



The Village News
 Published by the
 North Falmouth
 Village Association



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NFVA QUARTERLY
 NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy Fall!

Your Village Association has once again been hard at work with all of the Summer Village activities! On July 7th we held the 41st annual Paul E. White Memorial Road Race, our major fundraiser for the year. Thank you to all the great volunteers who helped make this race another huge success! We had an excellent day for running and over 280 runners signed up to participate. Please see the results in this Newsletter.

Thank you again to Scott Muma and his team of volunteers, to Barbara Hampson for organizing the water providers along the race course, to Bill Work for organizing the volunteers to man the race course and direct traffic, and to all of our neighbors who donated their time and contributions to this wonderful event. We greeted the runners at the finish line with water and refreshing oranges donated by the Royal Megansett Nursing Home. Another successful Village Effort!

The Annual Ice Cream Social was well attended in August. Thank you to our very own Barbara Hampson and the delicious ice cream who brought out the crowds on a hot summer's eve.

Next on the calendar is the Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper at the North Falmouth Congregational Church on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30. Bring your dish of food to feed eight, your family and friends and your appetites and join your neighbors for an entertaining evening. The Board Members will supply the dessert, which will be the fresh baked Apple Crisp and variations on the theme!

Hope to see you all around the Village.

Priscilla (Case Hildreth Rand) Geraghty

THE PAUL WHITE ROAD RACE

****MAJOR FUNDRAISER OF NFVA****



The 41st running of the Paul E. White Memorial Road Race was held on July 7, 2018 with a starting time of 9:00 AM at Nye Park.

- 1st place: Teddy Farley of Acton, MA - 24:48
- 2nd place: Caleb Gartner of Falmouth - 27:08
- 3rd place: Brendan Good - 28:24
- 4th place: Patrick Daly of Ashland, MA - 28:41
- 5th place: Jason Baer of Burlington, VT - 28:48



Calendar 2018

October 19th: Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper at 6:30 at the North Falmouth Congregational Church

October 31: Halloween Parade 6 pm in front of the North Falmouth Congregational Church

December: Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling

Be sure to check for dates, times and announcements on-line at:
<http://www.northfalmouth.org/>



Special Request



Please save your mini shampoos, shower caps, and lotions from hotels, cruises, etc. for our annual stocking stuffers for the Falmouth Service Center at Christmas time!



Contact Barbara Hampson for collection (508) 563-2375

North Falmouth Village Association

Annual Meeting

With

Pot Luck

And

An Interesting Evening of Music and Memories

October 19th at 6:30

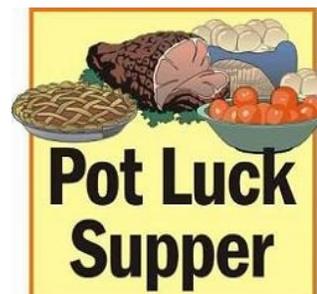
Mark your calendars for the NFVA Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper! This is a great way to meet your neighbors, share great home cooking and enjoy an entertaining evening with friends. No need to RSVP. Just bring an appetizer, salad or main dish to serve 8 people and somehow there is more than enough food to go around! The Board Members will bring dessert, which is the traditional Apple Crisp!

The program for the evening will be an interesting evening of music and memories. Come join us to learn more and have some fun. We hope to see you all there!

When: Friday, October 19th, 2018

Where: North Falmouth Congregational Church

Time: 6:30 PM





Historical News—Our Winding Roads

by Daniel R. Small, NFVA Historian



One of the few subjects that I have not written about since I was chosen North Falmouth Historian are our early roads, that is, our Native American trails, logging roads, early stagecoach roads and cart paths through the woods.

Our early colonists, both native and European, needed transportation routes overland. Initially, of course, they used the ocean to arrive at this hemisphere and after that, whatever river they could find deep enough for their boats and rafts to navigate.

Native American trails such as the Megansett Trail that is now our Shore Road through the coastal villages of Bourne, North Falmouth and into Megansett is an old road very much in use today. An example of an old logging road or trail would be Benjamin Nye's Lane. This very old road starts as a dirt road over in what is now the Massachusetts Military Reservation and then joins up with Wild Harbor Road and ends up at the ocean near Buzzards Bay. There were many logging roads here all leading to the ocean in days gone by.

Many of the old photographs you see of this area show very few trees in their background. Back in the 1700s and 1800s our early colonists and wooden ship builders needed the lumber to build their homes and ships. They also burned more wood for heat. Old photos of North Falmouth and the Cape make this area look barren, and it was very barren until more trees grew.

Some of the early roads here, like Wild Harbor Road, were shell-covered, and probably with oyster shells as they held up longer than other shells as a road surface. (They are stronger and coarser.) There are still some shell-covered roads over in old Cotuit Village next to the Cotuit Historical Society.

Lastly, when walking in our woods, be on the lookout for old logging roads. Actually, you may trip over the old wheel ruts before you see them so be careful. Back in the 1600s through the 1800s there was an old stagecoach route, which more or less followed the Falmouth ridgeline down from the Cape Cod Canal into Falmouth Village. Though most of the old stagecoach route may be hard or impossible to locate in most areas, it's still there where the ground is bare. In fact, less than 100 feet north of the West Falmouth Market, near a tremendous tree on Route 28A, there is a street sign bearing the words "Old Stagecoach Way." I love that sign! I think the residents up that road would appreciate it if you would walk up the road instead of driving. It's very narrow and there are few places to turn around.

So, dear members of our Association, please try to remember if you find yourself in a hurry to drive through our village, that our roads were built by either Early Americans or Native Americans for a slower pace and to enjoy the views of local woodlands, wetlands, fields and historic buildings. If you choose to drive through our village in a hurry, please make an effort to use either route 28A or Route 28 instead.

