Fellow Fishers Islanders: The Island Community Board (ICB) continues to do good things on behalf of Fishers Island, helping to create a central forum for the discussion of key island issues and creating a stronger voice for those issues and opportunities with the Town of Southold. You can read more about the range of ICB’s activities on FishersIsland.net.

Among ICB’s priorities identified by Fishers Islanders is the repair/support of some of the island infrastructure including roads and sidewalks, many of which are in extremely poor condition. Yet even after years of efforts, we were all very disappointed to learn last fall that the Town of Southold’s 4-year highway plan does not include any repairs on Fishers Island. The full plan published November 1, 2016 can be found on the SoutholdLocal.com website by searching ‘highway superintendent presents comprehensive four year paving plan’.

The ICB is now working with Town of Southold Supervisor Scott Russell to address this oversight. To that end, we have developed a petition that will elevate the issue with the Town’s leadership. Please consider SIGNING IT AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE but before March 20. This may be done online at https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/fisidewalks or in person on hard copy at the Fishers Island Community Center lobby. We encourage you all to participate in this community process. It’s not controversial and will help us get our infrastructure repaired.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Island Community Board, which represents the interests of the entire island community to the Town of Southold and beyond.

The Island Community Board
The Land Trust of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum is pleased to announce the donation in late 2016 of two undeveloped parcels of property which will now be held in perpetuity in their natural, undeveloped state.

The first, donated by Henry and Margaret King, consists of over one acre and is designated as FIDCO lot 2-1. It is located on the North side of the East End Road.

The second, donated by Chris Rafferty and Kathleen Lamborn, consists of almost three acres and is designated as FIDCO lot 32-2. It is located on the East side of Clay Point Road.

If you are considering a possible donation of land to the Land Trust, please contact Museum Vice-President Bob Miller at rjmiller@daypitney.com. Total acreage protected from development under Land Trust auspices, either directly or through conservation easements, now exceeds 330 acres, more than 15% of the Island’s land mass when you exclude the surface area of the major ponds.

**A RIVER OTTER RUNS THROUGH IT**

With tips from Community members, our Island Naturalist finally met River Otter in our unsuspected Duck Pond. All Drivers please use caution, all pedestrians please respect unique local habitat. To view the video by Justine Kibbe, please visit [http://fishersisland.net/river-otter-runs/](http://fishersisland.net/river-otter-runs/)

“Suitable habitat for river otters is any wetland that provides adjacent bank vegetation, burrow sites, and a food supply. Otters can be found in streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. During the winter, they may leave ponds and lakes that freeze over for the open water of rivers and streams.

Burrows may be constructed in the bank or in submerged trees. They will also use the abandoned burrows of other animals including beaver lodges. Factors that are considered in a den site location are food availability, cover, water supply, and human activity. Though otters will commonly “scent” or mark their territories, they generally do not fight in defense of this area.

River otters can be seen at any time of day but are considered to be nocturnal, or most active at night. They are not social. A group may be comprised of a female and her young. Generally, the males live separately except during the breeding season.

They are very intelligent and show a great curiosity and playfulness. Excellent swimmers and divers, a common activity is sliding into the water along riverbanks, seemingly just for pleasure.” ~ www.vtfishandwildlife.com
And so it happened on February 16, 2017 – the Coast Guard annual mandated Man Overboard Drill – off the Munnatawket on the 11:30 run to the Island. For those patient passengers on board, it was, “something you just don’t see every day, but it is great to know our crew is so capable in this regard.”

Although it was definitely a team effort, as many of the FI Ferry personnel participated, Operations Supervisor Jon Haney had the responsibility of preparing for this major Coast Guard inspection. He reported, “We passed with flying colors because of the professionalism and dedication of our captains, our crew, and our staff.”

Jon Haney wrote to this editor and explained further:

The crew did an outstanding job throughout the entire inspection. Every year each vessel is required to undergo an annual Coast Guard inspection in order to renew our COI (Certificate Of Inspection) allowing us to carry passengers, freight, and vehicles. This year was our 5-year inspection, same intention as the annuals but much more thorough.

