine located right off a major highway, I93 at the local electricians union heading into Boston.

I have been to the Deer Island wastewater plant where there are numerous turbines as well as a new concept turbine which the students of MIT are building. I have taken the time to speak to the students, teachers and employees at all these facilities and have not heard anything about people becoming sick or even having any complaints with the turbines. I have driven into Boston numerous times and never experienced any problems passing the turbine.

I have taken the time to ask questions and I consider myself a person of common sense. So I would like for you to ask yourself a common sense question: How is it that numerous turbines are not giving these other communities any problems?

I do agree with two things that an individual wrote to the editor. One, he finally admits he is a NIMBY [Not In My Back Yard] which to me speaks volumes about his stance; and two, I would like to see the turbines built in the USA, not China.

Please, do your own homework before your mind is made up by someone else' hysterics. Go to these locations and ask questions yourself.

*Daniel Freitas, Fairhaven*

*Mr. Freitas is a current member of the Fairhaven Board of Public Works.*

### **Resident regrets early support of WTs**

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good news," words written by John Heywood back in 1546, but having great relevance to the plight of many living in Fairhaven.

With great lack of foresight, the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen has reactivated the wind turbine project...carefully and quietly so as to avoid undue attention.

Most everyone assumed that the project had died a natural death, but apparently Dr. Bowcock was instrumental in achieving an amazing, miraculous resuscitation and with all

due haste the project was back on track...or more specifically on path.

Under cover of a national holiday, and without fanfare, the heavy equipment moved in along the bike path (where motor vehicles are banned) to begin hacking down trees and bulldozing the natural habitat into huge piles where once little creatures scampered freely.

The project resuscitation included a surgical resection, substituting a Chinese turbine for the original US-made turbine. There goes the quality! And the neighborhood! And what about repairs or replacement of parts? Of course, let's just forget the plight of American workers laid off due to lack of orders!

Just as the Board of Selectmen are rolling into high gear, and patting themselves on the back, comes news that nearby Falmouth is shutting down their turbine due to health issues affecting nearby residents. Wow! Who would have thought?

The evidence has been around for some time. In 2006, Dr. Nina Pierpont, M.D. of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, made this statement: "I am an intelligent person and I support renewable energy. I am not here to shoot down wind energy, which probably has its place, though that place is not near people's homes or near schools, hospitals, or other locations where people have to sleep or learn."

The reasons for Dr. Pierpont's comment: sleep problems, headaches, dizziness, nausea, exhaustion, anxiety, anger, irritability and depression as well problems with concentration and learning and tinnitus. All clearly documented.

A lot of people will be trying to sleep in the area surrounding the twin turbines, and a lot of students at the Wood School will be trying to learn... in clear sight of the turbines. Any comments from the Board of Selectmen? Or the Fairhaven Board of Health?

With all of the health issues listed above it is strange that the Fairhaven Board of Health seems reluctant to tackle the turbine issues. That may be due to their reluctance to address the unhealthy summer air quality in the neighborhood surrounding the sewerage treatment plant. Perhaps they feel that the turbines will blow

LETTERS: cont'd on page 27

**CHARLESTOWN:** cont'd from page 17  
electrical grid.

There are a few other mechanisms scattered throughout the process, mostly for safety purposes to prevent surges from the grid and to provide backup in case the grid goes down.

There's a smaller transformer that changes the current from the European 690 to the US 120/240 volts, along with other mechanisms for transforming, refining, switching off, and otherwise dealing with the finer points of electrical production and distribution, and also to provide power inside the base itself.

The base is connected to a concrete foundation, 24 feet in diameter, that is secured to the ground. According to Mr. Shah, each foundation is chosen for the specific site where the turbine will be erected. In Charlestown and in Falmouth, he said, the soil compositions are "terrible."

In Charlestown, large bolts were drilled 65 feet deep and reinforced with concrete to secure the concrete base to the ground. The first section of the turbine tower is secured to the foundation by a series of large bolts placed about an inch apart.

In Fairhaven, the outside bolts will be drilled approximately 30–40 feet into bedrock.

