The Fishers Island Library is embarking on a renovation project to restore and improve the building’s front room. The goal of the project, "Preserve, Transform and Strengthen," is to offer patrons a more functional, welcoming and contemporary space to read, work and relax. These improvements will enhance patrons’ ever increasing need for collaborative work space and access to outside resources and technology while preserving the charm of the iconic building.

The Library hosted a cocktail reception to kick off the campaign on Saturday, August 20th. More than 125 people were on hand to view renderings of the proposed project and hear about its progress from Board President Sheila Rauch Kennedy and Board Finance Chair Willard Soper.

The campaign has a goal of raising $250,000 for structural renovations, improved work and reading spaces, more comfortable furniture, better lighting, and upgraded technology. The Library’s fundraising efforts are off to a fast start! The Sanger Fund has committed to match every donation, dollar for dollar up to $40,000, to support this important work. In addition, an anonymous donor has come forward to match an additional $25,000. With the support of every member of the FILA Board of Trustees, the Library is now looking to the community to reach its goal.

For more information and to make a gift please visit our website at http://www.filibrary.org or feel free to contact Sarah Rose, FILA Fundraising Chair, at filatransform@gmail.com.
Faith for Fishers Island

By Rev. Candace Whitman

We live on an island that is unique and beautiful. It offers serenity, simplicity, and a sense of home that feeds our souls. Yet the time has come for us to mobilize toward revitalizing our island and ensuring that our way of life continues into the future.

Our dwindling year-round population is our key challenge. Without more affordable houses, more jobs, improved infrastructure, better access to healthcare, etc., it is too easy for people to choose to live elsewhere. It will soon be a struggle to find people to serve as firefighters, EMTs, or to volunteer on boards. In addition, we must heed the call for more intentional efforts at conserving our stunning natural setting, our wildlife and other assets that attract people here, summer and winter.

With these trends it is no surprise that discouragement has begun to take hold among residents. But to those who haven’t quite given up I say, hang on. If you’re frustrated, don’t lose hope. There are reasons to have faith that we can turn things around.

We can have faith because under Tom O’Neil’s excellent guidance, the ICB I am privileged to serve on is becoming more committed to making things work again. We are newly organized to multi-task. We have built up membership and investment in the ICB. And among the many encouraging developments, we are poised for a new, positive relationship with Southold.

We can have faith because we have at our fingertips recent, thorough proposals for restoring our population and our island. There are also other small towns in America who have used innovation to solve similar issues. With a little elbow grease, we can build upon what has been done, and apply some new strategies, too.

We can have faith even in the face of the resistance to change. Change is hard, especially in a community whose appeal is very much based on doing things the way we have always done them! Ironically, in my view, carefully considered change is actually the way to keep things the same. In other words, the forces of decay are at work, even here, where time seems to stand still. Embracing the new now means we have a chance at preserving what we cherish most.

The best case scenario would be the community coming together to articulate our shared values, and then working collaboratively to oversee the changes that would maintain those values.

We may not be there yet. But my faith for this island is strengthened by my belief in the power of persistence…and prayer. I include Fishers Island in my daily prayers, and ask for a spirit of hope to prevail, until we have made the changes necessary to realize our goals for our beloved island home.

ICB Election Results 2016

Welcome to our newest ICB board members, Nate Malinowski, Willard Soper and Meg Atkin! Both Nate and Willard begin three-year terms, and Meg will fill the remaining 1-year term of departing year-round board member Heather Burnham. It was a great election process with super participation among all ICB members, both year-round and seasonal. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the work of the ICB.
Exempts from Southold Local’s article on the annual meeting held August 3 on Fishers Island by Courtney Blasl

“Fishers Island community members expressed concern that their health needs are not being met under New York State insurance at yesterday’s annual Southold Town Board meeting held on Fishers Island.

Candace Whitman, a member of the Island Community Board, told town board members about someone she knew who recently had to pay out-of-pocket to get a prescription filled in New London, Connecticut since her New York State insurance was not accepted there.

“Due to our geography and our only direct transportation is to Connecticut, when we have to see a doctor or use services in New York state, it really leaves us in a lurch,” she explained.

New London is about a 20-minute ferry ride from Fishers Island. The only way for Fishers Island residents to get to Long Island is not by direct ferry, but to take the boat to New London and then a second ferry to Orient.

“For our families whose children are on the CHIP program, a federal program, they are required to see doctors in New York,” Whitman explained. “For seniors… when it comes to receiving home health services, after surgery, there’s no agency in Connecticut that will send someone to New York because it’s across the state lines.”

It can be costly just to do routine doctor visits as well, she said.

