Dear FI Community,  

January 27, 2015

Happy New Year! After taking storm Juno head on Fishers once again has shown what the word community is all about. I wanted to briefly reach out and update you on your Community Board’s activity of late. Our primary objectives have been to re-establish the Board, get back to meeting on a regular basis, focus on our procedures and strengthen our communications to our island community. Elections will be held next summer in order to reinvigorate our elected ranks and will help to promote a culture of transparency, growth and renewal. There are many wonderful and exciting projects presently underway around the rock. Jane Ahrens has done a terrific job updating the island web site fishersisland.net. I encourage everyone to use this site as a port for information regarding island news and activities. I am intending to write a quarterly update to the community about the ICB activity of late, and post it to the website and ICB page. Louisa Evans, our representative to the Southold Town Board, will do so as well in order to keep us all more informed.

As we move forward, there are many complex and difficult issues that continue to challenge our wonderful community. The Utility Co is working to update our aging infrastructure in order to provide us the services we need. Walsh Park has embarked on a capital campaign which will be used to address some of our ongoing housing needs. The FI Fire Department is working to come up with solutions for a personnel shortage among our volunteer fire fighters and EMTs. In all of this, there is much good news. The school continues to thrive under the thoughtful and competent leadership of Karen Goodwin. Lighthouse Works is blooming, bringing 20 skilled artists to our community this year, and has recently been recognized as one of the more vibrant young residency programs nationwide. The Community Center has been an amazing addition to Fishers Island, providing thoughtful programming for all ages year round. Please join me in welcoming Union Chapel’s new pastor, Candy Whitman. Welcome to Fishers Candy.

In this new year, I am hopeful that the ICB will continue to be a place for thoughtful discussion about the future of our island, and that our meetings will be a productive forum to share ideas between the many organizations that make our community work.

Best,

Tom O’Neil, President ICB
A FISHERS ISLAND BLIZZARD 2015 THANK YOU

The Fishers Island community members would like to send a very sincere thank you to everyone on island during the Blizzard! There are so many who did their part and went above and beyond to keep us all safe, warm, informed, and organized for any emergency that might arise. Large or small, every effort kept family members, neighbors, friends and acquaintances comfortable and out of harm’s way. We have done our best to include everyone here – always running a risk of leaving something out, so please email info@fishersisland.net if an addition should be made!

Thanks to: The Fishers Island community members representing the FI Emergency Management Team, school, ferry, utility company, communications and the town who gathered Monday morning to discuss details pertaining to the impending blizzard predicted for Monday, January 26-Wednesday, January 27 as it impacted Fishers Island. They included Karen Goodwin, Carol Giles, Bill Bloethe, Ace Ahrens, Elizabeth Reid, Jamie Doucette, Jane Ahrens, Chris Finan and Louisa Evans.

Tim Patterson, who was off the island for the meeting and upon his return, immediately stepped in as Emergency Coordinator. He thoughtfully directed volunteers and islanders to see us safely through this 36-hour storm watch.

Karen Goodwin for initiating the School Messenger Community List, and for sending out all the important phone messages from Tim Patterson regarding the storm to Fishers residents.

Aly Cochrane for inputting all the on-island residents’ phone numbers into the School Messenger system.

Z&S and BD electricians for quickly assessing the generator needs at FI School.

Dave Burnham’s prompt delivery of a generator to the school in the event it was needed AND Bob Evan’s offer to deliver a fuel tank if needed.

Carol Giles, Jess Hall, Chris Dollar, Tawnya Eastman, Jared Kaplan, Jamie Doucette, Lydia Doucette, Nate Malinowski, Chris Finan, Dan Huggard and the Fishers Island School students who all helped in the carting and transport of the Emergency Shelter supplies from the school to the Firehouse.

Tim Patterson and Carol Giles for opening the Firehouse and overseeing the communication directives.

Joe and Tracy Brock for cleaning and readying the basement of the Firehouse as the Emergency Shelter in case it was needed.

