Middle Farms Pond has become contaminated with elevated levels of nitrates, turbidity, bacteria and algae. Although the causes are not yet clear, human activities, including potential septic leeching and fertilizer run-off, as well as boating, fishing and swimming are all potential contributing factors.

The risks are serious. For example, nitrates can cause algae blooms. While not all algae blooms are toxic, some produce a type of toxin called microcystis that can cause serious liver damage under certain conditions.

Fishers Island Water Works Corporation owns the pond and is responsible for monitoring its quality. Under the Fishers Island Water Protection Standards adopted by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services in 1997, we are also responsible for monitoring compliance with land use restriction that apply to the surrounding primary watershed.

To start the process of restoring the health of the pond, we are placing it off limits to the public. Various information and warning notices will be posted around the pond.

The absence of human activity will facilitate testing the pond water to identify the causes of contamination and target efforts to eliminate them. We have already sent notices to surrounding landowners, requesting their help in identifying potential sources of contamination in the watershed, particularly on ground sloping toward the pond and any level areas within 150 yards of the shore. Fertilizers, pesticides, septic tanks and fuel storage tanks are among the possible hazards. Earlier this year we welded shut an access point where tank trucks were tapping into the pond with potentially contaminated hoses.

Closing Middle Farms Pond to boating will address another threat; the potential introduction of the invasive Zebra mussel. This fingernail-size mussel can attach itself to a boat or paddleboard that is used in another body of water and then used in Middle Farms Pond. There would be no way to eradicate the bivalve from the pond once that happens.

By removing sources of contamination and avoiding a mussel infestation, the pond could have water that is potable with little filtration within a few years. Although we are moving to produce more water from wells, preserving both Middle Farms and Barlow Ponds as back-up reservoirs is an important part of our strategy for assuring ample water supply despite the uncertainties of climate change. During droughts in the 1960s, for example, water was pumped from Middle Farms Pond to Barlow Pond for filtration and distribution into the island’s water mains.

Everyone’s understanding and cooperation with this initiative will be very much appreciated. We know that Middle Farms Pond has been enjoyed by boaters, fishermen and swimmers. Yet, we strongly believe that conserving this natural resource is part of responsible environmental stewardship and in the best interest of the water supply for the entire island community.

Please feel free to contact company President, Chris Finan, or Water Superintendent, Chad Mrowka, at 631-788-7251 with any questions.
Dear Islanders,

The Fishers Island Waste Management District has been looking for viable solutions to help reduce the amount of waste that is shipped off the island. One of the areas of concern is the amount of bottles and cans that are sent off. While the flow in the off seasons slows down, during the summer months, a thirty-yard dumpster will fill in a day and a half. The bottle and can dumpsters are the highest quantity of dumpsters sent out each month. In an effort to reduce this, the District recently purchased a glass grinding machine (shown at right). This machine will grind the glass down to both 1/8” and 3/8” particles. The glass can then be used as a clean fill.

Taking the glass out of the trash flow will help reduce the quantity of dumpsters leaving the island and also put the glass to good use.

Starting January 1, 2018, all glass containers will have to be collected separately from plastic and metal. The containers are to be rinsed cleaned and will be collected in special “GLASS ONLY” dumpsters at the Transfer Station. The District has purchased 13-gallon recycling totes for each residence on the island. These will be made available for free (one per residence) and can be picked up at the District Office during normal business hours.

We will notify you when they are available in early December. Please remember, any glass container should be rinsed clean before depositing at the Transfer Station.

Sincerely,

Alan R. Thibodeau, Operations Manager Fishers Island Waste Management District
(631) 788-7455, fiwastemanagement@gmail.com

Photo Captions
At left: Ground glass at 3/8" and 1/8" pieces and the leftover labels.

Below: How will you use the crushed glass? Some applications include countertops (interior and exterior), Fire pit décor, Sidewalk fill, Plant Mulch along with road and driveway base and more.
By Jane T. Ahrens

Beginning in April, 2017, 9 current and future members of the Fishers Island Fire Department (FIFD) entered into an extensive course known as Firefighter 1. The purpose of the 5-month course is to teach the basic principles of firefighting and fire safety and complete the New York State Firefighter Level 1 certification.

