In response to the need for improved communications with Fishers Island, NY (FINY), Southold Town has created a position for a liaison to help navigate the FINY/Southold obstacles. This position is the result of efforts by the Island Community Board (ICB). The ICB needed to have more administrative help and the town needed more information from the island about the unique challenges the island presents. The new liaison will help ICB in a coordinating role, keeping the island stakeholders apprised of what is happening in the community and hosting island-wide strategic discussions.

The new Neighborhood Aide for Southold Town will be Meredith Doyen. Meredith comes back to a familiar role, after having worked to help create the ICB (Island Community Board), formerly the Fishers Island Civic Association, in 2004 during her work with the Island Institute. She brings her experience with community planning from her Master’s degree, her work on FINY for 8 years and her non-profit management work to the job. Meredith hopes to talk to islanders about their concerns and help find solutions when possible. She will attend all public meetings of the taxing districts and other organizations as needed.

It is the goal of the Neighborhood Aide to be available to the community for questions and concerns. She will host office hours from a new office at the Island Community Center. The current plan is to be available on Tuesdays from 9:00am-4:00pm. Until a phone can be established at the Community Center, you can reach Meredith at 860-625-6654, this is a cell number, so please leave a message or feel free to text if need be. The email contact for the liaison is FINY.Southold@gmail.com

Meredith looks forward to getting acquainted and reacquainted with everyone who loves Fishers Island. Please feel free to reach out and visit with her. She will be working very closely with Town Board member Louisa Evans and the ICB to help move things forward for FINY. Learn more about her, read her Meet the Community profile.
In 2017, the H.L. Ferguson Museum, the Fishers Island Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy partnered to convene a Fishers Island community-based seagrass management (FISM) coalition. The goal of the coalition is to establish a co-management process for the island’s seagrass meadows, one in which the island community and the state would share seagrass management authority and responsibility. Their quarterly meetings are open to the public and begin with a presentation related to seagrass ecology and management.

Stakeholders present: Elizabeth McCance (Ferguson Museum); Pierce Rafferty (Ferguson Museum); Justine Kibbe (FI Conservancy); Tom O’Neill (ICB) (via phone); Marj Beck (Harbor Committee); Chris Edwards (Commercial Fishing); Steve Malinowski (Aquaculture); Chippy DuPont (Pirates Cove Marina); Dave Beckwith (Contracted ferries); Geb Cook (FI Ferry District); Heather Burnham (Business District); Dave Beckwith (Contracted ferries); Geb Cook (FI Ferry District); Dave Burnham (Landscapers); Tracy Brock (Diving); Joe Woolston (Recreational spearfishing) (on phone); John McCall (Recreational fishing); Chantal Collier (TNC).

Stakeholders not present: Louisa Evans (Town of Southold), Mark Terry (Town of Southold), Michael Domino (Town of Southold), P.B. Weymouth (FIDCO), Bob Tyler (Hay Harbor Club), Donnie Beck (Big Club), Carol Giles (FI School), Lincoln White (Recreational Boating)

Invited Speakers: Victoria O’Neill (NYDEC/LISS); Stephen Lloyd (TNC); Matias Tong (TNC)

Observers present: Candace Whitman (Union Chapel/ICB); Nicholas Hall, Betsy Conyer (FIS)

Presentation: Analysis and results of 2017 eelgrass extent/condition and boating surveys at Fishers Island

Matias Tong of The Nature Conservancy gave a presentation regarding a study conducted to determine the extent and condition of the eelgrass surrounding Fishers Island. The use of two different survey techniques—dive surveying by TNC and aerial imaging by the US Fish and Wildlife Service—provided important information on the location and health of eelgrass beds around the island. A few notable observations were: the dive surveys, conducted in early fall, found more eelgrass than the aerial surveys, which occurred in early summer, showing the seasonal growth of the eelgrass beds; also, there was patchiness in some of the meadows not visible on the aerial imaging, stressing the importance of ground-truthing.