Our older folks (me included), children, dogs, cats and wild animals (including turkeys) will thank you very much!

Written in loving memory of my friend, Linda Bartholomee (1944-2017)



Historical News cont.—On the Move With Our Post Office

As you may remember at the end of my last North Falmouth story, our local Post Office in the early 1920s could be found at the General Store of Benjamin Hatch at the corner of Old Main and Wild Harbor Roads, where the Wild Harbor General Store is now. According to Mary Lou Smith in her Book of Falmouth 1986, the North Falmouth Post Office was in a separate building but still a part of the General Store there. In the later 1920s, the General Store and the Post Office were owned and operated by a couple by the name of George and Mary Donkin and their delivery boy, Walter J. Small, Sr. If it seems like relatives of mine keep popping up in my stories, you are quite correct.

At some point in the late 1920s, the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co, (the A&P for short) bought out the Donkin couple and the store became part of that famous chain of A&P Grocery Stores. And oh, by the way, there is or was no connection between the Donkin family, spelled with an “o” and Dunkin, spelled with a “u” as in Donuts! Mr. Lucien Mead of North Falmouth was hired as manager of the new A&P store. Furthermore, it appeared that our poor North Falmouth Post Office was going to have to move again as I recall that the A&P took up all of the store space. I remember our A&P very well. It always smelled like fresh brewed coffee! Mr. Mead, the manager, was a great old guy with a handle bar mustache. He was also the long time secretary of our local Fire Station call company.

Meanwhile, big things were happening over in Hatchville, a few miles away, that would affect us here in North Falmouth. Much of the empty acreage over in Hatchville was put to use as pastures for new dairy farmers. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, there were several large dairy farms there. According to the Book of Falmouth at least one of them was actually one of the largest dairy farms east of the Mississippi River! The most prosperous of the Hatchville Dairy Farms was called the Braeburn Company and this company decided to buy a small lot at the corner of Old Main Road and Depot Road (now called County Road), for a retail outlet. In the early 1930s an older Italian couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bagonzi, was operating the store out front. They referred to their store as a delicatessen, but we just called it Bagonzi’s. The store was quite a bit smaller back then, especially with the Post Office out back. The Bagonzi family had a small house built for themselves next door to the rear of the new little Post Office end. The house had two bedrooms and they seemed to be very happy living there.

In the late 1950s Dorothy T. Swift, who had grown up in North Falmouth, was the Postmaster (in those days she was called the Postmistress) and she purchased the empty lot further down in an easterly direction towards the railroad station. Miss Swift who had been carefully saving her money and also probably took out a mortgage to help out, had a beautiful new Cape Cod style Post Office built there.

In 1959 the new Post Office was opened with much fanfare and excitement. Compared to our last “hole in the wall” Post Office, it was like walking into a spacious bowling alley for the first time. First you entered a foyer and then ahead of you were two ways to go, to the left or right. One way you were in line at a long counter. The other way you would see rows of individual mail boxes. What a step into the future this was for little old North Falmouth. We had all “arrived” and finally had our very own Post Office. We had put up with the cramped old “blink and you’ll miss it” Post Office for a long 25 years, from 1934 to 1959. The change was awesome.

This story is dedicated: Miss Dorothy T. Swift, and Postal Clerks Miss Ethel Cahoon, Mrs. Helen Baker, and Mrs. Marjorie Whitcher, all late of North Falmouth.

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Calling All Businesses

We welcome all members of the business community and urge you to join our organization. We prominently list members in our Annual Report to encourage local business participation.

The purpose of the North Falmouth Village Association (NFVA) is to promote civic pride, to encourage and provide social, charitable, and educational activities for citizens of all ages, to provide a meeting place where activities can be held, and to raise funds for the benefit of the entire village.

Our biggest fundraiser is the annual Paul White Road Race held in July each year and 2018 marks its 41st year. Proceeds from the race are used to award scholarships to four graduating high school seniors from Falmouth. We also donate to the North Falmouth Elementary School, needy families in North Falmouth, and the Falmouth Service Center.

YOUTH NEWS

The classrooms may have been still this summer at North Falmouth Elementary School but the gardens out back certainly can't say the same. Each bed is bursting with a different bounty from Asclepias to Zinnias with lots of veggies in between!



The gardens were started last spring with the intent to compliment the children's curriculum. It has grown into so much more. The gardens provide an opportunity for kids to get their hands dirty, find out where their food comes from and experience an authentic farm to table meal.

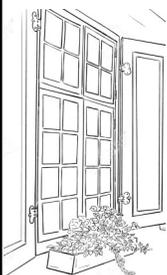
Founder and visionary, Michael Irving, a special education teacher at NFE, has offered an open invitation to members of the community to come and check it out and feel free to pull some weeds on your way by! Mr. Irving hopes that moving forward, the North Falmouth Community will play a role in helping with the expansion of the garden and volunteering with the teachers and students on garden projects.



This is a wonderful opportunity for multigenerational involvement. The garden committee is looking for more members and all are welcome. For more information please email Meegan Hatch at: meeganfarrelly@hotmail.com



Junction Building News



The NF Village Association building on Old Main Road receives regular cleaning and maintenance. This summer the interior of the building was thoroughly cleaned and vacuumed. On the exterior the gutters were cleaned in the spring and the beautiful flower boxes were alive with colorful plants! This fall the exterior will receive some minor repair work and insect/rodent prevention. Thank you to our volunteers



On this date in North Falmouth History...

1655 - John and Ebenezer Nye, descendants of Benjamin Nye, settle in North Falmouth

December 6, 1827 - Cemetery land, behind the Congregational Church on Old Main Road, was deeded to the Church by the Nyes for \$7.50

1836 - A chimney fire during a Sunday service was extinguished by Congregants





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