Before the shelter was even open, Carol Giles went to the Village Market and got a lot of cold cuts and food for anyone who might be at the firehouse.

Bill Bloethe followed with more bread and rolls and assured the team that if more were needed he would go to the store and help get it to the shelter. Bill and his son stopped by more than once to see that no one was going hungry.

Paul Giles for properly checking the emergency generator at the firehouse and instructing some there as to how it should be done. Jeff Edwards for being there to assist in any way.

Chris and Trudi Edwards (and Skip, the wonder dog), Dirk Harris, John Berquist (driven by Ken Ahman), Ryan Rodd and last, but certainly not least, Carol Giles for pulling three hour shifts through the night from 5:30 pm Monday through noon on Tuesday at the Firehouse.

While there was no need to shelter anyone, thanks to the fact that the Utility Company had done a lot of trimming since Sandy, people who were plowing and helping out around the island were able to stop in and get a cup of coffee, a bite of food and use the restroom at the Firehouse.

Steve Malinowski was the Sea Stretcher Captain on duty, made the call and moved the boat to Pirates Cove with navigator Joe Brock.

JR Edwards organized a crew including Steve Malinowski, Aaron Lusker, Paul Skinner, Matt Skinner, Dirk Harris, Joe Brock, and Jeff Edwards to clean off Sea Stretcher and make sure that it would be in good order if a run to the mainland was necessary. They shoveled out at the Yacht Club, moved the boat, and Pirates Cove’s crew saw that the parking lot at Pirates Cove Marine was clear in case of emergency. The boat is still at the Cove – a big thanks to Pirates Cove Marine for power and slip to have continued easy access.

Dr. Chris Ingram who remained on-island should his care be needed. Thank you to the Shillo family for shoveling the walk to and from the Clinic and the Doctor’s office and home driveways.

Utility Company personnel including George Horning, Bryan Marteeny, and Mike Conroy manned the main office in case of emergency throughout the storm. Aaron Rice took care of the East end snow removal.

DOT’s Jamie Rogers and Bob Rogers, Dick Grebe, Aaron Rice and all the plow operators who worked long hours to clear the island roads, driveways and parking lots of drifting snow.

Tommy Doroshevich for blowing snow at the FI School during the storm and readying it for school to reopen Wednesday.

Ferry District managers RJ Burns and Gordon Murphy and the crew members. The ferry made the last run Monday night, and after a lot of shoveling and snow clearing, resumed the regular schedule Wednesday morning. A crew of RJ Burns, Jon Hiller, Mike Fiora and Jon Haney came in to begin clearing snow at
the New London Terminal on Tuesday afternoon and evening in the storm. Gordon Murphy and Don Brown cleared the Fishers Island Ferry staging area at Silver Eel.

Jane Ahrens for keeping us all updated regarding storm-related information through Fishers Island’s website and Facebook page.

**Additional Acts of Kindness:** Candy Whitman alerted the volunteers of the need to plow out Gus Kinsolving’s driveway. Though Ryan Rodd had been able to get out of the drive at 6:00 am, by the time he finished his shift the drive was not passable even with his strong running Jeep CJ with lots of clearance. Greg Cypherd was alerted to Gus and Ryan’s situation was able clear the driveway.

Joe and Tracy Brock also helped out Joe Rogan and Betty Peishoff, clearing away snow, access their residences and checking on them during the storm. Joe Brock for offering to provide transport for anyone who required it during the storm.

Beth Stern for her offer to help our elderly with shoveling, clearing a way out of the house or running errands.

Alex Williams for offering to tow anyone that might find themselves stuck in a snow bank.

Lloyd Reisenberg, who is an emergency coordinator on Long Island, for keeping Fishers Island coordinators in the loop as to their situation and asking that we let him know how we were doing.

The Bloethes and their crew who kept the Village Market open for necessities. The American Legion for opening only when the roads were safe.

And, thank you to those who offered their assistance in any way. The Fire District, including the Sea Stretcher, actually had to turn down help, as everyone wanted to assist in the time of need!

