

WEST FALMOUTH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Winter Update

Greetings,

The West Falmouth Village Association continues to grow. To date the database is comprised of close to 300 West Falmouth families, business', precinct 5&6 town meeting members and town officials, 200 of whom paid last years dues. Dues notices for 2008 will be sent out as soon. This email should bring you up to speed on what we have been working on.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE / EMAIL

As you can tell, we have been working on our membership database and email list to send out information regarding issues in the village. We hope to be able to notify the membership when issues of concern arise and provide you with an opportunity to voice your opinion (the WFVA email address is wfalvillage@yahoo.com). Getting your feedback is critical when we approach town officials, and allows us to have both pro and con opinions to address village issues. Special thanks to West Falmouth resident Mike Knowles, the *Web & Database Guy*, for helping to set up our database. PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES (snail or email)

WATER MAIN PROJECT / 28-A

The majority of the water main project running down Rte. 28-A is complete. The new water main has been installed, and the individual home hook ups are nearing completion. Both 28-A and Old Dock Road are scheduled to be re-surfaced in the spring. Included in the resurfacing effort will be the repaving of the Town Dock parking area as well as addressing the storm wastewater discharges on Old Dock Rd.

GETTY GAS STATION

After receiving several calls from WFVA members, we attended a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to oppose the proposed application for a special permit that would allow a U-Haul rental franchise for trucks and trailers at the Getty station on Rte. 28-A. The applicant wanted to have on site a large rental truck and 2 trailers for rent. He would also be a drop off facility for other trucks and trailers. The truck was proposed to be parked in front of the gas station with the trailers in the rear.

This situation was deemed unacceptable by the entire ZBA Board and the request was denied. The main factor cited was safety in such a small lot and the volume of traffic.

IDEAL SPOT MOTEL

The motel located at the corner of Old Dock and 28-A was recently placed on the market and quickly sold. Some abutting property owners and a few Board members met with the developer to review preliminary development plans of new condominiums proposed for the location. We understand that it is slated for demolition soon and that construction could start as early as spring 2008.

WEST FALMOUTH MARKET

WFVA Board members discussed possible renovations in the near future for the market. Jeff Parrish one of the owners and Architect Bill Roslansky reviewed plans that included expanded floor space, handicap access and general improvements. We hope to have more information about this effort in the near future.

BIKE PATH

Potential contractors have submitted their bids and proposals for the extension from Carlson Ln to 151. Mass Highway will conduct the bid openings on 29 January 2008. The award of the contract should be made shortly.

The project is fully funded, and has received all approvals, including ConCom. Construction is expected to begin this spring and summer. All construction will take place in the railroad right of way. Construction equipment will access the right of way from public ways (e.g., Chapoquoit Rd, Old Dock Rd, County Rd, etc.). The official date for conclusion is sometime in 2009. Sections will probably be available for use well before that, as was the case with the most recent extension.

CHAPOQUOIT BEACH

At the Selectman's meeting on December 10, 2007 a decision was made to install and lock the gate at Chapoquoit Beach at night during the peak summer months. This closing is on a trial basis and to take place between 10pm - 6am. This is an effort to try and curb the late night abuse that has resulted in vandalism and trash impacting the area in recent years.

Chappy is one of only two beaches in Falmouth not locked at night (Menauhant is the other). The issue was discussed at length during this meeting, with the Selectmen voting 3 to 2 to restrict beach access late at night during this trial period. The decision was not accurately reported in the local paper and led to some wild speculation that the beaches would be closed at sunset.

The WFVA Board's position to support limiting late night access drew criticism from some members of the association. Members were concerned that they were not aware of the issue and/or that the WFVA would voice an opinion in opposition to their own. As a result of this feedback, we will endeavor, as time permits, to make the membership aware of issues on which we think the WFVA should have a particular position, prior to making any statements representing the WFVA. Because many issues have a short time line for action, our preferred form of communication will be email, as it is impractical to hold a meeting for every issue that comes up. We will allow opportunity for residents to provide insight and contribute to the discussion. On issues where there is clear consensus, the

WFVA can advocate for particular actions. Where consensus is lacking, we can advocate making the issue a priority, and provide information to address both sides of the issue.

SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars! Our next village meeting will take place on Tuesday, **May 6, 2008 in the library at 7:00pm**. Our guest speaker will be the new Falmouth Police Chief, Anthony Riello. We hope you can attend. If you have any questions that you would like to ask the Chief, we would like to provide him with the opportunity to research any issue ahead of time. This always helps keep the meeting focused. Send your questions to wfalvillage@yahoo.com. We will compile them and pass them along to the Chief.

Our annual Business meeting will be held **Thursday, August 7th**. This meeting will include elections of officers as well as any items requiring a vote from the association membership. We will keep you updated on this meeting during the summer.