

The Village News

NORTH FALMOUTH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 63 • September 2022



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and Happy Fall!

What a beautiful September we are having. I am so grateful for the sunshine and the rain. This fall we are excited to have our Annual Meeting at the Courtyard Restaurant again and to continue our efforts to provide community building opportunities. [Please read that as activities where we can meet and get to know our neighbors!] Ilene Karnow has done a fantastic job with Mahjongg Mondays; we would love to have more recurring events at the Village Junction Building like this. If you play chess or Canasta or Dungeons & Dragons or some other game, let us know. If we get enough people interested we can try to start a group.

Read on to learn more about NFVA events - past, present and future.
Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

Peggy Heaslip
President NFVA
peggyheaslip@gmail.com

ANNUAL MEETING

October 12th 6:30-8:30

at the Courtyard Restaurant

Come socialize with neighbors and enjoy fine food and drink and learn more about the association's achievements and initiatives.

Tickets are \$35 per person (drinks **not** included)

Please go to our website to purchase your tickets:

www.northfalmouthvillageassociation.org
or call Peggy Heaslip 508-274-3930.



NFVA Presents Talk:

North Falmouth Mushrooms

Learn about the mushrooms of North Falmouth and the surrounding areas! The North Falmouth Village Association will present an outdoor talk by Nathan Wilson, creator of mushroomobserver.org, on **Saturday, Oct. 8, at 1 p.m.** on the North Falmouth Library lawn. Wilson will discuss the various fungi found in the area and how to recognize them. Feel free to bring any mushrooms you've collected locally; he'll help you to identify them. Rain date is Oct. 9. For more information, contact Ilene Karnow, wonrak@comcast.net.

Paul White Road Race **And the Winners Are:**

This year's road race marked the first time since the pandemic began that runners could participate in person. On the sun-filled morning of July 9, nearly 200 of them gathered on Chester Street, between the North Falmouth Library and Megansett Park (i.e., the site of the market owned by Paul White and his wife, Audrey, for many years). At 9 a.m. they set off on the 4.81 course through North Falmouth's streets, and a little over 27 minutes later the first of the runners—two brothers, Henry and Caleb Gartner—crossed the finish line.

Below are the top overall winners, male and female. For all results and a photo album of the day, visit the North Falmouth Village Association website. Thank you to all of the runners, volunteers, and attendees who helped to make this year's event so memorable!

First Male: Henry Gartner 27:15:5

Second Male: Caleb Gartner 27:16:1

Third Male: John Turner 27:42:8

First Female: Tilly Woods 31:39:6

Second Female: Lia Cressotti 33:22:3

Third Female: Ella Dunbury 34:11:7

MEMBERSHIP DUES

October 1st marks a new fiscal year, it is time to renew your membership and pay the annual dues. You can pay on our website or by mail NFVA, PO Box 762, North Falmouth, MA 02556.

LIFETIME MEMBERS -Please let us know where you are. Fill out the form and mail it in, send us a note with your contact information, or send an email to nfvillageassociation@gmail.com .

NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominating Mark Mendes to the Board of Directors.

Mark and his wife Cynthia Bourget purchased the old Nye father-son home on Old Main Road in 2016. The couple have transformed this historic duplex into their home, office, and 3 one-bedroom apartments. We are grateful for the energy and ideas Mark and Cynthia bring to our village and look forward to having Mark on the board.

New Members Spotlight

Please welcome the newest Individual & Family Members who have joined NFVA in the past few months:

Bill & Terri Cavanagh
Bob Cell
Amy Glynn
Mark Lively
Dale & Ellen Mulhern
Cynthia Neal
David O'Halloran
Russ & Joyce Ottey
Baritsa Shea
Lisa Silverman
Christina & Michael White

North Falmouth Porchfest

Hundreds of visitors thronged Old Main Road on Aug. 6 for the first North Falmouth Porchfest. Fifteen acts in total (including local favorite Puffy Elvis, above, who played their classic mix of '60s feel-good hits) performed on porches, driveways, and lawns for an afternoon of free music. There was something for every musical taste—from folk tunes to traditional chanties to indie and classic rock.

