Fishers Island
FOG HORN

FISHERS ISLAND
FISHERS UTILITY SEEKS TOWN OK FOR MORE WORKER HOUSING

Suffolk Times / Times Review by Kelly Zegers, September 21, 2017

The Fishers Island Utility Co. is stressing a need for year-round housing for its workers, which it says is critical to its services and the safety of an island reachable only by water or air.

At last Tuesday’s Southold Town Board work session, utility company president Chris Finan and board of directors member Tom Siebens proposed changing the single-family residential zoning at properties it owns to Hamlet Density zoning. This would allow four units to be built per acre.

While the town continues to grapple with how to address a lack of affordable housing, Fishers Island, which is 11 miles from the mainland, demonstrates an urgent need that comes down to what Mr. Finan called “a life safety issue.”

“We need the people that have the ability to isolate dangerous situations and address them as quickly as possible,” Mr. Finan said Tuesday. If the island, which is about nine miles long and a mile wide, were hit with conditions similar to what Florida experienced during Hurricane Irma, having no utility workers there “could be a very serious issue,” he said.

The company wants to provide housing for about 15 of its 20 employees. In the past, it has provided “on-call” housing for workers, but that has not offered the best quality of life in a “constrained environment,” Mr. Finan said.

“Ideally, we want to have people who live here year round become involved in the EMT and fire department in addition to being part of the utility company,” he said. “Over the years, through attrition and that kind of thing, we can’t expect when somebody leaves that somebody else has an ability to purchase the houses because they’re just way out of most people’s means.”

Initially, the utility company will try to achieve the zoning change on a vacant 1.78-acre parcel and “learn as we go” as its works with the town moving forward on other properties it owns.

“Affordable housing in general is very critical out here, whether it’s for utility company employees or for other people,” said Town Board member and Fishers Island resident Louisa Evans.

The Fishers Island School also has some housing for employees, but not enough, she noted. Many of the teachers who live on the island also provide fire and EMT services and Ms. Evans hopes employees of the utility company could do the same.

The town code committee will review a proposal to create affordable housing options through zoning exemptions. Supervisor Scott Russell said the challenge of being able to retain young workers is one all businesses within the town are dealing with. He called the utility company’s proposal “innovative” and said that while he likes the idea, he wants to know more.

“This is an issue that’s proven difficult to come up with solutions, so any ideas really need to be put on the table and thoroughly considered,” Mr. Russell said.

Southold Town recently released a video with the goal of addressing misconceptions about affordable housing and the townwide need for it. The town is currently drafting a code change to allow apartments as principal uses in commercial zones, the supervisor noted.

The utility company’s proposal would go first to the Planning Board for recommendations and input, then to the Town Board to set up code committee meetings to devise a draft that could go out for public hearing, Mr. Russell said.
The Ferry District is bringing back two-way passenger ticketing beginning October 1st. All passenger ticket pricing will remain the same, and there is no pricing change for autos. See the complete policy below.

The Ferry District recognizes that some passengers will have purchased Round Trips and may not have left the island prior to October 1, 2017. The Ferry staff will be flexible with customers as they get accustomed to the new policy after October 1.

To: All Fishers Island Ferry Customers
Re: Effective October 1, 2017, Change in Ticket Policy

Passenger Tickets
• Passengers purchasing round trip passage at the New London Terminal will be issued one ticket. The ticket will be hole-punched by a deckhand while under way, and returned to the passenger for use on their return trip from the Island.
• Round trips only originate from New London.
• Passengers from Fishers Island will utilize the same round trip ticket for return passage and present that ticket to a deckhand when disembarking the ferry at New London. Passengers who do not present a ticket will be directed into the New London ticket office for purchase.
• Seasonal and resident pricing remains unchanged for round trip tickets.
• Commuter books will still be offered at existing discounts, and hole-punched as above.
• Tickets will be sold at the Ferry terminals in New London and on Fishers Island during normally scheduled hours.
• A One-way passenger ticket costs $15 regardless of seasonal pricing or residential status. One-way tickets will only be used when leaving the Island and presented when disembarking at New London.
• One-way passenger tickets will be also be available for purchase at kiosks located at the Fishers Island Ferry Terminal waiting room and at the Village Market.
• Fishers Island School students (K-12) traveling by Ferry from New London will receive one round trip ticket per day and must show a school ID for their return trip.
• Visiting team members attending a FI School sporting event will receive one round trip ticket per day.