The FIFD sponsored the Firefighter I course offered through the Suffolk County Fire Academy (SCFA). From April through September the 9 students completed the required 120 hours of studying, weekly quizzes followed by weekly exams, and testing coupled with hands-on training and various drills. The course, administered by Chief Dan Sicilian of the Suffolk County Fire Academy, culminated with a day in September at the Academy on Long Island in Yaphank, NY, where the candidates were tested in their proficiency in breathing apparatus, search and rescue, forced entry and ladder work.

Following this successful excursion, the class took a 150 question written exam that all 9 successfully passed. But they were not quite done… the program also included 7 hours of coursework in the National Incident Management System and 4 hours of Red Cross lifesaving and CPR.

The 9 newly certified as NYS Firefighter 1, are Asst. Chief Jeff Edwards, Lt. Dirk Harris, Firefighters Ace Ahrens, Courtney Allen, Miguel Mego, and Jared Toldo and newly elected FIFD members Matt Edwards, Drew Norton and Wes Walters.

The graduates are very thankful to the FIFD’s ‘seasoned’ volunteer members for taking the time to teach, mentor and assist them as they worked their way through the course, and the drills.

“This class had the highest averages during their course work and at their final exam of any other class I have administered. The long periods between the opportunities we had to meet shows their level of dedication to the material and to the fire service. I would be proud to crawl down the hallway with this class any day!” ~ DC Dan Sicilian

Miguel Mego, and Jared Toldo and newly elected FIFD members Matt Edwards, Drew Norton and Wes Walters.

The graduates are very thankful to the FIFD’s ‘seasoned’ volunteer members for taking the time to teach, mentor and assist them as they worked their way through the course, and the drills.
IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE WILLIAM WARREN PACKARD

George William Warren Packard passed away peacefully on October 26, 2017, in Boston. George fought bravely over a period of 21 years against illnesses deriving from a brain tumor initially diagnosed in 1996. During that time he was a source of great inspiration to many, including his beloved children Daniel and Anne. George was born in New York City, son of Peter F. Packard and Jarmila Daubek Packard. George’s own creative talents were first recognized in kindergarten with a “Best Dancer” award and later as a gifted singer in choirs, choruses and a cappella groups. George grew up three blocks from Central Park and in his twenties co-authored Central Park: A Visit to One of the World’s Most Treasured Landscapes.

George attended St. David’s School and St. Paul’s School, and graduated from Yale University, where he was a history major and sang with the Baker’s Dozen and the Whiffenpoofs. In 1993 he married Louise Burnham, with whom he remained close after their divorce in 2006. He worked in advertising in New York and San Francisco before relocating to the Boston area. In his later years George was active at Hancock Church in Lexington, Mass. and sang with the Lexington Pops Chorus.

In the spring of 2000 George entered a hospice facility, yet his strong spirit and joy for living helped him leave hospice care, recover and persevere. He was able to see his children grow, and to be part of their lives, present for many school graduations, concerts, choir performances, family celebrations and summer days on Fishers Island. He was noted for his gracious acceptance of his health challenges, his unfailing politeness and positive attitude, and despite challenges, took great pride in being referred to by his doctor as her “miracle patient.”

George is survived by his children, Daniel and Anne, who were the light of his life. From their father they inherited a love for music, talent for singing, welcoming smile, and kindhearted nature. Additionally he is survived by his sister Jarmila (Jaji) Packard, her husband Luther Flurry, and nieces Thea and Virginia. He will be remembered and greatly missed by many relatives in the Packard, Daubek, Burnham and Webb families.

George cultivated numerous friends from across the decades, including many who visited and kept in close touch. His family particularly appreciates the great dedication and assistance of George’s friends Richard Kennelly, Alex Wilmerding, Sandy Herz and Yuet Chu; his sister-in-law the Rev. Krysia Burnham; and his cousin Amanda Packard. They are also grateful to Dr. Debra Shapiro and Dr. Diler Acar; his long-term caregivers Bonnie Ramage and Linda Weiss; and the support he received at Sherrill House.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations in George’s memory to any charities and institutions associated with George’s life including Hancock Church www.hancockchurch.org, the Lexington Pops Chorus www.lexingtonpopschorus.org, or Sherrill House www.sherrillhouse.org. A memorial service for George [took] place at Hancock Church in Lexington, MA November 12. A private burial will be held at a later date.