Plus, an Arts and Crafts Pop-up on the field adjacent to Cynthia Bourget's law office (194 Old Main Road) featured the work of some of the area's best visual, ceramic, fiber, and literary artists. A few photos are presented here; to see more, go to the Porchfest Photo Album at nfporchfest.northfalmouthvillageassociation.org.

Thank you to all Porchfest Sponsors!

North Falmouth Porchfest Sponsors:

Mass Cultural Council
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The Arts & Crafts Pop-up drew those interested in artisanal ware, such as these earrings from local potter Alice Kociemba of indiVISIBLE



Local favorite Grasshopper Green played a mix of original pop-rock songs



Aaron Okrasinski offered an acoustic touch.



The horn section of Puffy Elvis had everyone clapping their hands.

Get Ready for Halloween!



It may seem far away now, but we can already hear the shrieks of little princesses, dinosaurs, astronauts, and a bevy of other costumed characters in search of candy. This year the NFVA needs your help for two planned Halloween activities.

- Two years ago, at the height of the pandemic, we invited Old Main Road residents to decorate their homes or yards in hopes of making Halloween fun and festive in spite of the uncertainty of the times. Several neighbors mentioned how much they loved the energy and excitement of everyone trick-or-treating up and down Old Main Road that night, and we want to bring that same excitement to this year's festivities. If you live on Old Main (or have a friend or family member who does) and would like to decorate for Halloween, please let us know! E-mail us at northfalmouthvillageassociation@gmail.com and we'll promote your house on our social media pages and in our e-newsletter. If you're interested in making the post Halloween Parade Party fantastic, we need help with drinks, treats, set-up and clean-up. Please contact Cynthia Bourget at cbourget@bourgetlawgroup.com or 774-313-0183.
- The NFVA's annual Halloween Parade will commence at the North Falmouth Congregational Church promptly at 6 p.m. on Oct. 31. It will proceed north on Old Main Road, ending in the yard of the Bourget Law Group (194 Old Main Rd), where there will be refreshments and treats for all.

Big Fire at the Coconut Grove, Part 2, Daniel R. Small, NFVA Historian

Back in the 1930s and 40s most music was of the swing-era type as created by Benny Goodman, Glen Miller and the Dorsey Brothers, etc. Nightclubs all over Boston and the entire country were playing swing music almost exclusively. It was all you heard on the radio and everyone loved it! Bands competed with each other in Battles of the Bands. Another popular Boston nightclub was the famous Totem Pole.

Every town and city had its own popular nightclub where you could listen to and dance to tunes like String of Pearls, In the Mood, and Sunset Serenade. I've heard that the Coconut Grove was one of the best of the clubs in Boston because it spared no expense and everything was top-shelf. Naturally the club appealed to a higher class of patrons, like doctors, lawyers and other professional people.

When their waitress approached their table and asked what they would like to drink, Babe ordered for Maude and then said he would like to buy his friend in the band a drink to show his appreciation for the tickets. After the drinks were delivered Babe's friend acknowledged receipt of his drink with a salute to Babe and Maude.

As Maude and Babe were looking around at the decorations and the other tables nearby, Maude, who had recently survived two fires as well as a flood in her apartment, sensed that something out of the ordinary was going on downstairs in the kitchen area. She shivered and Babe asked her what was going on. "Something's wrong downstairs," she whispered to Babe. Babe nodded and looked up at the ceiling.

Big Fire at the Coconut Grove, Part 2, continued...

Daniel R. Small, NFVA Historian

Smoke was accumulating in the corners of the large room he noticed and he whispered to Maude, "Oh Lord, no!" Maude shivered again and turned pale. Then Babe said a silent prayer and crossed himself hoping that no one would notice.

Suddenly a very well-dressed gentleman approached the stage and walked calmly over to the microphone. "A few minutes ago a small fire broke out in the kitchen area downstairs. The fire is quite out, but we decided to notify the city fire department as a safety measure." He went on to say, "We hope that you will all stay seated and remain calm as the fire department checks out the building. Thank you."