Vehicle Tickets
• Automobiles are unchanged. Tickets will be hole-punched to show that it has been used, and turned in when getting on a ferry at New London. An auto ticket is not required for return travel.

Other Notes
• On Board ticket sales will not be offered at this time.
• Old tickets and ticket books can be exchanged one for one at the New London terminal until 6/1/2018 at which date they will be expired.
• The Ferry is looking forward to streamlining its ticketing process by incorporating better technology in the future.

The Fishers Island Ferry District reserves the right to amend the Ticketing Policy at any time.
**A NEW ORGAN FOR ST. JOHN’S CHURCH**

**Background:** St. John’s Episcopal Church has a long history of loving care for its church building and grounds. Even in this modest summer chapel, all enjoy a lovely Louis Comfort Tiffany window, hand-stitched kneelers, brick paths winding through thoughtfully planted gardens, and the remains of an E.M. Skinner Organ (installed in 1929) once considered the height of American musical craftsmanship. After careful consideration, and in respect to the long-term stewardship of the church’s physical resources, the vestry decided to replace the instrument with a pipe organ that will last for generations. The current Skinner organ was a very fine instrument, but almost 90 years of damp, salty, seaside climate and unheated winters have taken their toll. Repairs were increasingly costly and less effective.

**Details of the New Organ:** A pipe organ produces sound in much the same way as the human voice – by passing pressurized wind through a tunnel or pipe. Congregations feel better supported and in turn sing more robustly when contributing their own breath to that of a pipe organ. The congregation is literally surrounded by its own distinctive and supportive voice.

The replacement organ, being built by Bigelow Organ Co. of Salt Lake City, Utah, is known as a “tracker” with mechanical, rather than electrical, connections between the keys and the pipes. The wooden connections are not vulnerable to corrosion and can readily be replaced. Further, no components will run through the St. John’s Church basement as they had with the Skinner organ. Everything will be centrally contained above ground. St. John’s new organ will be Bigelow’s 42nd, hence the name Bigelow Opus 42. Tracker organs have been built for centuries and with proper care can last indefinitely.

**Process:** The first step from old to new came in mid-September 2017 with the removal from the church building of the Skinner Opus 799 and all its assorted pipes and parts. The Skinner removal effort was coordinated by a Boston-based crew including Joe Sloane, owner of Joe Sloane Pipe Organs along with Amory Atkins and Dean Conroy from the Organ Clearing House. Mike Bigelow and his wife Beth arrived from Salt Lake City to collect some important pipework from the Skinner that will be repurposed into the new instrument.

Joe, Amory, and Dean worked together to dismantle the Skinner and each part that could be repurposed was carefully packed for transport either to Boston or to Salt Lake City. The wealth of knowledge these gentlemen have about organs, and their willingness to share it with others, is proof positive they love what they do. Many of the salvaged components from the Skinner organ including bellows, swell shades and pipes that were shipped to Boston may conceivably find new homes in restored Skinner organs across the United States.

Mike and Beth returned to Salt Lake City with a truck filled with important wood pipes of all sizes, several sets of tin alloy pipes and the original St. John’s facade which will be incorporated into the new organ’s casework. In April 2018 the new organ will arrive from Utah and be installed in the church in time for the summer season.