"Instead of concrete, we'll use the bedrock," said Mr. Shah.

In Falmouth the system is more like an upside down coffee can made of concrete going about 30 feet deep.

The hatch looks like the entrance to a spaceship: oval, cut into a big white tube set on its end.

Inside the base, with the blades spinning at top speed, the metal floor vibrates just a little above a crawl space of about three feet. Reporters are not allowed to climb to the top because the high winds that day are causing too much sway. Apparently, people can get woozy up there.

It's warm inside the little room, which is 12 feet in diameter, compared to the icy wind outside. The disconnecting mechanism is a cabinet about six feet high, three feet wide, and two feet deep that the wires run into on top. Also in the little round room

is an instrument panel that measures wind speed, output, etc.; a small transformer about two feet high for power for the instruments in the base; a smaller transformer for changing volts from Euros to US; a couple of other shut-offs, lights, and bolts and wires everywhere. And there's still room for about eight adults to stand around and look at it all.

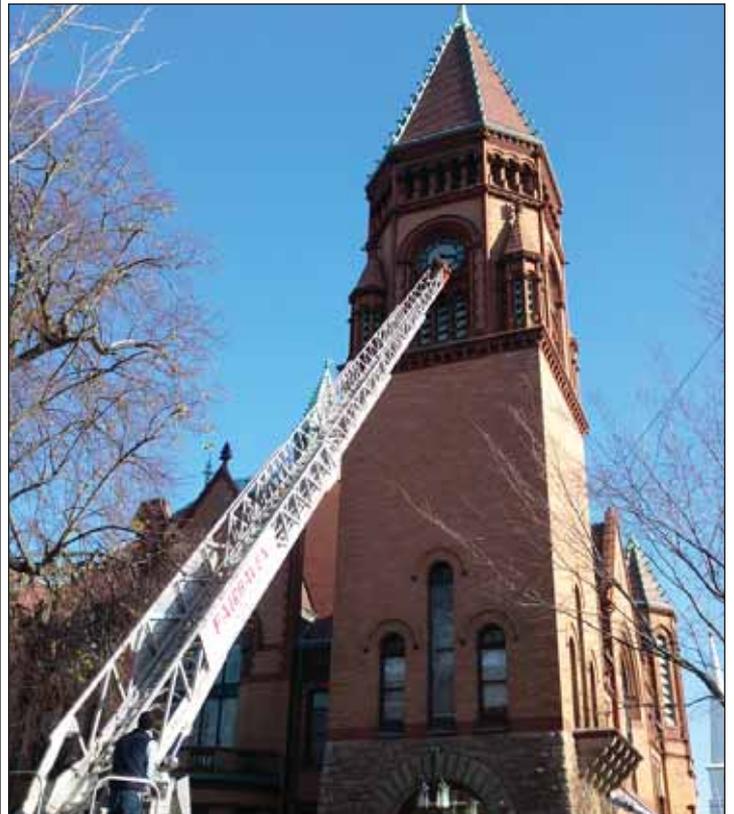
Outside, the noise from the cars on Route 99, coupled with the sound of the stiff and icy wind, drowns out any noise the turbine blades might be making.

The turbine cost about \$4.5 million.

See a time-lapsed video of the MWRA turbine being constructed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9GkCyqnb5Y>

*\*1 meter = 3.2808399 feet.*

## Town hall clock getting TLC



The Fairhaven Fire Department renders aid to the mechanics fixing the old clock on the town hall. Instead of hiring a crane, the FD let mechanics use the ladder to reach the clock so they could remove the hands to get to the shaft. Selectboard Executive Secretary said the hands on the west side of the clock stopped moving a couple of weeks ago. The shaft was removed, will be repaired, and is scheduled to be reinstalled on Thursday, 12/22. He said he was not sure what the problem was. "They been up there for about a hundred years," said Mr. Osuch. The Town Hall was built by town benefactor Henry Huttleston Rogers and dedicated in 1894. For more information on the town's "architectural wonders" visit the Fairhaven Office of Tourism website at <http://fairhaventours.blogspot.com/> and click on "Henry Huttleston Rogers" under "Fairhaven History." Photo by Beth David. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

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## LETTERS: cont'd from page 25

the odor away. End of problem!

