Tuesday, October 27, 2015 the Fishers Island Ferry District participated in a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Emergency Evacuation Drill. As it would in a real emergency deemed by the DEMHS (Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security), the ferry departed New London and arrived at Silver Eel Cove on Fishers. Several members of the Fishers Island community, including members of the Fishers Island Fire Department, Southhold Town Board member, a member of the Utility Company, and the press boarded the Munnatawket for the trial run to Stonington’s fishing pier.

Already on board were 8 Fishers Island Ferry captains participating in the drill and representatives from CT DEMHS, CT DEEP, Dominion Nuclear CT/Millstone, New London EMD, Coast Guard LI Division, and Amtrak police department.

The trip up the Sound was timed at 1 hour from Silver Eel Cove, Fishers Island, NY to Stonington, CT (at slack water), taking the southern route past North Dumpling and leaving the Latimer Light to starboard. As the boat docked in Stonington Borough and the gangplank was installed on the port side to disembark, Stonington Town representatives, the Stonington police and various other Stonington EMD involved in the drill greeted the passengers.

The conservative estimate for emergency passenger evacuation from Fishers per boat is — Race Point 760 and Munnatawket 508. If an emergency evacuation is required in the summer season, more than...
one trip can be made between Fishers and Stonington. Passengers and dogs and cats will be welcomed on board and those needing special assistance would be transported to the passenger deck. To allow for maximum passengers on board, there will be a bare minimum of baggage (one bag/person), and no vehicles will be allowed (there is no vehicle exit from the ferry in Stonington.) Once in Stonington Borough the passengers would proceed to busses in the larger staging area by the water filtration/waste management building and be taken to Windham High School in Windham, CT for evaluation, Red Cross assistance and shelter.

During the drill, there were many detailed conversations amongst those present about logistics, what ifs, procedures, and next steps. Individuals with similar job responsibilities were able to meet in person to discuss concerns. Once docked back in Silver Eel, the ferry captains were trained on the radiation monitors and other specifics regarding a Millstone incident. Marine Operations Manager RJ Burns will be training the rest of the Ferry employees on these matters as well.

FEMA Evacuation Drill crew included eight Fishers Island Ferry Captains pictured below. Captain Mike Fiora ran all the regularly scheduled trips while the rest of the captains were involved in training. Polly Ford, Nick Espinosa, James Moore, Carlton Wilcox kept things flowing at the New London Terminal. RJ Burns mentioned, “No one can remember the last time all the captains were together in one place!”

Thank you to all who took the time to participate in the Dominion Emergency Preparedness Offsite Training Program orchestrated by instructors CT DEMHS State Emergency Management’s Peter Sandgren and Emergency Preparedness Specialist IV Bryan McHugh of Dominion Nuclear Connecticut/Millstone. (The complete list can be found on fishersisland.net.)

FEMA EVACUATION DRILL CONT.

In October, the Fishers Island Yacht Club, with financial participation from the Fishers Island Fire District, carried out a long-awaited program of dredging in the marina.

The dredging ensures that the Sea Stretcher will have six feet of clearance at its dock even at mean low tide. Additional dredging took place in particularly shallow dock areas to either side of the Sea Stretcher, in the channel to and from the Sea Stretcher dock and along the southern portion of the outer dock area used by often quite large transient boats.

The dredging was subject to multiple permit approvals of the federal and state governments. The dredged material was taken to an Army Corps of Engineers approved site off New Haven. The work was done by Gwenmor Marine Contracting, which carried out seven 24 hour round trips with its tug and barge hauling a total of approximately 2,800 cubic yards of dredge material from the marina to the New Haven site. A video and photos are available on fishersisland.net.

FIYC DREDGING WORK IN WEST HARBOR

Halloween actually fell on a Saturday in 2015 so all the island ghosts and goblins came to Fishers Island School for the annual IPP parade, pizza and prizes.

Master of Ceremonies Aaron Lusker, with his able assistant Fred Toldo, introduced the trick or treaters to the Fishers Island community as they paraded through the School gym. Each received a bit of a ‘treat’ from Top Gun Liz Burnham and the costume judges, Stacey McCarthy and Jasmine McCarthy with Laura Edwards, took careful notes before presenting the awards.

Thank you also to Sue Lusker, Robin Toldo, Amy Harris, Tawnya Eastman, Liz Burnham, Meg Atkin, Tommy Doroshevich and the Island Community Center too – who all helped with making this year’s IPP Halloween Parade a big success! To see more, visit FishersIsland.net’s Photo Gallery.

