

The Village News

North Falmouth Village Association • Volume 57 • January 2021

If you have any local stories about good things happening in our village please send them to us at, nfvillageassociation@gmail.com



We Are Collecting:
Clothes
men's, women's and children's

shoes, handbags, fashion
accessories, belts, backpacks

Household Textiles
blankets, sheets, towels, tablecloths,
curtains

Please gather clothes and household
textiles in in clean trash bags

Small Household Goods
kitchen items, decorative items,
knick-knacks, toys and games, small
electronics

Please box small household items.
and other small goods in boxes.

All items must be clean and in
salable condition.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends and Happy New Year!

Unlike any year before, we are kicking 2021 off with a new fundraiser, one of the easiest I have ever been a part of. For details keep reading!

In addition to this new fundraiser we are hoping to initiate some new ways of connecting with our neighbors and supporting our community. Please read the articles from our committee chairs to see if there is an area you might want to connect in.

One thing I have learned from 2020 is how important connecting with others is to my mental, emotional and physical health. I hope this new year provides new and varied opportunities to form and develop friendships with our neighbors (if you're reading this, that means you!).

I look forward to seeing you around!

Peggy Heaslip

Do you have a plethora of gently used unwanted items cluttering up your house? Want to unload and help others?

Our North Falmouth Village Association is doing a "FunDrive" whereby you give us your unwanted stuff, we sell it to Savers for \$0.59 a pound and they give money to our non-profit organization. Cool right!?!

Here is what you do, load your clean clothing, shoes, hand bags, backpacks, accessories, linens, etc into trash bags and your household goods into boxes. Then drop these bags and boxes off at the Junction (212 Old Main Road) between now and February 6th.

It's that easy!

When you've loaded up your car and are ready to drop off, contact me directly to arrange to meet at the Junction. Please DO NOT leave items outside the Junction.

Don't think you can get stuff together by February 6th? Not to worry, our final collection date will be Saturday, February 20th between 7am-9am.

Feel free to forward this email to your friends and family!

Thank you everyone!

Peggy Heaslip
508-274-3930

Welcoming Committee
by Sheila Chisholm
Hello- my name is Sheila Chisholm and I'm excited to let you know we are forming a Welcoming Committee to help new members become familiar with our wonderful village. We've come up with some great ideas, but I'd really appreciate input from our members, especially those of you who are new to our part of town. If you'd be interested in being involved in the Welcoming Committee, or have suggestions or observations to share, please email me at mizchiz@gmail.com, or text/call me at 508-274-0529.



Adopt a Highway / Litter Free Falmouth

Does the sight of plastic beverage containers, empty "nip" bottles, styrofoam cups, cigarette butts, or plastic bags littering your neighborhood impact your sense of community pride?

- Do you wish you could set an example that would encourage others to care about keeping your community clean as much as you do?
- Are you ready to take action to keep your neighborhood and community clean and litter-free?

If you answered yes, join the Massachusetts Litter Cleanup Crew (local streets) and or Falmouth's Adopt a Highway Team (Rte. 28 Falmouth)

You will be joining hundreds of motivated environmental heroes who are making a positive impact in their communities.

How the Litter Cleanup Crew program works:

Simply incorporate litter cleanups into your daily walks, whether those walks are by yourself, with your dog, or with your family and friends.

How the Adopt a Highway program works:

Join a MA State approved Falmouth Group that works as a team on selected dates to clean the areas along Rte 28 including entrance / exit ramps between Bourne and downtown Falmouth.

For local leadership / information:

Alan Robinson

610-809-6264

Amrobinson101@gmail.com

Ilene Karnow

978-430-5664

Wonrak@comcast.net

The Old Spanish House as I Remember It

By: Dan Small, Historian

Our Building:

The NFVA building on Old Main Road has been undergoing some interior renovations over the last few months. The large meeting room paint project is complete- the painting of the kitchen and bathroom will be done over the winter. The outside of the building has been readied for winter - the gutters were cleaned and excess brush was cut from the rear and sides of the building. The annual fall cleanup was delayed due to the early snow! The beautiful 8 foot Christmas tree was put up in the front of the building and has 700 lights! Our window boxes have been dressed with holiday greens and bulbs! Many thanks to our volunteers who oversee these pretty decorations. If you haven't seen the front of the building lit up, drive by early in the evening!

James H. Rand, an inventor and businessman, moved his family from North Tonawanda in Western New York state to Cape Cod in about 1909 and invested in a great deal of property in North Falmouth. He bought a prime piece of land on Chester Street (part of the old Megansett Road) that overlooked parts of Megansett, Scraggy Neck and parts of what is now the Cape Cod Canal. This prime piece of land was mostly high ground that afforded great views of the entire western end of the Canal as it connected with the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Rand had a son named after him and they were in business together. The senior Rand had drawn up plans for a very large house for this great piece of property. The house was to be in the Spanish style comprising a large central section with several wings attached which contained bedrooms, a large dining room ell, and a triple bay garage with servant's quarters above. There was a large circular driveway up to the main section of the house from Chester Street, an enclosed courtyard for vehicles and rear driveway for access to the rear of the property. Behind the house was a large lawn which gently sloped down to the two canals that the senior Mr. Rand had men dredge out to the Ocean. Then he had tennis courts created on the side of one canal and a great sandy beach located at the end of the other canal. The Rand's yacht the "Nowanda" was tied up at a pier constructed specially for it not far from the tennis court.