The captain and crew were aware of the mandatory drill which is usually done in between our scheduled runs, without passengers or vehicles aboard. This year, however, we ran out of time before the 1130 NL→FI trip due to sprinkler and firefighting drills, bilge suctions, routine safety equipment checks, etc. Once we got underway we were at the mercy of the Coast Guard’s timing, when and where they decided…completely random, as it would be in a real situation.

Chris Newell actually did have to go into the water, he donned our mustang suit which is appropriate for cold water temperatures. We have a MOB bag (Man Overboard) on each vessel with all of the necessary equipment to facilitate a successful rescue. Its contents include the Mustang suit, a thermal blanket, PFD’s, lanyards to attach to the crewman entering the water and another for the victim being rescued and a spotlight for night time rescues. The current water temp is 47.7°F.

I’m not quite sure how long it took to complete the drill, but it certainly was within Coast Guard standards, and I’m sure we can always improve. There was a tool not pictured called a “shepherd’s pole” which is pretty similar to a pool cleaning skimmer except it has a round metal hoop which can wrap around the victim in the water.

It’s always a team effort around here and we’re only as strong as our weakest link.

“The strength of our crew is each individual member. The strength of each member is our crew.”

Jon Hiller (Captain), Chris Newell (Senior Deckhand) and Chris Dorsett (Deckhand) participated with me.

Best,

Captain Jon Haney

And, in case anyone asks, the dummy’s name is Oscar. Oscar is the name of the signal flag that traditionally is hoisted when you have a man overboard situation.

A few of our lucky passengers were kind enough to share their photos with us. Photos by David Johnson; a video by Tom Patterson and edited by Henry Patterson (with more photos by David) can be found on FishersIsland.net.
IN MEMORIAM: ALFRED RICHARD ‘DICK’ GREBE, JR.

Alfred Richard ‘Dick’ Grebe, Jr. of Fishers Island passed away peacefully on February 9th, 2017 at his home. He was born on July 6, 1944, the son of Alfred and Mary Cyr-Grebe of Fishers Island.

Dick owned and operated “Dick’s Garage” for over 40 years. It began as an automotive repair shop and evolved into mainly excavation and heavy equipment services. He also served as a constable for 27 years, fire chief and was an active member of the American Legion.

Dick will be remembered as a kind, hardworking man who lived life to the fullest. He was the embodiment of Fishers Island, the place that he loved and remained for his entire life. His passing will forever leave a sense that something is missing.

Dick is survived by his wife Beth Stern-Grebe of Fishers Island, sons Dennis Grebe and his wife Alicia of Waterford, and Eric Grebe of Norwich; his granddaughters Emily Grebe and Olivia Watrous; his niece Mary Lee Tyler and nephew Michael Wall.

He was predeceased by his sister Eileen Wall on July 29, 1998.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Island Health Project, PO Box 344, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Funeral services and interment will be private.

Beth, Dennis, and Eric invite all to share the celebration of Dick’s life to a reception at the Alfred R. Grebe American Legion Post 1045 on Fishers Island, NY on Saturday, February 18 at 1:00 pm. Please come to share the adventures you’ve had with Dick.

IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET “PEGGY” O’CONNOR PARTCH

Margaret “Peggy” (O’Connor) Partch of Marlborough, MA and Fishers Island, NY died Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Marlborough Hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was 88 years old. She leaves her husband of 44 years, Gil Partch; and her children, Patricia Norton and her husband Glen of Boonville, IN and Fishers Island, NY; Pegi Everett and her husband Glenn of Marlborough; Pamela Chatham and her husband Mark of Charlton, MA; George “Chip” Griffin and his wife Carolyn of Maui, HI; Laurie Finan and husband Chris of Fishers Island, NY; Greg Partch and wife Dawn of Staten Island, NY; Doug Partch of Staten Island, NY; and Jeff Partch and his fiancée Kandy of Berkley Springs, WV. Peggy also leaves nineteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Her siblings Mary, Annette, Leona, Charles, and Phylis predeceased her.