I originally voted for the turbines, thinking green...not realizing that others were also thinking green...but not the green of grass or trees, etc.

I rue the day that I made such an error!

I can only repent and try to right the wrong by joining with others who really do have the best interests of the community at heart and who are WindWise!

Down with the turbines!

*Richard T. Clark, Fairhaven*

### **A Plea to Our Elected Officials on Turbines:**

A group of over 180 concerned residents (and growing) have been recently submitting studies to both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health for review. This is not a "small handful" of people as some have publicly suggested to the press. The five case studies handed to them personally on December 12th were done by respected doctors such as Dr. Nina Pierpont, Dr. Daniel Shepherd, Dr. Michael Nissenbaum and Dr Alec Salt.

All of the studies address the concerns regarding the detriment of health due to the shadow flicker and "infrasound noise" for residents living in close proximity to 400-foot industrial wind turbines. There is a direct correlation between the large amounts of "infrasound" emitted from these units and the sickness of local residents from Michigan to Maine and as close as Falmouth, MA.

None of the reports state that wind turbines are "bad," however, what the doctors do concur is that they don't belong so close to residents and recommend at least a 1 mile buffer.

The wind companies are obviously not unaware of potential health issues stemming from these turbines.

In my research I noticed wind companies like Vestas as part of their safety regulations instruct their technicians that actually work on the machines to remain a "minimum" of 1300 feet from an operating turbine unless, and I'm quoting, "**absolutely necessary.**" Yet the citizens of Fairhaven 900 feet away will be subjected to this 24 hours a day? And those walking the bike path could be as close as 20 feet...How is this fair?

The recent 51-page "Bruce McPherson Infrasound and Low Frequency Noise Study" done in Falmouth, MA, specifically addresses these concerns. What is important about this study is that the authors, Stephen E. Ambrose and Robert W. Rand, were taking infrasound measurements within the house while experiencing the actual symptoms themselves.

**Thus they were able to accurately correlate the symptoms with scientific measurements and prove what many have conjectured: that sounds too low for us to hear can and will cause harm to the body.** This is much like UV rays from the sun — we can't see them but we now know they affect us and they are bad correct?

So I'm sure you can imagine infrasound has been dismissed in scientific work originating and funded by the wind industry on the sole claim that what we can't hear can't hurt us. Sound studies have been focused on audible sound on the A-scale only, which doesn't accurately measure infrasound which would be shown on the G-scale.

The McPherson study not only documents that infrasound can affect health; it also suggests infrasound is worse indoors, so people cannot retreat into their homes for relief.

As young children we are told the

reason we learn history in school is to **NOT repeat the mistakes of the past.** The turbines in Falmouth are a serious mistake in our recent past and we should learn from them.

I have personally spoken with other wind development companies that claim they are on a mission to ensure the tragedies that occurred in Falmouth are not duplicated going forward.

How can Mr. Gordon Deane from Fairhaven Wind LLC and our local Board of Selectmen and the Chairman of the Board of Health turn a blind eye to Falmouth or the recently proposed legislation requiring the setback to be at least 3000 feet from residents? At the detriment to over 50 sick residences in Falmouth we have learned already what will happen when these 400-foot mammoths are turned on.

I am making a personal public plea for the health and well being of my family and the wonderful people I was able to meet through [www.windwise.org](http://www.windwise.org) website **to be taken seriously by those in a position to make a difference and stop this tragedy.**

I also encourage those reading this letter to call the boards themselves in support of our cause. Or make a comment on the [www.windwise.org](http://www.windwise.org) website. We must protect the health of the citizens of Fairhaven.

I would like to extend a personal word of thanks to Dolores Canton from the Board of Health and their "health agent" Pat Fowle who has welcomed the information with "open arms" for their review and appear to be gravely concerned on the close proximity of these 400-foot industrial turbines to our neighbors and appear they would like to do something about it.

*Respectfully*

*Grant & Maria Menard & Children*

## 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*

## Atria employee recognized

### Press Release

Atria Fairhaven has announced that Jackie Goncalves, Housekeeping Department, has received the Exceptional Service Award, with the following statement.