Whitman says their hope is to be able to get access to Connecticut health insurance, and hinted that she and Senator Ken LaValle and representatives from Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo and Governor Andrew Cuomo’s offices were “working towards a solution.”

For the full story of the day please visit - http://fishersisland.net/press-covers-annual-southold-town-meeting-fishers-island/
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

Years ago, when we lived in Bedford, NY, the children’s busy schedule didn’t allow me much time to work outside. I would take the cooking timer to the garden and put it on the fence trying to do as much work as I could before the bell rang and I had to stop to meet the school bus. This summer, with a houseful of grandchildren, I was back to “minute timer gardening”. Between children, the heat and the endless drought my garden really suffered. It was definitely survival of the fittest and that turned out to be primarily weeds! The vegetable garden suffered the most with the addition of four pheasants, who set up residence and enjoyed pecking at our ripe tomatoes. They also liked the squash-family seeds, which they picked out of the ground as quickly as I planted them. The plants that escaped were turnips, beets, lettuce and swiss chard. The dahlias, I so lovingly stored last winter, all grew into plants with singed leaves and no flowers. I am hopeful that as the temperature cools, they might produce some late blooms. But good old workhorse plants like autumn joy, day lilies and a variety of Asian lilies from John Scheepers all did well in spite of the lack of water. The roses were lovely in June, but never really got revved up for a second bloom later in the summer. The Copper King hibiscus in my field garden, were spectacular, but some insect shredded the leaves of the plants. Luckily they are viewed from a distance, so it really didn’t matter too much.

I think the drought has been the most serious problem for gardeners this summer and I was interested to hear from Tiggy Ski that she had great success growing vegetables in her vertical aeroponic Tower Garden http://tiggy.towergarden.com. This new method of growing is probably the way to go for all of us, if water shortages continue in our new “global warming”. Tiggy planted organic seeds in small “rockwool” cubes that are made to fit into the Tower Garden tubes. After a couple of weeks the seedlings were ready to put into the tower. At the base of the tower is a reservoir that holds 20 gallons of water. You put a nutrient blend into the water to feed the seedlings. The water solution cascades down the tower about every 15 minutes “delivering the ideal amounts of oxygen, water and nutrients to the plants.” In a couple of weeks the Ski’s were enjoying a variety of vegetables, greens and herbs. Tiggy said she would take a hose and shower the produce growing in the tower and then take a pair of clippers and cut off just what they wanted to eat that day. You can’t get fresher food than that and the water is continually circulated without depleting the Island water supply. The other bonus is that plants growing in the tower would certainly be a challenge for pheasants and rabbits to enjoy!
As the 2016 softball season came to an end, the Pirates Cove team won their bracket over the Islanders and the Big Club team won theirs versus Hay Harbor – so the playoffs for the championship began.

In the ‘best 2 of 3 series, Pirates Cove came back on August 23 to upset the Big Club and tied up the playoffs 2-2.

August 30 the Big Club team came out on top in a close game with the final score at 12-8.

Congratulations to all the teams for a great season and thank you to all the fans who came out to cheer them on.

Fishers Island community members and their pets joined Rev. Michael Spencer of St. John’s Church and Rev. Candace Whitman of Union Chapel for the Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, August 7 on the Village Green.

Over 20 pets came to the afternoon service, an annual tradition on the Island. It was lovely and vestry members from St. John’s also provided refreshments for 2 and 4 legged creatures.

Images of the Blessing of the Pets service for 2016 can be seen on FishersIsland.net.

The Fishers Island Utility Company is asking everyone to continue to conserve water.

Watering restrictions were put in place July 5 for irrigation and sprinkler systems.

Work continues on Sima I and Sima II for water supply to the island.

Thank you to all who have so generously contributed food, household supplies and funds to the Islanders for Islanders initiative this summer. Successful food drives and fundraisers were sponsored by the island churches. Donations continue to be gratefully received in the six bins located at the three churches, the ferry ticket office, the Shutter and Sails office and the Village Market.

In addition to being a food resource for the year-round community, the Islanders program now supplies healthy snacks for school children, provides “Super Suppers for Seniors” and offers small-scale support for job training.

Rev. Candace Whitman orchestrates the volunteers and resources to make this outreach possible on behalf of all the island churches. It is truly an example of Islanders supporting Islanders. Again, thank you to all who make this possible.

Lucinda Herrick
“Good evening everyone. For those of you who don’t know me, I am Chriffo Sanger president of Hay Harbor. As Mom always said… “if you are going to interrupt a perfectly nice cocktail party you best have something important to say, and for God’s sake keep it brief.”