WEDDINGS

John M. Harris, Jr. & Grace W. Sickles
Salisbury, CT
September 30, 2017

Alysanne Cochrane & Samuel Horn
Fishers Island, NY
September 30, 2017

Allie Cashel and Calvin Pickett
Ludlow, VT
October 7, 2017
Fishers Island, N.Y. — Richard Baker passed away peacefully on Oct. 21, 2017, with his three children and family members at his side. He was known as Dick Baker to all of his friends and family. Dick lived his entire life on Fishers Island and loved every aspect of island life. He attended his church, the Union Chapel, just the previous Sunday before his passing.

Dick was born and raised on Fishers Island by his parents, Harold and Gladys Baker. His wife, Pat Baker, passed away 10 years ago. He is survived by his daughter Penny Columbus; sons, Rick and Jim Baker; son-in-law, Tim Columbus; daughters-in-law, Susan and Diane Baker; and eight grandchildren, Alex Columbus (Charton) and Ben Columbus. Molly Baker (Houser), Tripp Baker, Lilly Baker, Teddy Baker (the four children of Richard Baker), as well as Carolyn Baker (Selwood) and Kristina Baker (children of James Baker). He also had two great-grandchildren, Jack Charton and Madelaine Baker.

Dick was a past president of the Fishers Island Utility Company, as well as past general manager of Fishers Island Development Company, and also was deeply involved as a leader in the Fishers Island community that he and Pat loved so much. He was a long standing member of the Fishers Island Fire Department with over 50 years of service, as well as treasurer of the Union Chapel during the same time period. He was involved in many charities, a member of the local school board, and an integral member of the HL Ferguson Museum. Dick received his BA in engineering from the University of Rhode Island. From there he served in the U.S. Army and was in active duty in Europe during WWII.

His hobbies included fishing, particularly from his boat the Egret, hunting waterfowl, bird watching and collecting antique decoys. He was actively involved in raising money for Ducks Unlimited which supports the protection of waterfowl and their habitats.

The service for Dick will be held at 1 p.m. on November 4, 2017 at Fishers Island Union Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Fishers Island Fire Department, PO Box 123, or the Island Health Project, PO Box 344 (or islandhealthproject.com), both at Fishers Island, NY 06390

Dad loved Fishers Island and, if islands could reciprocate, Fishers Island loved him. His life and legacy will be part of Fishers Island forever.

~ The Baker Family

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed! Union Chapel has a wish list of weekly and monthly tasks that are important to this year-round church. These tasks also qualify as Community Service hour requirements if need be.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering should contact Union Chapel at 788-7898 with their information, and the church’s volunteer coordinator will contact them. Thank you in advance!

WEDDING

Rebecca Stewart & Philip Stewart
Fishers Island, NY
October 21, 2017

ENGAGEMENT

Annie Harvey and James Maher
in Brooklyn Heights, NY
August 23, 2017
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

It has been hard to put the garden to bed this year in this lovely long Indian summer. I cut back daylilies that were looking sad a couple of weeks ago and now they have lovely new green leaves! The November full moon is going to be on the 4th and that is often the night of the first frost, it will be interesting to see if it will so be this year.

Bulbs that I ordered should be arriving shortly to be planted before the ground really freezes. I have found that Oriental and Asian lilies have done well and I have ordered additional ones to spice up the flowerbeds, along with some daffodils to naturalize in the field. I have never had luck with crocus because the rabbits and mice love to eat them. However, the little thieves seem to leave hyacinths and grape hyacinths alone, but love to feast on tulips. So tulip bulbs need to be planted in a fenced area often in a wire cage, which I find much too much work! I have had some luck putting mothballs around the bulbs when I plant them, but that is often hit or miss. I usually order a few extra bulbs to force, but last year I was on vacation when it was the right time to bring the pots into the house; I removed the bulbs that were starting to sprout from the pots and placed them in some outdoor planters in the early spring. That worked quite well. We had lovely bulbs flowering around Easter.