Jackie Goncalves has been working at our community for over 11 years. If you were to ask any of her co-workers to describe Jackie's work ethic they would use words like: hardworking, meticulous, reliable, exceptional, outstanding and impeccable.

There is never a time that Jackie is not doing something above and beyond. Her supervisor just has to mention that he is going to work on a special project later in the day and before you know it Jackie has already taken care of it. Jackie is always looking for ways to help and is not afraid of hard work.

Jackie always puts a smile on our residents' faces. They so look forward to seeing Jackie and know that they can ask her to help with anything. Jackie has also had perfect attendance for several years, which shows her commitment and dedication to this community.

From setting up respite rooms, decorating for special events, handling emergency maintenance request, and working in house-keeping, Jackie is truly a gem.

Our house-keeping Quality Enhancement score has been 100% for the last three years and it is because of Jackie's level of standards. Jackie is always trying to make sure that our employees are upbeat; she often brings in homemade treats or store bought goodies.

Jackie's laugh is contagious, she has a lot of fun at work and helps show the fun outlined in our mission statement!

Her dedication to the senior population is within her own family and her extended family of Atria Fairhaven.



Jackie Goncalves received the Exceptional Service Award at Atria Fairhaven this month. She is credited with always going "above and beyond," to make residents happy. *Submitted photo. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)*

## West Islanders welcome Christmas with song



A group of hardy West Islanders braved the cold on Sunday afternoon to spread Christmas cheer to their neighbors. Brian Arrighi drove his flatbed trailer, fitted with railings and furnished with comfy sofas, through the streets while 11 of his neighbors rode in back singing Christmas Carols. LEFT: the hardy bunch of carolers. RIGHT TOP: Marc Dunn led the group with his Christmas bells. RIGHT BOTTOM: And Brian Arrighi drove. *Photos by Beth David. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)*

# ConCom keeps it short; issues enforcement order to Bella Vista

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven ConCom meeting on 12/19 was a brief one, with the commission voting to allow Antonio & Valentine DaCunha of 8 Windward Way to construct an addition within a flood zone. ConCom members found no issues during a site walk.

The ConCom issued an enforcement order to Bella Vista Island owner Haiem Alsawalhi after a 12/18 site visit. Ms. Alsawalhi and her husband, Anwar Faisal, have requested a continuance until 1/23/12 for their Notice of Intent for construction plans that include a tennis court, as well as a dock for jet ski use.

In addition to the Enforcement Order, the commission also issued a Cease and Desist order resulting from violations observed by the commis-

sion during the 12/18 site walk, and a Restoration Plan to be completed to rectify activities completed that were not permitted by the commission.

Chairperson Andrew Jones stated that the purpose of the issuances was to establish a pattern of non-compliance. He said it was the fifth Enforcement Order to be issued to the Bella Vista Island couple.

According to Mr. Jones, the Mass DEP will intervene if they find the violations to be egregious in nature.

Bryant Ribeiro of 475 Bridge Street has withdrawn his Request for Determination application under the advisement of the commission. Mr. Ribeiro has resubmitted a new RDA which includes details of all work that has been completed to bring Mr. Ribeiro into compliance, and also includes details of his intent for

future development. The commission approved the withdrawal without prejudice.

The Notice of Intent for Jose DeMedeiros of 25 Bayview Avenue has been continued until 1/9/12 at his request. At the ConCom meeting held on 12/5, Mr. DeMedeiros's intent to build a freestanding wall and slate patio came under scrutiny after the commission conducted a site walk on 12/4, and found evidence of prior unpermitted work completed on the property.

The commission granted a Notice of Compliance for 132 Alden Road for the construction of a building completed on 3/23/01. The original applicant was Lou Texeira of Teixeira's Auto, the former owner of the property, which is now the site of Pharmahealth. ●●●

### BOH: cont'd from page 13

were only exposed for a few days.

Many Fairhaven residents and one Falmouth resident spoke to the board, pointing out a litany of complaints, including loss of value to homes, the destruction of Little Bay, the possible permanent closing of the bike path, etc.