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**CONSERVANCY’S FALL BIRD MIGRATION SURVEY RESULTS**

| American crow | Double-crested cormorant | Northern mockingbird |
| American goldfinch | Downy woodpecker | Northern parula |
| American kestrel | Eastern kingbird | Osprey |
| American robin | Eastern phoebe | Prairie warbler |
| Barred owl | Eastern towhee | Red-bellied woodpecker |
| Belted kingfisher | European starling | Red-wing blackbird |
| Black-capped chickadee | Gray catbird | Ruby-throated hummingbird |
| Black vulture | Greater black-backed gull | Saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow |
| Blue jay | Herring gull | Sharp-shinned hawk |
| Brown thrasher | House finch | Song sparrow |
| Canada goose | Mallard | Tree swallow |
| Carolina wren | Mourning dove | Tufted titmouse |
| Cedar waxwing | Mute swan | White-breasted nuthatch |
| Common grackle | Northern cardinal | White-eyed vireo |
| Common raven | Northern flicker | Yellow-rumped warbler |
| Common yellowthroat | Northern harrier | Yellow warbler |

9/24/17: 48 species of bird were recorded from 15 points. Led by Adam Mitchell, UofD PhD candidate, "The survey includes one threatened species (northern harrier) and two species of concern (osprey, sharp-shinned hawk) for the state of New York. Given the island’s proximity to the coast of Connecticut, we also report bird species that are classified as endangered, threatened, or species of concern for that state. The most abundant bird species observed was also the gray catbird (35 individuals). fishersisland.net/conservancys-fall-bird-migration-survey/
IN MEMORIAM: JOHN R. HESSE

John Ronald Hesse ("Jack"), loving husband, brother, father, and grandfather, passed away on August 7, 2017 at the age of 83. Born on November 16, 1933, Jack grew up in New Haven with his parents John Hesse and Helen Murphy. His father died when Jack was 19 years old.

Jack attended Hopkins School in New Haven followed by Mount Hermon in Gill, Massachusetts. He graduated Yale University in 1956, and Harvard Business School in 1959. Jack was a man of intellect, curiosity, and compassion. An avid reader, he was intrigued by politics, people’s lives, and their life’s accomplishments. He beamed at the sight, indeed any mention, of his children’s and grandchildren’s names. Jack was known for his green thumb, and found tranquility in gardening. He had a fondness for animals, especially dogs, and was a benefactor of the Buddy Dog Humane Society. He loved football, playing squash and tennis, and skating with his men’s hockey league until he was 63. Jack proudly attended, watched on television, or tuned in by radio to every Yale football game and every Yale hockey game from 1949 to 2014.

As an entrepreneur, investment banker, and venture capitalist, Jack founded, financed and led several successful horticultural and biotechnology companies. In 1968, Jack served as President, CEO and Chairman of American Garden Products, which he brought public. In 1981, he founded one of the first biotechnology venture capital firms, providing start-up financing to companies such as Amgen, Biogen, Celgene, IDEXX Laboratories, Genzyme, and Genentech. Jack served on the boards of IDEXX Laboratories, United AgriSeeds, Twyford International, Hannaford Brothers Company, Chromcraft Revington, and the Yale Development Board. He also served as Trustee and Executive Committee Member of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society and as Member of The Visiting Committee of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Jack established a bioscience scholarship fund at Yale in 1977, which continues to grant scholarships.

Jack and his wife Catha Prior Hesse met in New York City. They were married 54 years. After New York City, they resided briefly in Princeton, New Jersey, then moved to Weston, Massachusetts to raise their family. They spent many happy Summers on Fishers Island playing tennis, golf, and occasionally sailing Widgeons or Bullseys in West Harbor. Jack also served as President of The Hay Harbor Club.

Jack is survived by his wife Catha, their son Chris Hesse and his wife Merridith Minerd of Waltham, Massachusetts; their daughter Alicia Hesse-Cleary and her husband Rick Cleary of Concord, Massachusetts; his son John Hesse and his wife Kathleen Chambers of Denver, Colorado; and his sister Patricia Hesse and her partner Karen Mundy of Falls Church, Virginia. His grandchildren are Olivia Prior Cleary, Amelia Mallam Cleary, and Leona Skye Hesse.

A memorial service was held on Friday September 22 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, Massachusetts.

IN MEMORIAM: MORGAN P. SANGER

Morgan P. Sanger, age 66, died on September 21, 2017 at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

Morgan is survived by his wife, Adele, and three sons, Patrick, Stephen and Jamie. He is also survived by his stepson, Dana Miller and two granddaughters, Zoe and Skye Sanger.