Peggy was born in Lynn, MA, daughter of James P. and Leona (Gamache) O’Connor and has lived in Marlborough for more than 50 years. She graduated from Lynn Classical High, Class of 1946, and from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School with a degree in cosmetology. Peggy was the owner of Hair West Family Styling for more than 20 years and previously worked in Maynard, MA.

During her time spent on Fishers Island, Peggy was a member and past president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 1045. For more than 20 years she was the lead soloist at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on the island. She enjoyed traveling and eating out. Most of all, her family was her life and she was at the center of it.

Following cremation, calling hours and the funeral service were held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at the John P. Rowe Funeral Home Inc., in Marlborough. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory to Salvator Padula, Chapter 82 of the D.A.V., P.O. Box 229, Marlborough, MA 01752.

The family has a special request: We heard there may be a recording of Peggy’s voice singing at a wedding or special event on Fishers. If anyone knows of one, we would love to be able to have a copy of it. You can contact Patricia (Griffin) Norton at (812) 480-2050 or Amy Harris on Fishers Island at (812) 483-3464 or ah154@evansville.edu.

Many thanks to all for the thoughts and condolences,
The family of Peggy O’Connor (Griffin) Partch
HISTORIC IOD CLASS FINDS STABILITY AND SUPPORT

By sailingscuttlebutt.com
Published February 14, 2017

The International One-Design class celebrates 80 years of continuous active boat racing in 2017, and with this anniversary comes a new status. At the 2016 Annual Conference of World Sailing in Barcelona, a 39-0 vote of the Board sealed the re-acceptance of the IOD Class at World Sailing.

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This move returns the class to being designated as a World Sailing Class Association, a status that comes with perks and strings attached. But as the IOD class report details, the class sees the relationship as a win-win.

Photo Caption: IOD Worlds hosted by Fishers Island Yacht Club in September 2013.

TBT: 1903 TAX INQUIRY LETTER TO SOUTHOLD

Mr. Wm. Y. Pithian, Town Clerk,
Southold, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Sir:

We would like to ask you if you can furnish us with the amount of taxes that have been paid on Fishers Island from 1890 to 1897, the total amount for each year. From 1897 to the present Mr. Wilbur has given us the following totals:

- 1897: $1866.28
- 1898: $1646.58
- 1899: $1412.79
- 1900: $2082.44
- 1901: $1709.16
- 1902: $2933.98
- 1903: $3040.18

We wish this to also include the highway taxes that cover the entire period and also what the Town has paid in return for the 13 years in all sums to Fishers Island, this to cover Board of Health and current expenses. Please make the above schedule so that we can receive same by the 15th inst.

As this is election day we hope you will meet with favorable returns from same.

Yours very truly,

E. M. & W. Ferguson,
Per _Sup't.

BIRTHS

Logan Ferguson Briggs Jan 13, 2017
to Alex and Brett-Ashley Briggs

Elizabeth Jane ‘Ellie’ Morgan Feb 13, 2017
to John and Megan Morgan

THANK YOU FROM THE GREBE FAMILY

We want thank everyone who helped organize the reception and for being present for the Celebration of Life for Dick Grebe.

Each of you made the day reflect much of his character and life. It was a meaningful tribute.

As difficult as it was, the whole day was lovely and meant so much to the three of us.

Dennis, Eric and Beth Grebe
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

I think that February is my favorite winter month because it is the beginning of ten hours of daylight, which is the signal to our plants to start a new growing season. You can resume watering your Clivia and begin to bring the bulbs you have forced into the house. It is also the month to check houseplants for bugs and give them a good cleaning in the shower. And, for extra insurance, spray them with insecticidal soap, if necessary.

February is also the time to start ordering seeds and planning your garden. Just recently the rusty-patched bumblebee (Bombus affinis) became the first bee in the United States to be protected under the Endangered Species Act to prevent its extinction. The native bee is an important pollinator of wildflowers and food crops. The Xerces Society stated that their numbers have decreased by 87% due to “factors like disease, habitat loss, and insecticide use”. How can gardeners help turn around this decline? The Xerces Society recommends the following to create a habitat for healthy bees:

“Plant Native forage flowers for adult bees from early spring through fall; A bee-safe yard that doesn’t have diseases or pesticides on flowering plants; A secure place for bees to build their nests and over winter.”