**Facts:** Utility Company report: No power outages and continual water service. The Ferry District completed all scheduled runs on Monday and Wednesday.

School Messenger Community List phone call system created and employed. Each safety message from Emergency Coordinator Tim Patterson was delivered to 171 year-round resident phone numbers through the school’s system.

And yes, it was a Blizzard! Officially, “The National Weather Service defines a blizzard as a storm which contains large amounts of snow OR blowing snow, with winds in excess of 35 mph and visibilities of less than 1/4 mile for an extended period of time of at least 3 hours.” Best guess on the snow total for Fishers Island January 26-28, 2015 is … 24” – 26”, with drifting snow piling as high as 10’ in some places.
**EBB AND FLOW**

**BIRTHS**

*Tobias Youn Armstrong*
December 29, 2014 to Whitney Armstrong and Monica Youn

*Hazel Madison Brown*
January 10, 2015 to Samantha Borgert and Austin Brown

**ENGAGEMENT**

*Erika Tamm & Ashley Schongar*
November 29, 2014
Berkeley, CA

**Memorial Service for Penni Sharp**

A Memorial Service will be held for Penni on April 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Guilford with a reception to follow at the Guilford Yacht Club.

First Congregational Church  
122 Broad Street  
Guilford, CT

Guilford Yacht Club  
379 New Whitfield Street  
Guilford, CT

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**FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN**

As I write, I am sitting on Fishers surrounded by seed catalogs and waiting for the first Blizzard of 2015! With the ground completely frozen and the wind howling it is difficult to imagine one’s garden in 6 months or even of starting seeds indoors in late February or early March, which is suggested for our growing zone 6B. However, the seed catalogs are very seductive on a cold winter’s day. The vegetables look delicious and the flowers look intoxicating, but some how, the plants later in my garden don’t always look quite as good. I keep a notebook and write down the varieties of plants that did well and often order the same seeds every year. When my children were at school and I lived in the country, I used to start seeds indoors under grow lights, but now that I travel around a bit more, I find it too difficult to start seeds ahead of time. Once they germinate, they really can’t be left more than a day or two unattended. I have found that the soil on Fishers takes a long time to warm up and it is difficult to get many seeds to germinate. It is sometimes better to buy seedlings to plant in June instead. So, I only order seeds that are special favorites and don’t mind starting in cooler soil.

There are excellent websites where you can get information on seed starting, a good one is Margaret Roach’s, “A Way To Garden” others include: Johnny’s Selected Seeds; John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds; Select Seeds; Territorial Seed Company; and Thompson & Morgan. The Native Gardener’s Companion from Prairie Moon Nursery (seeds and plants of North American Wildflowers for Restoration and Gardening) has a selection I may try in our field.

These are some of seeds I direct sow into the garden with some success and I also plant a number of them in mid summer for fall crops and then they germinate very well in the warm soil. Visit the full story at fishersisland.net for the complete list.
Fire District Commissioner Joe Brock recently compiled some vital statistics regarding the current members of the Fire District to share with the Island Community Board. The following is an update.

This month the Commissioners swore in the Fire Department Officers for 2015. These officers include Chief Wayne Doucette, 1st Assistant to the Chief Nate Malinowski, EMT Captain Carol Giles and Lieutenant Tracy Brock. The department is in need of a 2nd Assistant to the Chief and a Fire Captain.

Commissioners of the Fishers Island Fire District were pleased to recognize Firemen Penn Sanger and Greg Cypherd for 20 years of service, awarding them each with Life Member pins. Fireman JR Edwards received his 30-year Life Member pin and Fireman Ernie Middleton received his 50-year Life Member pin. Congratulations to each for their committed years of service to the Fishers Island Fire Department.