Morgan was the fifth son of Dr. And Mrs. Grant Sanger. He is survived by his brothers, Michael and Alexander, and a sister, Anne. He was predeceased by his brothers, Peter and Stephen.

Morgan was the founding member, Captain and visionary of the Columbus Foundation and its flags, Nina and Pinta. Nina and Pinta were frequent visitors to Fishers Island, New London, Norwich, and Hartford. One of his proudest moments was being in the Parade of Sail on the Hudson River in 1992 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Americas.

A memorial service will be held at the Union Chapel on Fishers Island at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2017. Burial will be private.
IN MEMORIAM: WALLACE CALNEY

Wallace ‘Wally’ Calney 92, of Pinellas Park, FL formerly of Maplewood, NJ and Fishers Island, NY went to be with his heavenly father September 16, 2017.

Born August 1, 1925 in Boston, MA, he was a WWII veteran who served proudly in the US Navy. He was thrilled to go on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC with many of his fellow veterans in 2015.

His enjoyments included golf, dancing, and storytelling, which could entertain all of us for hours. He was affectionately known as “Uncle Wally” by many of the generation that he taught and inspired in his years as a teacher, coach, and mentor.

Wally was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Edwards and his son, Mark. He is survived by his son Gary, and daughter Marbeth Harvey and her husband Barry. He also leaves behind his longtime companion and best friend, Joan Gane.

Memorial service will be held at noon, Sunday, October 8 at the Liberty Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, FL. A memorial service will also be held this coming June 2018 at Fishers Island, NY for his many friends and family from that area at a date to be determined.

Published in the Tampa Bay Times on Sept. 24, 2017

IN MEMORIAM: ERIC R. GREBE

Norwich: Eric Richard Grebe passed away after a brief illness on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. Eric was born in New London on September 14, 1979. He grew up on Fishers Island. He also lived in Manchester, where he graduated from Manchester High School in 1997.

Eric leaves behind his brother and sister-in-law, Dennis and Alicia Grebe of Waterford; his nieces, Emily Grebe of New London and Olivia Watrous of Florida; and his longtime friend, Debbie Scheinblum of New London. He also leaves behind many close cousins and friends; and especially his beloved dog, Hanna.

Eric loved the ocean and he was passionate about his U.S. Coast Guard career, which he joined in 2001 and served on the Marcus Hanna in Maine. He was then stationed in New London before retiring.

Eric was predeceased by his father, Alfred “Dick” Grebe; and his mother, Renee Grebe (Royle).

Eric was a very loyal friend to many with a caring heart and will forever be remembered for his amazing sense of humor.

A brief Military Memorial Service for Eric R. Grebe [took] place on September 28, 2017 at the United States Coast Guard Chapel in New London, CT. A private burial at sea will follow in the upcoming weeks.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations payable to: The Coast Guard Foundation to benefit TRACEN Cape May. Please send gifts to Coast Guard Foundation, 394 Taugwonk Road, Stonington, CT 06378.

“Fair winds and a following sea”

Published in The Day on Sept. 14, 2017

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!

ISLAND BOWLERS...THE BOWLING LEAGUE IS BACK

The plan is to get the Bowling League up and running again in October!

If you have a team, let us know – or form a new team and join the fun!

Questions?
Contact the Fishers Island Community Center 788-7683.
October is the month to start cleaning up the garden and getting it ready for winter. This is difficult to do on Fishers Island because the growing season often continues into early November before we get our first frost. But many people on the Island “winter” other places and need to put their gardens in order before they leave. The flowerbeds should be left neat and tidy with all dead foliage removed, so diseases and little creatures don’t thrive all winter in the debris and damage the plants.

**Garden Clean Up Chores**

**Annuals** – all annuals should be removed from pots and flowerbeds and if not diseased placed in the compost pile.

**Asters** and other fall flowering perennials leave to be cut down in the spring, as long as the ground around them has been cleaned up and they show no sign of disease.

**Daylilies** – cut back to 3” and remove any dead interior leaves – if the plant looks too thick, dig it up the mound and separate the fans. Each fan will form a new plant. If daylilies become too thick they will not bloom.