First, I would like to offer a warm welcome to the Duggan and Gray families who have joined us tonight. I am thrilled that you are all able to be here. Secondly, I want to thank the party committee of Heather Burnham, Elizabeth Reid, Sharon Patterson and Chef Kenny Wollenberg along with the entire Hay Harbor staff for making tonight possible.

Tonight we gather to celebrate the combined 40+ years of tireless dedication of Dick Duggan and Bill Gray. In reflecting on their time at Hay Harbor, I found myself thinking about how much has changed, yet, being Fishers Island, how little.

A few notable events include – The pool was a year old when they arrived. The golf house wasn’t yet built. Sunset Deck evolved into an incredible dining experience under the care of Chef Kenny Wollenberg. Kayaking and paddle boarding was added. The staff has grown to over 100 in the peak of the season. The Harbor Striper program was created. The bathrooms were relocated to create more office and pro shop space. And perhaps, much to the wonder of Dick and Bill, the activity of stand-up paddleboard yoga has taken hold!

All the while, Dick and Bill have been steady champions of our modest progress and stewards of the values and character that make Hay Harbor so unique. They have kept the building standing, patched, repaired, sometimes begged, often borrowed, and not that I am aware of ever stolen!

Over the last few weeks, I have referenced the Club’s centennial book for some basic fact checking. As it turns out Dick is the 2nd longest serving manager in Club history. It seems Alexander Smyth was manager from 1909-1940, a 31-year run!

Through the years, Dick and Bill have seen it all. Missing staff, dryer fires, super storms, droughts, floods, oil spills, lost food deliveries, you name it. In fact every time I speak to either one of them, I hear another story, usually funny, sometimes horrifying, but always told with a smile and twinkle in the eye. Just this past week, I crashed the senior dinner. If you are over 65, this is the place for you. I learned that about 15 years ago, Dick’s wife Linda had started to meet more and more of the senior members. It was her observation that the Club should do something specific for them. And that was the creation of the senior dinner. Who knew? Dick and Bill have always been able to “roll with it”, and for that Hay Harbor has maintained it’s charm as a direct result of their unending care.

When I was asked to become president of the Club, Leslie Coleman and Charlie Wilmerding both assured me that it was going to be OK so long as the Club didn’t burn down and that Dick and Bill would stay on. While it’s hard to see Dick and Bill go, the reality of these two now spending their summers with THEIR families is much too compelling to argue.

As we lose two of our most senior staff, I am pleased to announce that both Dick Duggan and Bill Gray have been elected Honorary Members of Hay Harbor, and have the privilege of announcing a new award which will be presented at the August awards day in recognition of a staff member who has exhibited the tireless dedication, can do spirit, and good humor so embodied by Dick and Bill. This award will be named the Dick Duggan and Bill Gray Staff Award.

My allotted time has now expired and so I would like to raise a glass to Dick and Bill, and their families, and thank them for a “job well done”. Hay Harbor is a better place thanks to you. You will both be missed. Thank you!”
UPCOMING ICB MEETINGS:

Sept 19: 4:30-6, Conference Room, Community Center
Oct 8: 4:30-6, Multi-Purpose Room, Community Center

Saturday, September 24, 2016
FISHERS ISLAND BEACH CLEANUP
MEET AT THE COMPOST STATION
@ 7:30 AM AND RETURN BY 2:00 PM

ELIZABETH FIELD AIRPORT – 0B8 CLOSURE NOTICE

Lighting and Signage Repair Project
The Fishers Island Ferry District, as managers of Elizabeth Field, have been working closely with FEMA to correct the lighting and signage issues at the airport caused by hurricane Sandy. The funding is in place and the time has now come to get the work done. The Ferry District understands the inconvenience of this project and thanks everyone for their cooperation.

Please be advised that the FEMA airport Lighting and Signage Repair Project is tentatively scheduled for the period 9/26/16 through 10/16/16. The airport will be closed during this period from 0800 to 1900 and at night.

For more info visit: http://fishersisland.net/elizabeth-field-airport-0b8-closure-notice/

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

ID. YOUR PETS ON FI
Help keep pets safe and if lost they can be found – Pet owners need to do their part and ID their dogs and cats. Be sure to have a contact number (cell or Fishers house phone) and your pet’s name on the tags.

ELECTIONS 2016
September 13
State/Local Primary
November 8
General Election
6:00 am-9:00 pm
FI Community Center

FI COMMUNITY CENTER’S ISLAND CAFÉ
Come on down for dinner. Eat in or take-out.
Look for weekly specials this fall.

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
Thursday, October 13,
7-9pm
Book to be announced

ST. JOHN’S LAST SUMMER SERVICE
Sunday, September 18

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’, 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.

FISHERS ISLAND SCHOOL WELCOMES STUDENTS FOR 2016-2017

Margy Campbell Lamere Photo