He also discussed the results of a boating survey taken during summer 2017. Boating can have a variety of impacts from anchors and propeller scars. Scars can accumulate over time and have long-lasting effects, including increasing fragmentation, erosion and turbidity. Traditional moorings can also cause damage as their swinging chains can scrape up eelgrass, creating circular “scars” visible in aerial imagery. The boating survey, conducted by TNC, LightHawk and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, assessed the patterns of vessel use in the vicinity of the eelgrass beds by looking at the vessel composition, vessel location, and temporal trends (busiest days of the summer, weekend versus weekday). The results indicated that most boats identified in the survey were recreational powerboats, with high numbers on the north side of the island, where eelgrass beds are abundant. There was some overlap between boat use and both current and historic eelgrass extents. The survey also revealed that the two busiest days were Sundays, one in late July and one in late August. The information gathered in both the boating survey and eelgrass extent and condition survey is important for determining how to manage and protect the eelgrass habitats around Fishers Island.

Following his presentation, Matias suggested the following management strategies to help reduce the impacts of boating on the eelgrass beds:

- Boater Education & Public Outreach
- Zoning and Special Management Area
- Conservation Moorings

A full report on Matias’s findings will be made available in the next few weeks. Please email fishersislandseagrass@gmail.com if you are interested in receiving a copy. The next FISM Coalition meeting will take place in late January, with a specific time and date to come.

Are you interested in learning more about the FISM Coalition, or seagrass in general? Please contact Emily Bodell, FISM Project Coordinator, at fishersislandseagrass@gmail.com or call 631-788-7239.

Photo Credit: Chantal Collier (TNC) aerial survey 30JUL18; Adam Stake scuba
Hands-on, minds-on science investigations are the foundation of the Fishers Island science curriculum, and teacher Carol Giles utilizes the island’s natural environment as her students’ laboratory. She knows that learning is most powerful when students engage in authentic, real-world research.

Which is precisely why our school accepted the challenge of working with Dr. Thomas J.F. Goreau, President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance and Coordinator of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Small Island Developing States Partnership in New Sustainable Technologies and Rand Weeks, Electrical Designer/Engineer/Installer, to determine if we could develop oyster reef using the Biorock process on Fishers Island.

Biorock Technology “was originally developed by marine scientists Thomas Goreau and Wolf Hilbertz. The Biorock process involves passing an electrical current through a metal frame placed on the seabed. The process is simply the electrolysis of seawater, whereby low voltage electricity is used to promote the deposition of calcium carbonate and other minerals, which build upon the surface of the metal.” (Biorock…The Future of Reef Restoration, Matthew Oldfield, Zublu Insights, Sept. 2017)

Our students were involved in every step of the research, from the initial building of the geodesic domes to monitoring them on a regular basis. FIS graduates Thad Allen and Charles Snyder used the research as the basis of an entry to the CT science fair in their senior year. Mrs. Giles forwarded their report to Dr. Goreau who enthusiastically proclaimed that, “The data is very important because it clearly documents the effects of the Biorock process on oyster growth as a function of distance for the first time.”

Dr. Goreau has already shared his analysis of the Fishers Island data (see attached article) with his international colleagues of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, indicating that, “the results are very important, and should be published in the scientific literature as well as for public education.”

We could not have engaged in this groundbreaking research without the support of our island community. Donations of oysters from the Steve and Sarah Malinowski, water access we received from the Fowler family (phase 1) and Diane Dexter (phase 2), and funding from the Fishers Island Conservancy with assistance from Andrew Ahrens, and the Rural Schools Grant made this authentic research opportunity possible.

And as the true scientist that she is, Mrs. Carol Giles is already engaged in dialogue with Dr. Goreau about the next steps she and her students can take to further add to the research base on biorock technology.

Written & Submitted by Karen Loiselle Goodwin, Superintendent, Fishers Island School, October 4, 2018

To read the report and see more photos, please visit http://fishersisland.net/fishers-island-school-contributes-marine-science/
Re: Proposed improvements to the Fishers Island Waste Management facilities

Dear Fellow Fishers Island Residents:

The Board of Commissioners has received a significant number of comments, critique, and suggestions regarding the facilities and operations of the District’s waste management and improvements that were designed for them.

In light of these comments, the Board has stopped any further action on the plan that was proposed, and has withdrawn an application to the Southold Town Planning Board which was reviewing the proposed consolidation and improvements to the facilities.

At this point, the Board will proceed only with those work items which have been identified as safety issues or are mandated by regulation which warrant attention, repair and correction.