**COSTUME AWARD WINNERS**

**Most Original** David Shillo, Jack Morrissey and Sam Walz

**Best Costume Group** 3 blind mice and old lady Betsy Conger, Margot Hutchins, Julia Helal, Elanora Lerner

**Most Halloweenie** Warlock Griffen Harris

**Funniest Combo** Thing 1 and Thing 2 & Ferocious Tiger Constance Toldo, Ashley Morrell and Alexander Toldo

**Cutest** Ariel & King Triton Miss Brianna and Donny Beck

**Cutest** Thomas the Train Engineer Grant Doucette

**Scariest** Pirate Anthony Toldo

**Most Creative** Deviled Egg Izabel Scroxton

**Prettiest** Butterflies Ellie Bloethe and Maddie Hatfield

More Halloween Faces on Page 6
This summer Helen Scott Reed loaned me a book called, “The Artist’s Garden, American Impressionism and the Garden Movement” edited by Anna O. Marley. The book contains beautiful illustrations of the artwork of Cecilia Beaux, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase and Childe Hassam. During the years between 1887 through the 1920’s, as these impressionist artists were painting; new suburbs were developing across the country. Americans became passionately interested in landscape design to enhance their new properties. This era was known as “the Garden Movement”. Beatrix Farrand, one of our most talented landscape designers during that era, has a wonderful quote in the book. I think it gives all of us, who struggle to design interesting gardens, credit for the challenging and creative work we try to do.

The two arts of painting and garden design are closely related, except that the landscape gardener paints with actual color, line, and perspective to make a composition, as the maker of stained glass does, while the painter has but a flat surface on which to create an illusion… The painter has another great advantage over a gardener, because, as he cannot possibly transfer to canvas the millions of colors and shadows which make up the most ordinary landscape, he must eliminate so many… whereas the landscape gardener has to put his equally artificial landscape out in real light, among real trees, to be barred by real and moving shadows.

Quite a challenge we set for ourselves being gardeners! Plants are constantly changing and just when you think you have gotten the composition right, the plant is finished blooming or has grown too tall or died back completely. It is the fleeting moments, when it all seems to work, that we treasure. I certainly know that my garden all comes together the way I intended for a very short time. The rest of the growing season it looks ok, but often the colors don’t work or a storm has beaten down the roses or the lilies don’t look as good as they did last year. So, I admit defeat and just go to the beach!

But when your garden or planters all come together, for a brief time, try to capture it in a photograph so you can look back on what you created and be proud of what you accomplished.

I hope that many of you will share those photographs of your gardens with FishersIsland.net and the Fog Horn. They will be an inspiration to our readers during the dark days of winter. Please send them to info@fishersisland.net. It will be a lovely way to share our hard work.

Mélie, “My Garden, when it briefly comes together in June.”
IN MEMORIAM: CHRISTOPHER SLADE DURFEE

Christopher Slade Durfee, a graduate of the Rippowam Cisqua School, died September 26, 2015. He was 44.

Mr. Durfee was blue team captain of his class at Rippowam Cisqua. He was a 1990 graduate of the Salisbury School and a 1994 graduate of the University of Denver.

He is survived by his parents, Bzee and Sherman Durfee; a sister, Elizabeth Durfee (Kip Howard); and his brother, Sherman Durfee, Jr. (Katie).

A memorial service will be held Friday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m., at St. Matthew’s Church in Bedford. It will be followed by a reception at the Bedford Golf and Tennis Club.

Mr. Durfee was known for his concern for abandoned dogs, and set up a foundation to care for needy canines. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Christopher S. Durfee Private Foundation Trust, 86 Denison Ave., Mystic, Connecticut 06355.

Bedford Record Review

DISTRICT NEWS

**Fishers Island Fire District Annual Election**
December 8, 2015 6:00-9:00 pm at the Firehouse

For the purpose of electing one Commissioner for a 5-year term commencing January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2020.

All voters registered with the Suffolk County Board of Elections before November 16, 2015 are eligible to vote.

Candidates for District Office shall have filed their names and petitions with the Fishers Island Fire District Secretary no later than November 18, 2015.

**Fishers Island Waste Management District Annual Election**
December 8, 2015 6:00-9:00 pm at the Firehouse

For the purpose of electing one Commissioner for a 5-year term commencing January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2020.

All registered voters of Fishers Island Waste Management District are eligible to vote. Every resident of the District, who is qualified to vote for a Town officer, shall be eligible to hold the office of District Commissioner.

Commissioner candidate petitions are due to the Fishers Island Waste Management Office no later than noon November 24, 2015.
Please join the Fishers Island community in congratulating Chris and Kathy Dollar as the newest members of the Fire Department's EMT Squad.

Over the last several months Chris and Kathy not only successfully completed their EMT training, but also have taken and passed the boards for both National and New York State Certification.

This addition of two EMTs has already had a major impact on the Fishers Island Fire Department’s EMT squad. As Paul Giles pointed out, “A normal department may not think much of getting two new EMTs however, as we only had 8 active EMTs on the squad, the addition of two more is very exciting. Before the addition of Chris and Kathy we would stand duty every third week for 7 days 24 hours a day. We still have duty every 3 weeks but this has allowed for a rotating schedule so one person gets relieved of Sunday duty on each rotation.”