**Dahlias** – need to be dug up and stored after a hard frost in a cool, but frost-free area. I have had pretty good luck storing the tubers in shredded newspaper in Styrofoam coolers.

**Iris** – all types of Iris should be cut down to about 3 inches and leaves discarded.

**Oriental lilies** – cut back the stem to 3 inches.

**Peonies** – all dying foliage should be removed and disposed of in a garbage bag to prevent botrytis from spreading.

**Roses** – will bloom well into the fall, but if you are leaving them unattended, cut back the canes, so they will be secure in the winter winds.

**Sedums** – just leave for fall color – ‘Autumn Joy’ can be cut back in the spring.

**Hydrangeas** – I have left for last because we have received a number of requests on how to prune them. Hydrangeas that bloom on old wood: Big Leaf, Mop Leaf and Lace Cap (Hydrangea macrophylla and H. senate) and Oak leaf (H. Quercifolia) are all early summer bloomers, should be pruned in mid summer, so they can set buds for next year. Cut old canes at their base and 1/3 of the plant can be removed to revitalize the bush. Hydrangea “cci can be pruned anytime. Hydrangeas, that bloom later in the summer, Panicle hybrids (H. paniculata) such as PeeGee and Limelight, which are often sold as trees, and Smooth Hydrangea (H. arborescens) such as “Annabelle” can be pruned later because they bloom on new wood.

Of course all of this doesn’t apply if the winter is particularly warm and buds are set too early and then frozen in a spring cold spell, which happened last year. In any event, it is good to remove all dead blooms, so they do not blow about throughout the winter. You cut the lovely purplish flowers in September, remove the leaves and put the hydrangeas in a vase full of water. As the water evaporates the flowers will dry and last for a number of winter months extending the feel of summer.
OFF SEASON AT THE LIBRARY
Library Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-7:00; Tuesday & Thursday 4:30-6:30; Friday 1:00-5:00; Saturday 9:00-12:00; Sunday CLOSED

Look for Ladies Craft-n-Coffee dates
on Sundays 2:00-4:00.
Bring a craft to work on and we supply tea or coffee.

Check out a new book – new arrivals keep on coming!

Please join us October 13 for the
Fishers Island Library & Union Chapel
COMMUNITY DINNER AND BINGO
at Union Chapel
The community dinner will start at 6:00 pm and BINGO will start at 7:00.
People are free to come by anytime after 6:00, until about 8:00 (while it lasts).

JOB OPENING: TODDLERS’ CHILDCARE
A group of mothers is looking for a part-time childcare assistant to conduct 2-3 hour educational sessions with three toddlers several times a week on Island. A perfect candidate will have a genuine interest in working with children; and will possess the ability to form warm, responsive relationships with the kids, such as a nursery school teacher would. The schedule of these sessions and compensation are negotiable. If interested, please call at 585-770-0568 or email at liashchyna@gmail.com.

SENIOR LUNCHEONS ~ OCTOBER 2017-MAY 2018
The new season starts Thursday, October 19 with the 1st lunch of 2017-2018! 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 dates too: Nov 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19, and May 17

THE LIGHTHOUSE WORKS FALL EVENTS
Open Studios and Reading
Saturday, October 7, 2017
Join us as we celebrate the closing of our Fall ’17 Session at Lighthouse Works. Our Fellows studios will be open from 11 to 1pm with a reading from Katherine Taylor at 12pm. All are welcome.

WEDDING
Jennie Encalada & Nick Malinowski
August 26, 2017
in Brooklyn, NY

ENGAGEMENT
Daniel Gillan and Kate Gardiner
August 26, 2017
on Fishers Island
Library Book Group

October 12
Goodnight Beautiful Women by A. Noyes

FI Community Center’s Annual Turkey Trot
Thursday, November 23

Election Day
November 7, 2017

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45 Minutes, Yet a World Away
Inside Race Rock Light
Ferry Safety Drill for FIS Orientation

61st FIYC Round Island Race
Filling NY Harbor w/millions of Oyster
H.O.G. 2017 Photo Gallery