The Fishers Island Fire Department is in critical need of a few good men and women. This vital organization of the Fishers Island community is looking for volunteer firefighters and EMTs. All individuals that have their primary residence on Fishers Island, or commute to the Island for work every day are eligible. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact a member of the Fishers Island Fire Department listed below, the Fire Department secretary Jeffrey Edwards at fifire@fishersisland.net, or the Fire District secretary Catherine Edwards at fifiredistrict@fishersisland.net to obtain more information.

The District is also looking into the possible move to a paid fire fighter to work closely with the volunteer force. Additionally, several new volunteers may do the majority of their training on line, followed by attending a week-long certification session off island.

Founded in 1927, members work closely with Fishers Island’s year round doctor, Dr. Chris Ingram and the Island Health Project. There are 41 active volunteers currently serving (many in several roles) as department officers, firemen, pump operators, ambulance squad EMTs, and Sea Stretcher captains and navigators. Additional members serve as advisors, drivers, radio control and in other important capacities. Members serving on duty ‘in the field’, in their primary volunteer positions, break down this way for the 2015 Roster: 2 officers; 27 fire personnel; 8 EMTs; and 3 on Sea Stretcher. Fire Calls Answered in 2014: 67 Fire calls; 38 EMT calls; and 23 Sea Stretcher runs.

The District is looking for volunteers of all ages! Currently the age range is: 7 members under age 40; 24 members age 40-60; 9 members over age 60. Life Members are those who have served for over 20 years in the department. Of the 44 Life Members, 15 are on active status.

2015 Fishers Island Fire District and Fire Department Officers

Fire District Board of Commissioners
Joe Brock, Chairman
Jeff Edwards
Paul Giles
Aaron Lusker
Jennifer Sanger
Catherine Edwards, Fire District Secretary
Kristen Peterson, Fire District Treasurer

Emergency Medical Service
Carol Giles, EMS Captain
Tracy Brock, EMS Lieutenant
Gail Cypherd, EMT
Jamie Doucette, EMT
Tawnya Eastman, EMT
Paul Giles, EMT
Bruce Hubert, EMT
Kapri Thomas, EMT

Fire Department Officers
Wayne Doucette, Chief
Nate Malinowski, 1st Asst. to the Chief
Carol Giles, EMT Captain
Tracy Brock, Lieutenant

Fire Dept. Executive Board
Greg Thibodeau, Chair
Tracy Brock
Wayne Doucette
Nate Malinowski
Tim Patterson
Art Walsh
LIBRARY’S LATEST ACQUISITION: PROGRAM DIRECTOR

By Allison Sargent
The Fishers Island Library has hired a new Program Director. Amy Harris accepted the position this past December, replacing Kelly Ramsey who held the job for three years. “I am really excited to work with Amy,” said E. B. Bartels, a library board member and head of the Programming Committee, “even though we had several candidates interested in the position, it became clear pretty quickly that Amy was the best person for the job.” The program director’s duties include coordinating and publicizing literary and cultural programs year round which might include booking an author for a summer reading or organizing a Christmas story night or ordering balloons to promote a professional story teller. The position’s varied demands don’t faze her. “My background is pretty eclectic,” she says, “but I have always been drawn to educational and arts-based kinds of jobs.” In addition to creating a vibrant summer program, Amy is particularly interested in organizing monthly get-togethers for year round residents. “The library should be a big part of the community,” says Harris, “I am looking forward to getting people together.”

Amy has a long history with Fishers Island and understands the importance of strong community ties. “My mom, Patricia Griffin, was born and raised on the island,” says Amy, “in fact, she was the last baby to be born in the old fort hospital.” Her mother married Glen Norton whose parents lived on the island as well which meant that Amy grew up spending summers on Fishers with her grandmother Ione Norton. Amy’s island connections are further explained: “My mother’s father George Griffin worked here for a long time and my great aunt, Ann and her husband Steve Morell used to own the Pequot a long time ago.”