"El Grande Hacienda Española"

The Spanish House was built in 1927 by many men from North Falmouth with Mr. Keene Smith, a Nova Scotian, in charge. My father, Walter Small, a landscaper and trucker with his own dump trucks worked with Mr. Smith. The house was built of cement applied to a wire frame with wood frame and carved pottery roof tiles that overlapped, as can be seen in Florida and locally on the building at the North Falmouth four corners. The house, etc. was fully landscaped probably by my father. When I worked there in the late 1950's and early 60's I discovered a lot of mountain laurel bushes around the house that were probably original to the property. A concrete wall was installed around the house and yard which still stands today.

(Continued on next page)



Surprisingly, the house was built for the junior Mr. Rand and his wife by the senior Mr. Rand. When the senior Mr. Rand offered the house to his son and daughter-in-law, they refused the offer. They really didn't care for the house. So in the end, the senior Rands moved in and were very happy there. I believe the senior Mr. and Mrs. Rand passed away in the 1940's and their family eventually lost interest in the place. It was expensive to maintain. In the warmer months the house was usually rented out to friends.

Upon entering the house through the front door you came into a very large living room extending from front to back. If you walked straight ahead you arrived near the back door of the living room which in turn led to the back lawns sloping down to the twin canals that lead out to the ocean. Somewhere at the back part of the living room, I remember an open stairway to the second floor with a gallery-type railing around it. To the rear right was the entrance to a large dining/music room wing. The kitchen could be found to the right of the dining or music room with a delightful breakfast nook between the kitchen and living room. Beyond the kitchen was a three-car garage with chauffeur's quarters above.

Back to the left hand side of the living room was a hall leading to some first floor bedrooms. After that was a hallway leading to an indoor swimming pool and more bedrooms in a wing addition. There were more bedrooms and baths of course, upstairs. And back out the rear living room door I remember there were wood porches on two floors. One above the other if I'm not mistaken. All in all it was a very grand house. The largest ever built in North Falmouth. It was absolutely magnificent in every way!

I worked at the Spanish House in the summertime mowing the lawn and keeping the place cleaned up. My father bought me one of the first riding tractor/mowers in North Falmouth in the late 1950's. I loved working there. It made me feel important. When I saw the "For Sale" sign go up, I began thinking about what could be done with the place: a hotel or other possibilities.

About once a year I would find an unlocked door and take an inside tour. It was fun, but I never touched anything! I loved the place!! I was working for Mary (Rand) Brainerd Lyman at the time, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rand. As the years went by and the place wasn't selling, the Rand family discovered that the land was more valuable than the house, they decided to tear the place down to sell the land. The demolition crew started it's job in the late 1980's. As naive as I was, I became horrified at this prospect and tried to prevent the demolition. I received some sympathy and support from Paula (Hildreth) Shields King, a friend and a grand-daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Rand.

So I began calling around to see if I could get any support to save the Spanish House. Back then I was into saving historic buildings around town. Again I was very naive and the house wasn't even historic!! Paula appreciated my efforts anyway. The next thing I knew, the demolition crew had finished it's enormous job and I walked around taking pictures with a heavy heart. So long "El Grande Hacienda D'Españole"! And hasta la vista!!

Today, there is a new road going through the middle of the property where the house was situated. The new developer named the road: "Brainerd Road" after Mary (Rand) Brainerd. There are now several new houses built on the property, but nothing as grand as the "Spanish House" It was very unforgettable.

Daniel R. Small

Historian

05-28-20

Credits: Smith, Mary Lou: The Book Of Falmouth

**VALENTINE'S
DAY IS JUST
AROUND THE
CORNER**

Don't forget to shop
locally in the Village




Free Piano!

As you may know, there is a beautiful piano at the Junction. It is currently not being used, nor has it been for some time. It is sad to see this beautiful instrument languishing away when it could be used. If you or someone you know would be interested in owning this fine instrument please contact us. 508-274-3930 or peggyheaslip@gmail.com



Please join our business members here! Make sure to mention you saw their ad in our North Falmouth Village Association Newsletter.



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Membership

If you have not sent in your membership form and dues, it is not too late!

www.northfalmouthvillageassociation.org

Go to membership renewal. Then click on the "yellow buy now," paypal button/link

Visit our website to fill out the form digitally and pay your dues using PayPal
<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/nfvillageassociation?locale.x=en_US>

OR

Download the form and mail it with a check to:

NFVA

P.O. Box 762

North Falmouth, MA 02556

Need some assistance? Contact our friendly Membership
Person: Roberta Orris at raorris@yahoo.com



Find us on Facebook and like us!

We're on Instagram too **#nfva**

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