The Board will be forming a committee which will include members of the Fishers Island community (including year-round and seasonal residents) to review the operation and waste management facilities of the District. The committee will be asked to provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners with respect to the existing facilities and operations to ensure that community input is included as improvements to District facilities are considered. The Board will announce publicly when the committee will be formed.

In light of the Board’s decision to regroup and reconsider the District’s plans going forward with committee and community input, the meeting that was scheduled for November 26, 2018 has been canceled.

We look forward to your suggestions and comments, and we will continue to serve the Fishers Island community as we plan for the future here on the Island.

Thank you,

FIWMD

The American Legion Post #1045 on Fishers Island is raising funds to support rising seniors with a week-long summer experience at the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary’s Empire Girls State this summer. It is hoped that this will be the start of a new initiative of Post #1045’s continuing effort for community outreach and education.

Please contact Fishers Island’s American Legion Post #1045 between November 1 and January 1 for more information about the selection process.

Application deadline is March 1, 2019

Contacts for Fishers Island’s American Legion Post #1045
Patty Walker predo564@gmail.com, 404.694.1054
Tim Patterson timpattersonfi@mac.com, 860.908.0686
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

After a busy Thanksgiving, my mind is now turning towards Christmas and thoughts of presents to give. Each year I have put together a list of suggestions that would appeal to gardeners and lovers of the natural world.

Recently, I took one of my grandsons to the Natural History Museum in New York. After introducing him to the dinosaurs and the enormous whale in the wonderful biodiversity exhibit, we found ourselves in the gift shop – big surprise – where I bought him a wonderful book. It is “A Child’s Introduction To Natural History: The Story of Our Living Earth – From Amazing Animals and Plants to Fascinating Fossils and Gems” By Heather Alexander and Meredith Hamilton. Once home, we both enjoyed reading it together and I am sure I learned as much as he did. It can be found online at Amazon, Walmart, Target and more.

For older children and adults, I still recommend Nathaniel T. Wheelwright and Bernd Heinrich’s book “The Naturalist Notebook – Tracking the Changes in the Natural World Around You” which Nathaniel spoke about this summer at the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. It is a superb guide on how to observe nature in your own backyard and to record events that interest you…like the first snow in winter or when the Ospreys return in the spring. There is plenty of room to follow a number of natural wonders in a seasonal five-year journal.

And I also still suggest, for more senior readers, Penelope Lively’s “Life In The Garden”. It is a delightful memoir about the inspiration one gets from gardening. To quote Lively and to appreciate her wonderful gardening tonic for today’s complicated world. “The miraculous power of gardening; it evokes tomorrow, it is eternally forward-looking, it invites plans and ambitions, creativity and expectation.”

Then there are practical gifts for gardeners like Needle Nose Gardening Shears, found in almost every gardening supply catalog. You can never have enough of those if you misplace things in the garden as often as I do. And I particularly appreciated my husband’s gift last year of a “Deep-Seat Garden Kneeler” (www.Gardeners.com) which is a kneeler with high side handles that when turned over become the legs for a seat. It is a terrific aid to hoist up a more senior gardener like myself out of a flowerbed.

Many garden suppliers like Swan Island Dahlias have gift certificates you can buy or baskets of items like “A Veggie Gardener’s Gift Basket” which Gardeners Supply Co is offering for the vegetable gardener on your list. And finally, almost everyone likes to grow Paper Whites or Amaryllis Bulbs in the winter. John Scheepers has an excellent selection of healthy bulbs to buy and most garden catalogs have wonderful bird feeding supplies which are not only a gift for a friend but outside one’s own home as well.

Have a Merry Christmas!
IN MEMORIAM: MARIO MANNETTI

Mario Mannetti, 91, passed away peacefully on Nov. 11, 2018, at Pendleton Health & Rehabilitation Center in Mystic, Conn. Born in Italy, he was the son of the late Felice and Amelia Mannetti. Mario moved to Port Chester, N.Y., at the age of 2.

He graduated from Port Chester High School in 1946 and enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after graduation with six of his friends. He served as a military policeman in Occupied Japan and Guam following the end of WWII.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Mario returned to N.Y. and soon met and married the love of his life, Dorothy Abbondanza. Mario worked many years for Safeway and First National as a produce manager. They moved to Ledyard, Conn., in 1969 and stayed until early 2018.