Louise Barteau pointed to a large body of evidence she found on her own and told people to do their own research. She said she was struck by how many of the studies had been funded by the wind industry and urged people to look for studies that specifically state that researchers had no ties to the wind industry.

Ms. Barteau said she found it "extremely chilling" that McPherson had to privately fund his study because no one would pay for it.

"These are very dangerous machines," said Ms. Barteau, adding that they need more studying. "I don't think Fairhaven residents should be guinea pigs."

Grant Menard spoke to the board about blade failure and setback rules for different models of blades, contending that the Sinovels were chosen because they have no setback rules.

Neil Anderson from Falmouth told the board that the Board of Health established 39 symptoms associated with IWTs.

"I've experienced all of them," said Mr. Anderson. "Please don't do this. Don't allow this to go through."

Bruce Paparella told the board he was deaf, with hearing aids of the newest technology. He said he unwittingly rode his bicycle and walked

by IWTs on two occasions, and both times he became dizzy.

"I call this abusive," he said. "This is abuse. This is criminal abuse on a child who can't speak for himself."

Resident and attorney Ann Ponichtera-DeNardis told the board they had an "obligation" to protect the public health.

"If one person's affected, it's too many," she said and told the board they could act to stop the IWTs as an "anticipatory nuisance."

Henry Ferreira told the board to remember BioSafe and other measures enacted by the selectboard that turned out to be failures.

"You're supposed to act as a check on an out-of-control Board of Selectmen," said Mr. Ferreira. "All you need to think about is the health, safety, and life of people you have pledge to protect."

"Your neighbors," a voice cried out.

Mr. DeTerra, however, reading from a statement, told them that the board did not have the authority to act until there was a problem. Some back and forth ensued with people, but Mr. DeTerra insisted that legally he could not act on "potential nuisances."

Residents pointed out that Town Counsel Tom Crotty was quoted as saying the BOH and Appeals board could stop the project.

"You can act," said Ms. Ponichtera-DeNardis.

Before the board voted not to do anything, though, member Dolores Caton said she would like Mr. DeTerra's assertion in writing.

"I would like to get a legal piece of

paper telling me that we cannot [act]," said Ms. Caton, who was drowned out by claps, hoots, hollers and cheers.

The board voted to get permission from the selectboard to use town counsel for an opinion. Residents questioned the fruitfulness of going to the selectboard, but Health Agent Pat Fowle assured them it was standard procedure to ask for the expenditure.

Residents asked the board to issue an opinion, even if it was not binding.

One man told the board to show some courage, saying if they are wrong, they will be criticized, but "If this project goes up, my family will suffer."

"When the time comes, I expect you to fight for [public] health, as your name suggests," he said.

Ann Richard, a vocal proponent of IWTs from the start, was the only person who did not speak against the measure. She stopped on more than one occasion to ask to be heard out.

"I'm just asking this board, just like you are asking them, to consider all the facts," said Ms. Richard. She pointed out that other communities have IWTs very close to schools and those communities are proud of them and have not experienced any of the problems that Falmouth has.

Residents also pointed out that no Selectboard members were in the room and only one School Committee member, Brian Monroe, was present.

Mr. Monroe told them he was "listening" and that he was also surprised the topic had not come up in the discussions about the new Wood School. ●●●

# Land trust a no-show at public works meeting

By Joyce Rowley

## Neighb News Correspondent

The 12/19 Fairhaven Board of Public Works meeting wrapped up a few outstanding items as it began to look towards next year's budget, although it had two no-shows on its appointment list and an impromptu executive session.

The Fairhaven Acushnet Land Preservation Trust was a no-show at its appointment to discuss the Shipyard Farms. Although Administrative Assistant Kathy Tripp had sent a letter asking them to discuss the maintenance of town property at the farm, they did not send a representative. Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson asked that she send another letter to them, in particular to FALPT board member Ken Lipman, at his New Bedford office.

A scheduled appointment with a Mass Highway's inspector regarding the driveway apron at 68 Howland Road, was also a no-show. The driveway apron was 32 feet wide instead of the 26 feet allowed by the Town.