November is also a good month to walk around your property with a pen and pad of paper to write down notes of what you would like to accomplish next year so that in the spring you are ready to get to work on the jobs that could not be done during winter.

Some thoughts might be:
Do you want to move some plants?
Add perennials to your flowerbeds?
Which borders need to be properly edged?
Do you need additional soil for raised beds?
What container plants worked and which did not?
What invasive vines or plants need to be removed?
Would pruning up a tree or cutting it down improve a view?
Is there underbrush to be removed?
What shrubs and trees should be fertilized?
Make a 2018 gardening calendar writing down the proper times that different chores should be done and check them off once completed. This is one option that some find helpful as a starting point: UMASS Extensions Garden Calendar

In ending the gardening year this month, I realize even more that there is no perfect way to grow anything. Each year is different, depending on the elements. One year a plant is glorious only to be mediocre the next and you ask yourself – was it fertilizer, wind, drought, disease or perhaps – the lack of care?

A gardener is always questioning, but I do know that working in a flowerbed is very therapeutic in this challenging world. It is a place where you can allow your mind to wander in a meditative way. You can change things around in a garden if they don’t work, which is often difficult to do in life. So maybe it is our desire to try to control the uncontrollable that we find gratifying, but gardens can’t be completely controlled due to nature’s whims and that probably teaches us good lessons about life.
Please join us November 10 for the 
Fishers Island Union Chapel & Our Lady of Grace 
COMMUNITY TACO DINNER 
at Union Chapel 
The community dinner will start at 6:00 pm. 
Please bring a gift for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection.

**Fishers Island Theater Department**
**Presents**

**A NIGHT OF ONE ACT PLAYS**
by Ellanora Lerner
Date: November 16, 2017
Time: 4:15 PM-7:00 PM
Location: FIS Gymnasium
Admission by Donation

**SENIOR LUNCHEONS ~ OCTOBER 2017-MAY 2018**
Everyone over 60 is invited to join us! Luncheons are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Most are held at the Union Chapel. Enjoy a delicious home cooked meal, monthly door prize/raffle, seasonal table settings, and interesting conversation.

Please call Heather Burnham if you would like to be added to the list at 788-7662.

Save these Upcoming Dates: Nov 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19, and May 17

**FI COMMUNITY CENTER’S ANNUAL TURKEY TROT**
Thursday, November 23
8:15 registration, 9:00 Run Walk.
Register at the FICC beforehand.
Island Café will be offering breakfast fare.

**FERGUSON MUSEUM**
11th Annual Thanksgiving Trail Clearing & Clean Up
Plus “Oyster After-Party”
Friday, November 24, 2017
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Meet at the Museum before proceeding to the Nature Trails or beaches for clearing/cleaning.

All trail blazers are invited to a post-clearing party AT THE MUSEUM from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to enjoy drinks and oysters.

Thanks to Fishers Island Oyster Farm, Summer Shuckers and Bottlerocket.

**BIRTHS**

Jessica Joy Smith to Adrienn & John Smith
September 18, 2017

Mia Nicole Johnson to Briana McCarthy Johnson & Brad Johnson
October 7, 2017
MEMBERS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AND
VETERANS
Fi Legion Post 1045’s new night
for meetings is the 1st Thursday
of the month @ 5:30 pm
November 2
December 7

ISLAND COMMUNITY
BOARD MEETING
5:30 November 13
5:30 December 11
@ the Community Center.
Community members are
welcome and encouraged to
attend the ICB meetings.

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
November 9
Zeitoun
by Dave Eggers

FIRE & WASTE MGMT.
DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS
ELECTIONS
DECEMBER 12, 6:00-9:00PM
@ THE FIRE HOUSE

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, photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Editor Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or finyinfo@gmail.com.
Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com. FIND ALL THE NEWS, STORIES, PHOTOS & EVENTS AT WWW.FISHERSISLAND.NET

AFTER THE STORM ~ NOVEMBER 2017

11/9/17: Thank you to all for the post-storm clean up effort. Trees down, power and Internet out. It was all hands on deck!
Photo credit: Jane T. Ahrens