Mario was an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed watching football games on Sundays while having a family gathering. He was especially good with children and always could make them laugh. He enjoyed being outside and talking with his neighbors.

He spent many summers on Fishers Island, N.Y., laughing with family and friends at the beach. He also loved playing cards, board games and traveling. He will be dearly missed.

Mario was predeceased by his beloved wife of 65 years, Dorothy Mannetti, on Feb 28, 2018; he is survived by their four children, Diane Steverman, Philip Mannetti, James Mannetti, and Laura Chapman (Michael); eight grandchildren, Emily Scharsu (Alan); Amanda Selvidio (Mitchell); Samuel, Joseph, Maxwell, and Amelia Mannetti; and Christopher and Spencer Chapman; and three great-grandchildren, Abigail and Benjamin Scharsu and Rider Robles. In addition to his wife and parents, Mario was predeceased by his three sisters (Lena Mannetti, Connie Cipriano, and Gabriela Salerno), three brothers (Frank, Armand, and Dino Mannetti), daughter-in-law, Laura (Tesoriero) Mannetti, and son-in-law Brian Steverman.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to longtime caregiver Joann McCoy and the staff at Pendleton. A Mass [was] held on November 30, 2018, at St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church in Mystic. There will be a private burial on Fishers Island at a later date. Donations in his name may be made to Disabled American Veterans [www.dav.org].

IMPORTANT REMINDER:
FIC GOLF COURSE OFF-SEASON ACCESS

Reminder About Walking the Golf Course in the Off Season

The Fishers Island Sportsmen’s Club leases the Fishers Island Club golf course and other Club lands from FIDCO for shooting during the off-season, November 1 to March 1. Fishers Island Club members, their guests, and anyone else MUST check with Luis Horn (860) 389-5400 before venturing onto the property for their own safety. Walking the course without permission is considered trespassing.

If there is no answer, please leave a message and Luis will call you back. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
**HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS**

**Union Chapel**
will present a
Community Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 9
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Cookie Exchange**
December 20
4:30-6:30
Holiday Cheer!

**Union Chapel Christmas Eve**
Candlelight Service @ 4:30-5:30

**Christmas Morning Breakfast**
with a Blessing @ 9:00-11:00

**FISHERS ISLAND’S EVENT SCHEDULE**

For the most complete and up to date Island schedule including Museum Talks and Children’s Programs, FICC Classes and Workshops, Legion Events and more.

**PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE & SEE THE CALENDAR**

www.fishersisland.net/events
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.

FIND ALL THE NEWS, STORIES, PHOTOS & EVENTS AT WWW.FISHERSISLAND.NET

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
12/13: Last Christmas In Paris by Hazel Gaynor & Heather Webb

PIANOT RECITAL
UNION CHAPEL
DECEMBER 14 @ 5:00 WITH DINNER TO FOLLOW

PHOTO CREDIT: JANE AHERNS

LEGION MEETING
December 5 @ 5:30 pm-6:30 pm American Legion

FI SCHOOL WINTER CONCERT & ART SHOW
December 6 @ 4:45 pm-6:45 pm

FICC CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT: The Big Sleep
December 6 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Community Center

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
December 9 @ 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Union Chapel

FERRY COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING
December 10 @ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Community Center

ICB MEETING
December 11 @ 5:30 pm-6:45 pm Community Center

WASTE MGMT. & FIRE COMMISSIONERS ELECTION
December 11 @ 6:00 pm-9:00 pm FI Firehouse

FICC TREE TRIMMING & FAMILY DINNER
December 12 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Community Center

FICC CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT: Harvey
December 12 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Community Center

LIBRARY BOOK GROUP: Last Christmas in Paris
December 13 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm FI Library

PIANO RECITAL
Union Chapel
December 14 @ 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Union Chapel

MUSEUM Lecture: TIDE TALK
December 15 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm HL Ferguson Museum

FWMD COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING
December 19 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Center

SENIOR LUNCH
December 20 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Union Chapel

COOKIE EXCHANGE
December 20 @ 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm FI Library

FICC CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT: Camelot
December 20 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Community Center

FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSTS BREAKFAST W/ SANTA
December 22 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am American Legion

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Union Chapel

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST
December 25 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am Union Chapel

FICC CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT: My Darling Clementine
December 27 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Community Center