

# FROM YOUR COUNCILOR

PRECINCT 7

RICHARD BARRY



I am happy to report that the striped bass have returned to the area. Schoolies have been around for a couple of weeks, but the big ones have returned once again. Wianno has been the hot spot this week. If you're lazy and thirsty, try squid. If you want to cast try the rubber storm shad in either yellow or black but beware, the toothy bluefish are back and will ruin them in short order. My confidential informants have informed me that the mackerel are beginning to run in the canal. They're easy to catch and if you can keep them alive they rival the herring, a.k.a. gold nuggets, as the best way to catch large bass. Try the Barnstable Harbor Channel, the Fingers, the parking lot off Sandy Neck or Scorton Creek. Water temperatures on the South side are approaching the mid-60s, so swimming and Sampson's Island is not far away.

The recent nor'easter brought quite a bit of sand on the Cotuit shore. Spots in the Cotuit Channel are only six feet deep. If you have a sailboat, you may want to use the Osterville Cut at mid to low tide.

As a result, the Town has sought help from M.E.P.A. for dredging. No decision has been made, but a nice effort by the D.P.W. and Harbormaster to attempt to secure some assistance. There is also some talk about trying to widen the Cotuit Cut and replenish the Island with the spoils. This would improve the flushing of Cotuit Bay and improve the overall health of the Three Bays. Permitting costs alone are estimated at about two hundred fifty thousand dollars. I'll keep you informed of status of these water-related issues.

In March the Massachusetts Housing and Finance Agency issued its final approval letter for the 40B project known as Scrimshaw Village. The development will be on Route 28. The project will consist of 124 units, 31 of which will be designated as affordable. Local developer Brian

Dacey has worked closely with the Town and Cotuit Village Association to develop this 50-acre parcel. It's is refreshing to actually have a developer that is willing to build a 40B Project in an area that is located in our Affordable Housing Plan.

School Street in Cotuit is slated to be repaved this summer. While it may be a little inconvenient, you can't pave in the winter. A special thanks to Civic Association President Stew Goodwin for his letters and Fire Chief, Paul Frasier, who took D.P.W. Head Mark Ells for a ride down School Street to emphasize the need.

Osterville Councilor Jim Crocker is proposing changes to the Youth Center. The design of the rinks provides for only 500 seats in the main hockey rink. When the Red Raiders take the ice there are upwards of two thousand people at the rink. The Town has already committed \$18 million to the project and it is anticipated that it would cost an additional \$6 million dollars to make these changes. Councilor Crocker makes a good case for the need, but I'm having a big problem with the cost. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

The Cotuit Water and Fire District Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>. I have been informed that the Prudential Committee has not recommended funding for a new water tower.

The gate to Crocker Neck continues to be closed from the mid-point to the beach as a result of a decision by the Conservation Commission earlier this year. The kids were partying too much and not respecting the habitat. As I predicted, the partying has not stopped. The Town Manager is developing a management plan for our conservation areas that will allow public access during the day and the areas will be gated at night.

I have decided to run for re-election for my third and final term. I love our village and will try to keep it the way it is. I appreciate the input of my constituents and ask for your continued support.