“Several different plant species flowering at the same time; A combination of flowering annuals and perennials; Flowers of different sizes, shapes, and colors.”

Many of us will not have the space to plant “blocks” this large, but putting together a combination of appealing bright colored plants that bees love should definitely help.

Spring: Flowering Fruit Trees, Crocus, Daffodils, Tulips and Lilac
Summer & Fall: Peony, Wisteria, Honeysuckle, Asters, Black Eyed Susan, Bachelor Buttons, Bee Balm, Cosmos, Gaillardia, Golden Rod, Loosestrife, Nepeta, Sedum and Sun Flowers
Vegetables: Broccoli in flower, Tomatoes and all the squash family
Herbs: Basil, Lavender, Mint, Sage and Thyme
Berries: Blackberries, Strawberries, and Raspberries

The Xerces Society has put out a book, 100 Plants to Feed The Bees, which can be a guide to all of us. Happily, Fishers Island has many plants growing in the wild that pollinators love, but we all should encourage them to come into our gardens, even if we only plant containers that will attract them. It is also of vital importance, with our hotter and drier summers, that we provide a water source like a birdbath. But remember, the water should be replenished regularly to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes, an insect that nobody wants to encourage! If each of us does our part, I am sure the number of native pollinators will increase on our Island.
NEEDED: IPP MORNING PROGRAM COUNSELORS
The Island People's Project is looking for energetic, caring and creative teens to be counselors for the Morning Program this summer. Working as a counselor not only gives you the chance to earn some money over the summer, but also to make friends with other people who love Fishers Island, and gain experience working with children. Learn more at fishersisland.net/ipp-morning-program-needs-counselors/

LIBRARY OPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION!
While the front room is being transformed, the back room is open for business! Popular and classic titles available for circulation, along with DVDs, children’s books, puzzles, magazines and more. And, we are starting to move back into the new front room. Our Librarian Ann Banks would like to thank the community members and the students who have put up with the construction inconveniences of the past few months but it will be totally worth it! We are here so come on by! Just come up the ramp on the right side of the building.

CAPTAIN ELMA BURNHAM
Elma Burnham, Fishers Island native and Alaskan skiff captain, will share her experiences as a salmon fisher in Bristol Bay, Alaska, home to the world’s largest wild salmon run, on March 16, 2017 in Mystic at Latitude 41 Restaurant at 1:30 & 7:30 pm Mystic Seaport. Contact the Seaport for ticket information.

UNION CHAPEL’S OPEN BOOK GROUP
will be reading and discussing Consequence: A Memoir by Eric Fair on Saturday, March 18 @10:00 at the Parsonage

Everyone is most welcome to join in the conversation.

CHECK OUT THE CLASSIFIEDS
Many job openings and items are listed on FishersIsland.net (in Classifieds at the top right). Full-time, seasonal and part-time opportunities are listed from a wide variety of companies and island organizations – for all ages. Please check them out and spread the word!
Save the Dates:
Visit http://fishersisland.net/events/ for all upcoming FI events.

Senior Lunch
@ Union Chapel

Senior Luncheons
Join us for lunch this fall. Everyone over 60 is invited!
Thursday, March 16
Thursday, April 20
Volunteer Cooks for April and May are welcome!
Contact Heather Burnham

Library Book Group
March 9:
A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley

School Principal Search
The FI Board of Education invites an inspiring, community-minded educator with a passion for public education to take our unique school to the next level and be part of our inmate community.
Application deadline: March 12

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
March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3

Library
The Beach Plum
20% OFF 20 Day Sale
FREE Shipping

Heather is celebrating 20 years @ The Beach Plum
Online Sale runs 20 days!
February 23-March xx

Senior Luncheons

Fathers 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’, have 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.

Please consider supporting the FishersIsland.net Annual Fund. For more information, please contact Editor Jane Ahrens at finyinfo@gmail.com, (631) 788-7487, or visit www.fishersisland.net/fishersisland-net-valentine-annual-appeal/