Years later, when Amy and her husband Dirk were living in Indiana, they found themselves anxious to move back to the northeast. When Dirk took a job at BD Construction two years ago, they landed back on very familiar turf. “I never imagined that I would be living here full time,” says Amy, “but since having children, this seemed the ideal place for us to be.” As an adult, she appreciates the advantages of a small town living. “I feel fortunate to have the chance to raise my kids in such a safe, tight-knit community,” says Amy. “I am looking forward to getting people together.”

One of her priorities is to create a monthly women’s group that can meet for a craft or games night. The children on the island are also involved as well. School principal Karen Goodwin polled students to find out what activities would bring them out on a cold winter’s night. “I want to be able to implement many of their ideas,” says Amy, “there are so many good ones!” The kids aren’t the only constituents Amy would like to hear from. She welcomes ideas for programming from all summer or winter residents. She can be reached at ah154@evansville.edu. Amy Harris sums up her feelings about her new position this way: “I love the library, I love books,” says Amy, “I am really looking forward to getting started.”

FI CONSERVANCY: EDWIN HORNING GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Fishers Island Conservancy recently selected Fishers Island School’s senior Sophie Streimer, and junior Elias Kane as the recipients of the 2015 Edwin Horning Grants. These awards are named in honor of a man who was dedicated to preserving Fisher Island’s natural beauty. The grants enabled these outstanding students to purchase materials for their research.

Sophie, who also received a grant last year, is studying the effects of acidification in the ocean. She has been selected to submit her project at the CT State Science Fair in March. Thanking the Conservancy, Sophie wrote, “Although I never met Mr. Horning, long-time FI School science teacher, I learned that we are fortunate that we have a grant honoring his devotion to Fishers and the study of our Island’s habitat.”

Elias is studying the environmental stresses affecting lobsters, and has also been included for presentation at the CT Science Fair. In a note to the Conservancy, Elias wrote, “I truly believe my research is relevant to Fishers Island and the ecosystem around us. I am honored to have received such an award in the name of such a good man and scientist.”
THANK YOU NOTE FROM LIGHTHOUSE WORKS
January 30, 2015

The Lighthouse Works would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who contributed to another inspiring year on Fishers Island.

HELP THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HELP YOU
February 1, 2015

An important reminder: Many residences are off the main roads, on private drives and long driveways. Whether the residence is occupied year-round, or just seasonally, it is very important that the buildings can be accessed in time of an emergency, and is the responsibility of property owners.

SEA STRETCHER – WE NEED YOUR STORIES!
February 2, 2015

We would love to get some stories to share to help promote the amazing service that the Fishers Island Sea Stretcher offers, to make people aware of how incredibly vital this volunteer service is to our island community. Please e-mail them to Tiggy Ski at tiggy@tiggyhealth.com

MUNNATAWKET ENGINE WORK COMPLETE
January 31, 2015

The District Commissioners would like to thank all involved: “Due to very impressive hard work, good thinking and professional efforts by our expert captains, engineers, mechanics, crew and staff, all went as planned.”

CONNECTING WITH ARTIST ADRIEN BROOM
January 31, 2015

It is no coincidence that Adrien is Grace Potter and the Nocturnals official photographer. Adrien and Matt Burr have been friends since they were little, growing up in the summer on Fishers Island together. It was Grace and Matt who encouraged Adrien to become a professional photographer full-time. With time spent on the road, they have published a book, Inside Looking Out: A Decade On The Road

IBC MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY, 13 2015
January 31, 2015

Reports include:
FI Fire District; ICB Goals including Elections, Revenue Stream, Southold Relations, Community Board Manager, Bank Accounts and Taxes, and Review of Calendar.

Find out more about any of these posts at www.fishersisland.net
FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN
P.O. BOX 464, FISHERS ISLAND, NY 06390

If you have something you would like posted on FishersIsland.net or in the Fog Horn - a story idea, an event ‘save the date’, photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Editor Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or info@fishersisland.net. Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com.

VISIT FISHERSISLAND.NET PHOTO GALLERY TO VIEW MORE!

“Here comes the Sun. Good morning all!” by Marlin Bloethe 01 28 2015