The Department and the entire EMT squad would like to publicly thank Henry McCance for his kind generosity. His gift enabled the funding of the online course for the Dollars and included an intense one-week EMT hands-on training program in Idaho this summer.

Our volunteer Emergency Medical Service EMTs are all island residents. When their pagers go off they drop everything and leave their jobs as teachers, property and store managers, club employees, doctor’s office staff, and contractors. Since January through September 2015 they have answered 49 ambulance calls and made 41 Sea Stretcher runs to Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Next time you see them, please thank EMS Captain Carol Giles, EMS Assistant Division Chief Tracy Brock, and EMTs Gail Cypherd, Chris Dollar, Kathy Dollar, Jamie Doucette, Tawnya Eastman, Paul Giles, Bruce Hubert, and Kapri Thomas.

Join the EMT Squad
With the 2 additional members that still leaves the squad with only 10 total EMTs to respond to all emergency calls 24/7 every day of the year – all while attending monthly training drills to maintain certification. As Carol Giles mentioned, “We are a very thin skeleton crew that make it work to cover all of these volunteer hours for the Fishers Island community because of our dedication to the island residents, our professionalism, and our comradery to work as a team.”

Please consider joining this amazing and accomplished group. You will learn much while making lasting friendships and providing a most valuable service to this community!
DO YOU LIKE TO SING? DO YOU MISS BEING IN A CHORUS?

Several Fishers Island residents have shown interest in starting a community chorus. We are currently collecting names and contact information of people who would be interested in participating in a community chorus. If this is you, please email Chris Dollar at c.dollar@fischool.com or call at 788-7619.

We would meet, on average, once a week and sing a varied repertoire of music including Popular Music, Classical, Spirituals, Folk, Broadway, and more.

Ages from 12-112 and any level of experience, training and talent is welcome.

OUR LADY OF GRACE HIT OR MISS RUMMAGE OPENS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

The Hit or Miss Rummage at Our Lady of Grace Church will be open Thanksgiving Weekend.
Friday 4:00-6:00 and Saturday 10:00-12:00
Come by for a visit and find a treasure.

GOOSE ISLAND SERVICE CHANGE

Due to the large price increase in our monthly expense to maintain the house charge system and a new $0.045/gallon surcharge on every gallon pumped, Goose Island Service will no longer offer in-house charge accounts for sales at the pump. Please bring cash or credit cards when needing gasoline. Self-service will now be the new norm for our station. If you need help pumping gas, Dennis, Jim or Nancy will still be available to assist you. Auto repairs, service, and fuel oil will continue to be delivered and billed in the same way it has been.

PET FOOD DRIVE

6th Grader Lydia Doucette, is looking for your help in collecting pet food for hungry dogs and cats. She is hoping to collect 150 pounds and has many people willing to match donations after the first 50, 100 and 150lbs.

Some of this pet food will be donated to Island pets and the rest will be donated to the 2015 Companion Animal Hospital Pet Food drive which helps Groton Social Services.

Please donate pet food by Friday, November 20th! There will be a bin at School and at the Beach Plum.

UNION CHAPEL BOOK GROUP

The island community is invited to join the Union Chapel book group reading No God But God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan.

Two opportunities to meet and discuss the book: Thurs, November 19 at 7 pm & Mon, November 23 at 2 pm. Both will take place at the parsonage on Montauk Ave.

Participants are encouraged to obtain a copy online or at a bookstore; the church is also ordering limited copies for sale. Please call Diane to reserve a copy or for further information at 788-7898.
Library Book Group

Thursday, November 12
7:00-9:00 pm
Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee
Fishers Island Library

Thursday, Nov 19 at 12 noon
For all community members age 60+.
All are welcome!

Senior Lunch

A Spectacular Weekend for Birding on Fishers

H.L. Ferguson Museum: Penni Sharp Nature Walk - Maggie Jones, Director of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, who led the Penni Sharp Nature Walk on Saturday, October 17, 2015, sent in the following bird list for the walk. It includes birds the group saw between approximately 11:15 AM and 1:00 PM walking from the airport parking area, along the southern coast side of the runway out to the hill that overlooks Race Point, returning on the inland side. Also included on the website are additional birds that Maggie saw later on Saturday and on Sunday morning during her stay on Fishers Island. A great time was had by all!

Maggie’s Report: What a spectacular weekend for birding on Fishers! Cold northerly winds brought in a parade of raptors, songbirds and shorebirds. Here’s what flew overhead and was floating or flitting about in the shrubby edges around the Elizabeth Field airport Saturday: Common Loon, Common Eider, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Greater, Black-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch.

For the list of even more birds seen during Maggie’s trip to Fishers, please visit fishersisland.net/a-spectacular-weekend-for-birding-on-fishers/