"In my opinion, we can chalk this up to a miscommunication between Mass Highway, BPW, the homeowner, and LAL construction," said BPW chair Geoffrey Haworth. "No one's parking will be displaced, but I'm not condoning it."

BPW Superintendent Vincent Furtado suggested fining the homeowner \$100 for failure to get a permit.

"I don't see how we can let this go," said Mr. Furtado.

The Board voted to send a letter to the homeowner stating he could pay a fine of \$100 or correct the driveway width. Mr. Furtado estimated repairing the driveway width as costing upwards of \$15,000.

Marcus Ambrose of Dankate Excavation from Wareham appeared before the BPW to get a drainlayer's license. He applied for a one-project license in order to connect water and sewer service to 11 Sandra Lane (formerly known as Jessica Street).

Board members noted he had the requisite documentation for insurance and references. But Water Superintendent Edward Fortin questioned whether he had the experience connecting water service.

"I heard you talk a lot about sewer services but I didn't hear about water

services. How many of those have you done?" asked Mr. Fortin.

Mr. Ambrose said that he has done about 100 water service connections in Rose Point, Wareham, but later admitted that he subcontracted the water service work to Cape Cod Winwater. He said he planned on using that company on the Fairhaven job.

"That's a 12-inch asbestos cement main line carrying 1200 to 1500 gallons per minute," Mr. Fortin said about the line the service ties into. "Hit that, you will wipe out half the Town."

Mr. Fortin said he had worked with Cape Cod Winwater before, and after a few more questions on the site plan for the connections, reminded Mr.

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**Either raise the [water]  
rate or lower expenses.**

**We're tapping into  
our war chest here**

**[Geoffrey Haworth]**

---

Ambrose he was doing work after the final road opening date, and so would need to post a cash bond. Mr. Ambrose said he did not know about the bond, which is \$2,500 and would be released upon final inspection.

"Wareham's got \$3,000 of my money this year. With a little guy like me, that money starts adding up," he said. He asked if it could be waived since he would be working on a dirt road that's a dead end street. The Board said there was no allowance for waivers, but unanimously approved the drainlayer's license for one job.

The board also heard Finance Director John Nunes explain that he put an article on the May 5, 2012 Town Meeting warrant list to cover the \$32,000 shortfall from the Water Enterprise Fund. He had discussed the matter with Mr. Fortin and Ms. Tripp prior to taking it to the Selectboard and Department of Revenue. The water division expenses were more than last year's

revenues by just under \$33,000.

Mr. Haworth suggested that the Board consider raising the water rates to cover expenses. The last increase was in 2007.

"Either raise the rate or lower expenses. We're tapping into our war chest here," Mr. Haworth said.

"Timing is not the greatest while the digester is going on...If we look at raising the water rates, look at both the rates and the expenses," said BPW member G. Steven Riley.

Mr. Fortin objected to that.

"The treatment facility operating budget is going up. It costs \$900,000. Next year it will be more. Everything will increase," he said. "We're projecting revenues based on selling a lot of water and it will cost more to run it."

He suggested that they create a tier system to put the costs onto those who use more water, saying it was also what the Department of Environmental Protection wanted.

Mr. Riley asked for a comparison of the other towns' water rates for discussion at a later meeting.

The final appointment with David Donnelly of 10 Diamond Street was done in executive session at Mr. Donnelly's request. The Board had asked Mr. Donnelly to appear before them to discuss the water service leak at his property. The Board met with him for about 40 minutes in executive session. No decision was made and the matter was tabled, according to Mr. Haworth.

In other business, the board unanimously approved, 5-0:

- A change order in the amount of \$103,786 to Wes Construction, the anaerobic digester contractor;
- A payment application in the amount of \$322,525 to Wes Construction; and
- A change order, a final pay requisition and a certificate of final completion for the Middle and Washington Street road improvement project.

The next meeting was set for 1/9/12 before the Board went into executive session not to reconvene in open session to discuss the Mattapoisett Water Agreement, to meet with the Mattapoisett Water Commissioners, and to discuss the anaerobic digester.

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