Babe watched as Maude shivered again and some color gradually returned to her face. Then he said to her, "Don't worry, Maudie," as he reached over to hold her hand, "we're going to be fine," he finished. "You'll see." At this point several firemen entered the room with flashlights and walkie-talkie telephones.

They watched the smoke accumulate at the ceiling and the corners of the room. Fire alarms were going off all over the building. As people were putting on their coats and hats, tables and chairs groaned as they scraped the floor. Papier mache and raffia decoration hanging from the ceiling and around the stage started smoking in the increasing heat. Every time another fire truck pulled up to the building outside you could hear its siren going off. People were calling out to each other to meet outside in the parking lot to make plans for later on and after this is over. A distinguished looking Boston fire chief calmly and quickly walked up to the center stage microphone and began talking to the crowd. He said, "Ladies and gentlemen, please remain calm, we are going to get you all out of here as calmly and quickly as possible, but you must follow our instructions please!" Downstairs in the kitchen area firemen and kitchen help were battling flames and hacking their way through walls and kitchen equipment as best they could in the thick smoke and flames.

As soon as the Boston City Fire Chief left, Babe's friend Ron said, "Babe, why don't you and Maude follow me out back, along with Elaine." Ron had whispered this and with all the confusion and commotion they followed him out the same stage door they came in earlier. Suddenly the foursome found themselves outside in the snow and cold. They had all escaped! They breathed a sigh of relief and hugged each other. Only a few seconds later part of the nightclub's roof fell in with a loud CRACK! And a CRASH!

People could be heard screaming, yelling and crying out. A great amount of thick smoke and heat was now pouring out of the stage door so even if the two men had decided to go back in to save others, it would have been a serious mistake. Maude and her new friend Elaine started to sob uncontrollably.

After Babe and Ron had taken the two ladies home a few hours later, it turned out that over three hundred people died in the Coconut Grove fire and one hundred and fifty were injured.

Some of the dead were soldiers home on leave from World War II raging in Europe and in the Pacific theaters. Another sad fact is that not one of the customers at the Coconut Grove were able to hear the band perform that sad night and I'm still trying to find out who they were. Looks like I'll never know.

As a result of this horrendous fire, many building codes and fire regulations were changed. One was that all flammable materials were banned from use on stage and fire extinguishers had to be readily available in any type of theater at all times.

This story is written in loving memory of my aunt, Maude S. Jennings Bostwick (1906-1984) and my uncle, Tuffil Sylvestus "Babe" Bostwick (1904-1982) both of 44 County Road, North Falmouth.

Sources: Chronicles of the Twentieth Century; Clifton Daniel, Editor-in-Chief; 1987, Chronicle Publishing Co., Mount Kisco, New York.

NFVA Business Members



Art's Bike Shop Sales • Service • Rentals

Arthur Diangelis, Owner/Manager
91 County Road, North Falmouth

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*Certified as an Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation,
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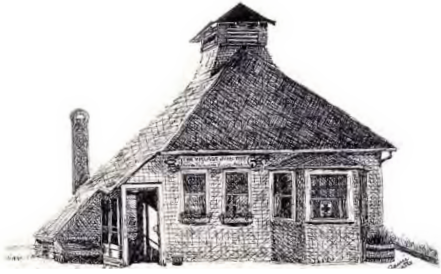
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

from the

NORTH FALMOUTH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

*Save the Date
Upcoming Events*

October 8 (Rain Date Oct. 9)

North Falmouth Mushrooms Talk
Library Lawn @1pm

October 12

NFVA Annual Mtg 6:30-8:30
Courtyard Restaurant

Mahjong Mondays 1-3pm
@Junction

October 31 NFVA Halloween
Parade 6pm @ NF Congregational
Church

Nov. 8

NFVA Board Mtg 7pm
Guest speaker Joyce Bock of Friends
of Cedar Lake

North Falmouth Village Association
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